



# Guanella NEWS

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## «In difficult times, strong friends of God are needed, to support the weak»

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## The General Consultation

The 8th General Consultation of the Servants of Charity will hold at the Guanellian Seminary in Rome from 10 to 13 January 2022 (pag.3).

## Meeting of the three councils DSMP-SC-GC

On October 2nd for the first time the three councils met (pag.5).

## Congregation News

Consecration events; Guanellian Family members and Confreres' family members; Deceased Confreres (pag.6).

## Intercontinental Mess

Come tutti il 19 dicembre, data a noi cara, e quest'anno ricorre il 179° di nascita del nostro Fondatore.... (pag.9).



«... in difficult times, strong friends of God are needed, to support the weak»  
(St. Theresa of Avila)

Dear confreres,

**The sentence of St. Theresa of Avila is a quote used by Pope Francis in his message for the International Day of Persons with disabilities, last December 3rd.**

The message carries strong and precise references about the dignity of human person, the right of every person to receive the sacraments and the value, in a suffering man, of prayer.

I found a reflex of don Guanella's thought. More than 100 years ago he was underlining with determination these rights, and he left us the task to continue proclaiming and defending them in people who have no voice to do it.

The Guanellian motto "give bread and the Lord to everybody" is the summary of what the Pope puts as the foundation for all human beings, no matter their state of life and health. Our children, our old persons are the beneficiaries of this renewed effort encouraged by the Pope in the church. They are the category of brethren that the Lord has entrusted to our care to

help them becoming aware of the value of their dignity as children of God and with the, announce to the world the sacredness of every human life and the right for every person, though limited, to be recognized. The third paragraph of No 64 of our Constitution is very beautiful: "We are sent to the poor without distinction of race, nationality or religion, and with even greater urgency, 80 Guanellian consecrated life the more vulnerable they are in their human dignity, and in their dignity as children of God" (C. 64). Therefore, it is a mission, we are not going because of a special sensitivity, but because we are sent by Him, by the Lord to whom we consecrated everything of our existence.

Several times I had the opportunity to recall that our mission cannot be considered concluded, satisfied when we are able to welcome in our houses brethren in need. A Guanellian should go beyond. Giving lodge, food, a protected environment, security of



life, are only a part of the task left us by the Founder and typical of our charism. We have to give also the Lord. The Gospel, mentioned by the Holy Father as "... addressed to everyone; it is a word of consolation and, at the same time, a summons to conversion ... The Gospels show that whenever persons with disabilities met Jesus, their lives changed profoundly, and they became his witnesses".

And this is true! We see it every day among our beneficiaries, listening to their prayers, partaking with them of the Eucharist, looking at their personal effort after a moment of encounter with the Lord, a catechesis, a call to solidarity. What a grace, serenity, peace, renewed harmony springs out of our houses, entering the world, in families, churches, social communities, along the roads, thanks to a meeting with our beneficiaries, the main custodians of the Love of God our Father! Dear confreres, let the transmission of the Lord, besides the bread never be lacking in our houses. As our holy Founder used to say, our people are "our thunder protectors, attracting the Lord's blessings on the house and the whole world".

I remember the impact throughout the world of the words of the poor at the end of the Conference of Puebla, the year of my priestly ordination, when they cried to the Bishops assembled: "we need that you announce us the Gospel of the crucified Christ, besides giving us bread".

At the eve of the Holy Birthday of the Lord, the incarnate Word of the Father, let us make sure that the persons present in our houses may receive much Lord, the gift of salvation brought by Jesus, of course together with much affection and the gifts they need.

Let it be for all, the wish taken from our Constitutions: "We share with them the treasures of spirituality left to us by our Founder, such as the assurance of being loved by the Father, a trust in Providence, effective charity, the value of suffering, and love for the Church" (C. 71)..

***Buon Natale a tutti!***

***P. Umberto***

## THE GENERAL CONSULTATION

**The 8th General Consultation of the Servants of Charity will hold at the Guanellian Seminary in Rome from 10 to 13 January 2022.**

Participation may be face-to-face or online. Each Province and the African Vice-Province are to be represented by their Superior and a member elected by the confreres with perpetual vows. The Two Delegations will be represented by their Superior of the Delegation (see the Letter of indiction by the General Superior, Fr. Umberto Brugnoli). The theme of the Consultation is Dwelling with our heart in the community and in the mission.

The aim of the General Consultation is to consolidate unity and promote the development of the Congregation's actions through the sharing of ideas and experiences, to verify and encourage the accomplishment of the General Chapter's decisions and of the programmed plans, to deal about the most important issues, and to evaluate the particular experiences begun, to consolidate and enrich them with the cooperation and the dialogue of all.

