



# Guanella NEWS

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**'The prophecy of the evangelical poverty.'**

## 'The prophecy of the evangelical poverty'

In recent years, we religious are often asked by the Pope to be prophets ... to wake up the world... *"I expect you 'to wake up the world', because the note which characterizes consecrated life is prophecy"* the Pope said in the letter published on the eve of the inauguration of the year of consecrated life.

Among the prophetic signs that are two of them more necessary in our world today: the joyful witnessing of our religious vows as fullness of human life and together with our community life that welcomes cultural diversities as prophetic signs for a truly globalized world. These are issues that need to be taken constantly present in our ongoing formation.

My letter has the purpose to prepare us to receive the gift of Christ in remembrance of his birth in Bethlehem. And so I would like to spend some time on the topic of our witnessing poverty that so often Pope Francis talks about.

Even the Holy See often invites us to be vigilant especially on the administration of material goods, an administration that could be a counter-testimony by our incorrect handling of assets and economic resources (see "Guidelines for the management of assets in Institutes ....").

Recently the Holy See organized an International Symposium on the *"Fidelity to the charism, rethinking the economy"*.

If we want to witness our poverty as a pro-

phesy, we must live it from the perspective of gift as Pope Benedict XVI explained in Caritas in Veritate C. 34 *"In addressing this key question, we must make it clear, on the one hand, that the logic of gift does not exclude justice, nor does it merely sit alongside it as a second element added from without. On the other hand, economic, social, and political development, if it is to be authentically human, needs to make room for the principle of gratuitousness as an expression of fraternity."*

Here it is a first sign that makes us true witnesses of Christ, the Christ poor who was sent as a gift from his Father, *"so that we may be we enriched by his poverty": "freely we have received, freely we must give away."*

We know very well about our Founder's thinking on poverty. Our work was born as an initiative of the Providence of God and He will never fail, unless we move away from the original spirit, which is the spirit of great poverty and trust in the Providence of God.

Despite closures and selfishness, our society today is still strongly impregnated by the value of solidarity and sharing with the poor. If we want to be credible witnesses to Christ poor we must be very demanding on this, not just on a personal level but also as a Community level. Father Guanella wanted us *"to be poor and members of a poor Institute"*.



**'The Pious Union of St. Joseph'**



**'18th General Chapter of the DSMP'**



**From the general Council**

On a personal level we have a challenge to accept, the challenge of a world that holds in high regard the personal autonomy over one's life and the freedom in managing what one possesses. At this point the life "sober and simple of those who are happy to have enough to live" (C 51) can be a powerful witness, a provocation to the world's values.

Today, we insist strongly on the fact that we religious cannot live much differently from the poor we serve and from the surroundings we live in. And yet we have a hard time to accept to go down to them so that we may share with them hardships and insecurities.

It's not easy to discern between the responsibility to provide quality service with adequate facilities and the choice of sobriety as religious, in the surroundings where we live. People sometimes does not distinguish sufficiently these two aspects and believes that we are rich when he sees our private spaces. It's up to us to make clear with transparency and vigilance that our main resources are allocated to the poor according to the standards required by the society in which we operate, reserving to us the sobriety required for a community life according to the Gospel.

It is not always easy to decide what to do when large sums of money are needed to adapt our Houses to the challenges and needs of the poor, or when, due to the lack of religious personnel ensuring a minimum level of charismatic and evangelical witness in our service, we are forced to close some of our Houses. The Church rightly asks us to be careful "*in using properly the resources that Providence has placed at the disposal of the Church ...*", because the first concern should be not to diminish the ability of evangelization of the Church in a given territory.

Even at the level of Congregation it is necessary to have a more general vision, which takes into account the expansion of the Congregation, with the consequent demand for resources to meet the most pressing and less covered poverties. Here it is necessary that discernment should be guided by the logic of gift and communion of goods, with that generosity and trust in Providence that will ever help us, especially when we don't do too many human security calculations.

At the same time we cannot neglect cooperating to merit and invoke Divine Providence with our hard



work, but also with the proper administration of assets at our disposal and with the ability to solicit Providence in favor of our poor. The Founder did the same with the means at his disposal: prayer, the press, the establishing of charitable Committees, the Pia Opera to attract benefactors ... We have to

carried out all this by being tools and 'channels' of Divine Providence, so that we do not retain anything per ourselves but everything is aimed to serve the poor.

The administration of goods, should never desired and be considered as a way to increase power. Instead, it must create in those who administer them a sense of particular responsibility before God, the poor and the Congregation

itself.

We are aware that even the people of God is very sensitive in the matter and judges negatively those who takes advantage of religion and poor for their personal or family interests.

Let us help each other to live with joy our vow of poverty. The Lord, who in the mystery of his Birth at Christmas gives us a clear testimony of abject poverty, will continue to bless the Congregation. Merry Christmas to all!

A fraternal greeting

16 December 2016

Pe Alfonso Crippa



## ‘THE PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH’

The most beautiful inheritance received by our holy Founder is certainly the establishment of the Pious Union of St. Joseph whose purpose is to invoke his protection for the dying.

We can say that this insight represents the maturity of its charitable commitment. It wants to embrace the human poverty, both material and spiritual, in the most important moment of life in which everyone needs to feel the spiritual, emotional and physical proximity of people at the time of the big step opening to a new life.

Father Guanella, by building the Basilica del Transito of St. Joseph in Rome, wanted to urge the faithful to raise to the Lord, through the intercession of St. Joseph, a chorus of perpetual prayer in favor of the dying and especially of those who live in solitude the most decisive and hardest moment of their life.

The response to this call took for a universal dimension, as universal is the reality of death. Just think that in the world every year more than 50 million people and more than 600 thousand only in Italy die! The Pious Union, within a very few months, had an extraordinary spread especially in Europe and later on in North and South America, reaching even distant lands like China, Oceania, Armenia – in the particular circumstance of the Armenian genocide by the Turks.

During the years of the First World War (1915-1918), besides the daily prayer for the dying, the Pious Union established for priests the wonderful initiative of the **Perennial Mass** for the intentions of the Pious Union. Among the priests who joined the Association there was Father Maximilian Kolbe, martyr of charity, who was a great promoter of this spiritual work of mercy.



**We Guanellians should ask ourselves: how should we live today and spread this apostolate, which belongs to us as special legacy passed on by the Founder?**

We know that our society has become less sensitive to religious values. Even death has lost much of its sacred sense and because of that it has been marginalized. Death is so removed from our daily life that we often abandon the dying people to loneliness and depriving them of the spiritual comfort of the Sacraments. We would like even to subdue death to our freedom, to our power. But we cannot put death under our victory. That victory comes true only when we give it to the Lord so that death can participate to his Resurrection.

The challenge today that **the accompaniment to death** presents us with is therefore even more engaging our pastoral charity. We need to learn from the Founder and live this challenge with the same sensitivity and passion in providing each person the certainty of being loved by the Father, especially in their last moment of life.

In January 2008, the Pious Union organized a Meeting on the theme, “*The art of accompanying the encounter with death.*” The Acts were published by New Frontiers in Rome.

Through these brief remarks, I would like to appeal to the whole Guanellian Family to keep in great consideration this apostolate of charity, with the enrollment and dissemination of the Pious Union, with the participation of the confreres to the Perennial Mass, with an invitation to the faithful of our Parishes to live the spirit of the Pious Union.



In the Guanellian world there are already branches of the Pious Union: Grass Lake in the USA, Buenos Aires in Argentina, Porto Alegre in Brazil, and Madrid in Spain ... We hope that more branches will be established in other nations where our Congregation is present. We hope especially that the Pious Union may spread in the Guanellian parishes.