It helps to have a general view of the Congregation and gives the opportunity not only to evaluate the journey of the past three years, but also to have a deeper gaze on the particular situations of the provinces.

The Consultation is a moment of evaluation of our fidelity to our vocation

and, more practically, of how we are practicing the input from our recent Chapters. The Provincial Superiors will share the objectives of their Provincial programs and the specific challenges they face. They will highlight both the shadows in the life of their communities, and the efforts of the confreres in witnessing with their life the values of their religious consecration and the energy they put in the charity service that make the whole Congregation grow.

Thus, the Consultation allows to look with serenity at both lights and shadows of our life and to learn with joy all that is good, great and beautiful in the Congregation, but also to spot out the weakness and loopholes that can reduce our ability to respond to what the Lord is asking of us to renew our engagement to answer with generosity to our vocation and mission.

This Consultation wants to be also a way to live and actualise the journey the Church is asking us to make in this precise moment of the history of humanity, by inviting us to a synodal process by listening, discerning and bringing practical suggestions to give new impulse also to our Congregation in living communion, participation, and mission, as the Pope suggests..



***don Nico Rutigliano***

## The Synod journey

### Practical part

The issue of synodality is not a chapter within a handbook of ecclesiology, and even less a fashion, a new term in use, to be adapted for our meetings. No! Synodality is

an expression of the Church's nature, the form, the style, the mission of the Church. Therefore, we talk of synodal Church, but avoiding to think of it as a title among others, a way of thinking that could allow alternatives ... The word "synod" contains all that is needed to understand: "walking together" (Pope Francis).



### In Religious communities: Religious Institutes, Societies of Apostolic Life etc.

It is important for the religious to be part of the moments of reflection that are held in parishes, offering their specific contribution. Nevertheless, it is useful for every religious community to find time for a dialogue within the community, maybe finding the questions that are more interesting. It would be desirable to have meetings among members of communities in the same geographical area to share how they see their presence in that quarter, and ask themselves what common people of the area may be expecting from religious communities.

**In this diocesan phase** (October 2021 – April 2022) we are called to cooperate and share our time and energy to help in "listening to the People of God" through the meetings for common discernment that are organised in the parishes. Those who can should attend and give their contribution to the synodal journey.

# Guanellian Family Council Meeting

## Meeting of the three councils DSMP-SC-GC

On October 2nd for the first time the three councils met; the General Councils of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, of the Servants of Charity and the World Council of Guanellian Cooperators, who were attending online with Zoom connection. The participants were suor Neuza Giordani, suor Maria Antonietta Ripamonti, suor Chiara Folini, suor Esther Leroux, sig. Paulo Sivieri, mrs. Marta Abbruzzese, mrs. Ivona Agnes Sapunaru, mr. Antonio Valentini, mr. Domnic Tilak, don Umberto Brugnani, don Gustavo De Bonis, fratel Franco Lain, don Nico Rutigliano.

Don Umberto highlighted the peculiarity of this historical event: for the first time the three councils were meeting together. The task ahead of us, in union of direction, is to make known all the good that is going on and to animate all the Guanellian world. Therefore, we want – said the Superior – to accompany the Guanellian Family throughout the world with a shared program.

Tus we started by sending, in the month of the celebration or the 10th anniversary of the Founder's canonisation, a good wishes message, to encourage and support the entire Guanellian Family to go on along the way of doing good following the beacon of light of holiness that is our Founder's heritage.

The secretary of the World Council of the Guanellian Cooperators, Mrs. Marta Abbruzzese, updated us on the situation of the Guanellian Cooperators' Groups around the world. There are 624 Cooperators and 297 Aspirants.

During this meeting a unitary formation theme was chosen, to guide the Guanellian Family for the span of two years: "the bond of charity". We feel this is not only a typically Guanellian theme, but also a challenge in today's world, a provocation for our cultures. A specific committee will prepare some formative forms on the topic "bond of charity for the years 2022/23 for the whole Guanellian Family.

Work-in-progress also for the Communion Charter of the Guanellian Family, which will contain two parts: the first with "inspiring principles" and the second with "practical applications of the charism". Also for this, is at work a committee made up of the three realities.

We intend, for the future, having such a meeting twice a year: in March and in September.