We thank the Lord for the great spiritual benefit that is accomplished through this apostolate the Founder has entrusted to us. Only in heaven we will know the many benefits that the Pious Union produces in many people who form a chain of spiritual solidarity for the salvation of the world.

“...We have a great challenge to face, especially in contemporary culture, which often tends to trivialize death to the point of treating it as an illusion or hiding it from sight. Yet death must be faced and prepared for as a painful and inescapable passage, yet one charged with immense meaning, for it is the ultimate act of love towards those we leave behind and towards God whom we go forth to meet...” (*Misericordia et Misera*, n.15)

## ‘ 18<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of the DSMP ’

The 18<sup>th</sup> General Chapter of our Sisters took place in Rome in Santa Rosa House. In addition to the daily prayer, our congregation was present in the Opening Mass of the Chapter in the church of Santa Maria della Nocetta, presided over by the Superior General and in the Enclosing Mass presided by Vicar General in the Chapel of Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence in the church San Carlo in Catinari.

The general theme of the Chapter was the one required by Mary to the servants in the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee: **"Do whatever he tells you."** In a particular way the description: *"For a creative fidelity to the charism entrusted to us in a communion of life and researching alternative ways of managements."*

The task of the Chapter sisters was to look at the life and works of the Congregation through the Mother Serena's report and the other not less important was to approve the new Directory.

The work was intense and very participated. At the end of the second week it proceeded with the election of Mother General and Director. Mother Serena Ciserani was reconfirmed as Mother General and were elected: Sr. Neuza Giordani (Vicar General), Sr. Carla Folini, Sr. Esther Leroux, and Sr. Maria Antonietta Ripamonti.

We wish to the new council a faithful interpretation of the will of the Holy Spirit in accompanying the congregation of the HSMP on the roads of the Gospel of charity!

Mother Serena at the end of the Chapter gave thanks to us in this way: Dear confreres, warm greetings from all of us and a heartfelt thanks for your closeness specially in the prayer and for being participants of what we lived in the Chapter Assembly



## *'December 19th - 174th anniversary of Fr. Guanella's birth'*

Since we are going up to December 19th, the birthday of our holy Founder, the Guanellian Family - will meet in the same day all over the world for the Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving. We offer some intentions that can be used in this celebration:



1. **Five years after the canonization of our Founder once again we thank God for this gift that has allowed the world to take charity as guidance as a service of promotion to the poorest.**
2. **In the expression of the Founder: "Give bread and Lord to all" it's well expressed the Guanellian charity not only made of concern because they all have to eat, but also open to give Jesus Christ, the source of hope and lasting peace for all people.**
3. **For our Sisters, Daughters of Santa maria of Providence, who recently ended their 18th General Chapter and elected their new General Council. The attentive and caring spirit of Mary at the wedding feast of Cana, must put on the life of each of them an incitement to the world in which to do all that the Lord suggests every day for our good.**
4. **For the beatification of Mons. Aurelio Bacciarini. Recalling next month the 100th of the episcopal consecration of this great Servant of Charity, we implore to the Holy Spirit the grace of the ecclesial recognition of his holiness of life.**



...e sarà chiamato Principe della pace. (Is. 9,6)

In un mondo ancora travagliato da guerre e oppressioni, la Sapienza eterna, la Parola creatrice, il Verbo della vita, il Figlio di Dio si fa uomo, affinché, malgrado le nostre miserie, ognuno di noi possa percepire, vivere e comunicare la vicinanza di Dio, ricca di grazie, di tenerezza immensa e di misericordia infinita.

Lasciamoci avvicinare dal nostro Dio!

***Auguri di un Santo Natale  
dal Superiore generale e suo Consiglio***

## *Dal Consiglio Generale*

Nei giorni 1 e 2 dicembre abbiamo avuto la 58a. sessione di Consiglio del nostro sessennio, con molti punti da trattare, tanto che abbiamo dovuto riunirci nuovamente il pomeriggio di domenica, 4 dicembre, per completare il nutrito Ordine del Giorno.

Sempre come primo punto, ricordiamo i confratelli con particolari problemi di salute o che stanno passando per momenti di difficoltà. Causa dolore ricevere alcune domande di assenza dalla Comunità, che in questi ultimi anni si stanno ripetendo con maggior frequenza. Mentre con gioia partecipiamo l'autorizzazione ad accedere all'Ordine del Presbiterato di due confratelli brasiliani (i diaconi Eli Marcel e Rudinei).

Un tema particolare di questo nostro Consiglio è stato quello di preparare l'Incontro del Consiglio generale con i Superiori di Provincia e di Delegazione, nel quale, oltre a fare una revisione degli obiettivi che ci eravamo posti con l'ultima nostra Consulta, decideremo le modalità con cui realizzare il prossimo Capitolo generale.

Abbiamo poi ascoltato le Relazioni delle visite realizzate dai Consiglieri nelle varie Province: Padre Ciro in America latina e Padre Gustavo in Vietnam e Filippine. Ci siamo soffermati maggiormente a riflettere sul tema della formazione e della pastorale vocazionale in queste nostre realtà.

Per l'America Latina, mentre si apprezza l'impegno della Provincia brasiliana nell'animazione vocazionale, che sta dando buoni frutti, si è maggiormente preoccupati per la scarsità di risorse umane dedite alla pastorale vocazionale nelle altre due Province e per l'incertezza con la quale si sta affrontando questo tema.

In Oriente (Vietnam e Filippine) si sta potenziando la pastorale vocazionale e organizzando meglio tutto l'iter formativo. Si spera così di poter superare la situazione di difficoltà che finora abbiamo vissuto specie nelle Filippine. Ringraziamo il Signore per le nuove vocazioni del Vietnam che per ora devono realizzare il loro iter formativo nelle Filippine, ma che si spera di poter seguire in Patria.

Tra gli altri temi che ci stanno a cuore c'è quello della interculturalità in Congregazione. Ripassando i verbali che ci pervengono dalle varie Province, constatiamo il desiderio di una maggior condivisione e interscambio di confratelli. Ma su questo punto notiamo che abbiamo bisogno di un maggior impegno da parte di tutti per rendere realmente positiva questa condivisione. Sarà anche questo un tema forte da trattare nell'Incontro con i Provinciali.

## *Lettera del Padre Generale per l'Incontro con i Provinciali*



Carissimi Padre Provinciali e Delegato dell'Africa.

Abbiamo da poco celebrato la Festa del Santo Fondatore e a lui abbiamo chiesto di intercedere presso il Padre per la nostra continua santificazione e per lo sviluppo della Congregazione. La sua protezione ci è certamente assicurata se anche noi offriamo il nostro piccolo contributo nel compiere con dedizione il nostro servizio di animazione e di governo.

Il prossimo impegno che ci troverà uniti qui a Roma sarà l'Incontro del Consiglio generale con voi, per preparare il cammino che ci condurrà nel 2018 al Capitolo generale.

Questo sarà il tema centrale del nostro Incontro che inizierà il mattino di lunedì 9 gennaio fino a venerdì 13 gennaio 2017. Nei giorni seguenti (sabato e domenica) avremo la possibilità di incontrare i singoli Superiori per trattare più concretamente i temi che riguardano la propria Provincia o Delegazione. Mentre nei giorni di lunedì e martedì (16 e 17 gennaio) avremo l'Incontro dei tre Superiori provinciali dell'America Latina con il Consiglio generale.