# CONGREGATION NEWS

## Consecration events

✓ **October 13, 2021**: in the Theology and Philosophy Seminary “House of Providence” in Ibadan, Nigeria our Theology seminarians received the **ministries of Lector and Accolite**. Those receiving lectorate are: Mpotiyolo Jacques, Evbuowman Kelvin, Okeh Emmanuel and Govina Roger. Accolites are: Mvuama Theophile, Ugwu Malachi e Nwafor Emmanuel. Three seminarians of the first year of theology made their **declaration of intents**: Tyotule Thaddeus, Nyenga François e Malgalano Maldini. The Eucharistic celebration in the Seminary chapel was presided by the Vice Province Superior Fr. Kelechi Maduforo and was concelebrated by Frs. Vitus Unegbu (Rector), Marc Mamona (Vice-rector), Lawrence Obilor, Fabrice Kabitini, Paul Ogene, Nathan Anukam don Gabriel Kawanda. Our seminarians and some friends took part and rejoiced for our confreres, singing and praising the Lord.

✓ **October 23, 2021**: at the “Don Guanella Major Seminary”, in Chennai-India, the confreres RAJENTHIRAN Arul Pondiyan, GNANAPRAGASAM Arockia Samy, MALLIYA DOSS Jayaseelan, MATHIYAS John Peter made their **declaration of intents**. ANTONY SAMY Philip Victor, LOURDU SAMY Jestin Jeromin received the **ministry of Lector** and SESU RAJ Philomin Raja, KOTA Yesu Babu received the **ministry of Accolite**.

✓ **Borther Roger Genovia**, pronounced his **Perpetual Profession** at Manila, in the hands of the Delegation Superior, Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, at the closing of the Delegation Assembly, on November 27th 2021.

✓ The two Guanellian deacons, belonging to Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Province, **Luis Ernesto Ovelar Ruiz Díaz e Renan Rafael de Souza Santos** will receive the Sacred Order of Priesthood, on February 12th and February 19th, 2022.

## IN THE HOUSE OF THE FATHER

### Deceased Confreres

✓ October 19th: at Caidate (Varese) **Brother Egidio Tagliabue** died at age 85. He was buried in the Congregation’s tomb at Como, after the funeral in the Shrine of Sacred Heart at the Mother House.

✓ December 6th: at the house “Madonna del Lavoro” of Nuova Olonio, died **Fr. Sandro De Simoni** at age 84. He was buried at Nuova Olonio.

✓ December 11th: **Fr. Giuseppe Chierigato** died in the house of Barza d’Ispra (VA).

### Guanellian Family members and Confreres’ family members

✓ September 20th, 2021: the mother of Fr. Jorge Pintos, **Sig.ra Teodolina Recalde**, died at Asunción (Paraguay).

✓ September 21st, 2021: **Sr. Teresina Timbro** died at Como-Lora (Italia) and was buried at Albese (Como). She was 78 years old.

✓September 24th: **Sr. Letizia Cerutti** died at Roma-S. Pio X and was buried at Albese (Como). We remember her as a careful general treasurer. She was born 98 years ago at Cernobbio (Como).

✓October 3rd: at age 94 anni, has left the mother of Fr. Tommaso Gigliola, **Sig.ra Maria Rosaria Caliandro** at Ceglie Messapica (BR), Italia.

✓October 6th: at Caidate, at age 92, died **Sig.ra Anna Morandi**, the sister of our Brother Serafino Morandi. She was later buried in their home village of Monteviasco (VA), Italia.

✓October 18th: **Mr. Volmir Giordani**, the brother of Sr. Neuza Maria Giordani, General Vicari of the DSMP, has gone back to the House of the Father.

✓October 23rd: as we were celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Founder's canonisation, **Sr. Lidia Dall'Agata** has gone back to the House of the Father. She died at Sant'Anna Hospital in Como and was buried at Cordignano (Treviso).

✓October 28th: **Mr. Baldomero Cano Gonzáles** passed away. He was the father of our confrere Fr. Arturo Cano Gonzáles.

✓November 9th: our Brazilian **Sister Sr. Elizia Tereza Alves** died at Porto Alegre and she was buried at Canela, in the tomb of the Congregation. She was born at Arapongas in Paraná 55 years ago.

✓November 12th: on the day of the feast of Our Lady of Providence, aged 94, died **Mr. Giovanni Allegra**, the father of Fr. Alessandro Allegra, provincial superior of St. Joseph Province. Fr. Alessandro presided the funeral on November 15, in our Guanellian Parish of SS. Salvatore at Messina.

✓November 12th: at Mestre hospital, at age 93, died **Mr. Tarcisio Simion**, the brother of our confreres Frs. Vincenzo and Giorgio. The funeral was on November 16th at Jesus the Worker Parish in Marghera (VE).

✓November 13th: **Mr. Jeganathan**, paternal uncle of our confrere Fr. Francis Xavier, passed away. The funeral was on November 14th at St. Michael's Church, Palani (Tamil Nadu - India).

✓November 17th: at Condofuri (RC), has died **Mario Massara**, the nephew of Fr. Massara. He was 40 years old.

✓November 24th: our **Sister Sr. Martha Scheessele** died in the house Casa "Queen of Peace", Lake Zurich, Illinois, USA, at age 95.

✓November 27th: at Pallem, Peddapadu, Eluru (India) died **Mrs. Sarojini** (aged 86), the grandmother of our confrere Fr. Peter Joseph.

✓December 1st: **Mrs. Maria Mathalene** (age 82), the mother of Fr. Mahesh Benson, present Rector of our Major Seminary at Chennai, died at Thenthamarai Kulam, close to Kanyakumari (India).

✓December 2nd: the Guanellian **Sr. Bernardine Kauffman**, died at Barrington hospital, Illinois. She was born in Chicago 87 years ago..

## Date dei prossimi Consigli Generali (date orientative, passibili di cambiamenti)

### ■ Consulta generale

#### Date dei prossimi Consigli Generali:

- 19-20 gennaio 2022
- 16-17 febbraio 2022
- 16-17 marzo 2022
- 13-14 aprile 2022
- 18-19 maggio 2022
- 15-16 giugno 2022
- 20-21 luglio 2022

## Auguri dal Consiglio Generale

“I invite everyone to renewed hope, for hope “speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile”. Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope” (*Fratelli tutti*, n. 55)





## PRAYERS FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL MASS

1). For the Church spread throughout the world. May she live with synodality in decision making and in relationship, and announce the value and relevance of each person as God's project for the growth and salvation of all.

LET US PRAY

2). For the Guanellian Family, in mission with the Church in the world: may we continue together to spread, with renewed confidence and courageous creativity, the seeds of the Gospel of charity, listen carefully to the poor and weak brethren, and offer them the gift of our fraternity and constant care of Samaritans.

LET US PRAY

3). For the forthcoming General Consultation of the Servants of Charity. May it be a favourable time to consolidate unity and promote the development of the Congregation's actions through sharing of ideas and experiences.

LET US PRAY

4). Let us pray for the poor, especially those more touched by pandemics and those daily exposed to the virus of violence, injustice and indifference. May their dignity be promoted and defended also through our active closeness and charity, widening for them the circle of solidarity and the horizon of hope.

LET US PRAY

### MESSA INTERNAZIONALE NEL GIORNO DELLA NASCITA DI DON GUANELLA

Come tutti il 19 dicembre, data a noi cara, quest'anno commemoriamo il 179° di nascita del nostro Fondatore.

Ove sia possibile si prega di attenersi agli orari prestabiliti per elevare a Dio la nostra preghiera corale.

### Orario Messa Intercontinentale

Ore 8.00 U.S.A., Messico, Guatemala

Ore 9.00 Colombia

Ore 11.00 Argentina, Cile, Paraguay

Ore 12.00 Brasile

Ore 14.00 Ghana

Ore 15.00 Italia, Nigeria, Congo,

Polonia, Svizzera, Spagna Ore 16.00

Romania, Nazareth

Ore 17,00 Tanzania

Ore 19.30 India

Ore 21,00 Vietnam

Ore 22.00 Filippine

## Preghiera per l'anno nuovo

**Signore Dio,**

Signore del tempo e dell'eternità,  
tuo è l'oggi e il domani, il passato e il futuro, e,  
all'inizio di un nuovo anno,  
io fermo la mia vita davanti al calendario  
ancora da inaugurare  
e ti offro quei giorni che solo tu sai  
se arriverò a vivere.

Oggi ti chiedo per me  
e per i miei la pace e l'allegria,  
la forza e la prudenza,  
la carità e la saggezza.

Voglio vivere ogni giorno con ottimismo e bontà,  
chiudi le mie orecchie a ogni falsità,  
le mie labbra alle parole bugiarde ed egoiste  
o in grado di ferire,  
apri invece il mio essere  
a tutto quello che è buono,  
così che il mio spirito

si riempia solo di benedizioni  
e le sparga a ogni mio passo.

Riempimi di bontà e allegria  
perché quelli che convivono con me  
trovino nella mia vita un po' di te.

Signore, dammi un anno felice  
e insegnami e diffondere felicità.

Nel nome di Gesù, amen.

*(Giovane contadino Sud Americano)*