Unitamente al tema centrale dell'Incontro 'Cammino di preparazione al Capitolo generale' approfondiremo alcuni dei temi che la Consulta generale (novembre 2015) ci ha indicato come prioritari per l'attuale triennio valutando quanto finora realizzato. In particolare:

- Lo spirito missionario e la formazione di Comunità interculturali, significative per la fraternità vissuta e per l'impegno apostolico, con la presentazione delle nuove aperture che si stanno realizzando.
- La fantasia della carità, che ci spinga all'incontro diretto con i poveri e ad essere sensibili alle nuove povertà. Gli appelli del Papa....
- La formazione. Analisi e suggerimenti sul cammino formativo delle varie nostre Case di Formazione. Gli abbandoni della vita religiosa...
- Pastorale vocazionale e Cultura vocazionale ....
- Le difficoltà causate dalla complessità nella gestione delle nostre Opere. Necessità di chiarire meglio i ruoli dei confratelli (e dei laici) nei nostri Centri educativi e assistenziali.

+ Avremo anche la possibilità di confrontarci sul come stiamo vivendo i rapporti tra Governo centrale e Governo provinciale. Unità di direzione e sussidiarietà.

+ Una mattinata la dedicheremo ai temi amministrativi ed economici.

+ In base al tempo a disposizione potremo anche toccare alcuni temi più concreti per avere indicazioni specifiche, come per esempio: A) Confratelli che chiedono di perfezionare i loro studi; B) I Centri Studi Guanelliani locali e le Filiali della Pia Unione del Transito di S. Giuseppe; C) I mezzi di comunicazione sociale: uso e possibilità; D) I passi fatti nella promozione del Laicato guanelliano e nella corresponsabilità dei Laici nella missione; E) I viaggi e i permessi di Visa o di Soggiorno che si fanno sempre più difficili; F) .....Potete indicare anche voi qualche tema che vi sembra conveniente trattare nel nostro Incontro.

Ad ognuno di voi chiediamo di preparare una semplice esposizione (10-15 minuti a disposizione) delle tre problematiche principali che state affrontando in Provincia (Delegazione) e di 2 iniziative particolari che state implementando in Provincia (o in Delegazione), risaltando particolarmente se in Provincia si stanno realizzando modalità nuove, più snelle e di più diretta testimonianza della carità in contesti di nuove povertà ....

Ringraziandovi già fin d'ora per il contributo che offrirete alla Congregazione porgiamo il nostro cordiale e fraterno saluto a tutti voi.

In Charitate Christi.

P. Alfonso e il Consiglio generale

Roma, 2 novembre 2016

# News di Congregazione



## Nella Casa del Padre Confratelli

✓ Il 5 novembre è deceduto a Brindisi, l'ex confratello Don Vito Cavallo. Ultimamente era capellano del Presidio Ospedaliero "Fondazione San Raffaele" a Ceglie Messapica (BR)



## Familiari dei Confratelli

✓ Il 29 ottobre, a Pozzo Faceto, all'età di 100 anni, è deceduto il Sig. Vito Indiveri, nonno del nostro confratello Fr. Enzo Gallo.

✓ Il 7 novembre, a Thamaraiikulam, Kanyakumari in India, all'età di 39 anni, è morto il Sig. Anto Franklin, fratello del nostro confratello P. Kuruz Mahesh Benson.

✓ Il 21 novembre, a Bari, dopo un tragico incidente stradale, all'età di 45 anni, è deceduto il Sig. Vito Frugis, fratello del nostro confratello Don Beppe Frugis.

✓ Il 2 dicembre, a Roma, si è estinto il Sig. Domenico Massara, fratello del nostro confratello Don Nino Massara.

✓ L'8 dicembre in India, è deceduto, Mr. M. Madhalai Samy, fratello del nostro confratello Fr. Peter Sebastian

## *Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio generale*

- Don Luigi: 5 al 29 dicembre in Tanzania- Nigeria.
- Don Ciro: 27 gennaio al 11 febbraio nel Seminario Iberoamericano di Bogotà e Bucaramanga (Colombia)
- Prossimo raduno di Consiglio: 4-5 gennaio 2017
- Meeting con i provinciali: 9-13 gennaio 2017

