

SERVANTS OF CHARITY - GENERALATE

Guanella NEWS

‘MOST HOLY AND GLORIOUS DAY’



Most Holy and Glorious Day

One hundred and fifty years ago, on 26 May 1866, Fr Guanella was ordained a priest at the Diocesan Seminary in Como. This was a difficult period for the Church and especially for the Diocese of Como; Bishop Frascolla, the Pastor who ordained him, had been put under house arrest in the Diocesan Seminary for having expressed his opposition to the liberalizing ideas of the nascent Italian State. It was in this atmosphere that Fr Guanella's Ordination, which took place, as it were, in concealment in the chapel of the Seminary in Como, was also experienced by Fr Guanella as a challenge of fidelity to the Church and to the Pope. The figure of the persecuted bishop became, in Fr Guanella's interpretation, that of the courageous Pastor who gives his life for his people. About a month before his Ordination Fr Guanella wrote a letter to Fr Adamini who was preparing the homily for his First Holy Mass in Prosto on the upcoming Feast of *Corpus Christi*. In this letter Fr Guanella lets his deepest feelings regarding the gift he was about to receive filter through: *“That most holy and glorious day, the most beautiful day of my life, a day on which, on going back over it in my mind in the years to come, I was to forget any longings in order to leap with joy and gratitude. However, it prepared me for entering this ministry, moreover tremendous and terrible...”*. As well as the feeling of deep gratitude and great humility, there was something of a perception of his future, also full of difficulties but neverthe-



less brightened by the luminous day of his priestly consecration. If we compare this text with the text – without any doubt autobiographical – of Fr Guanella's short work *‘Il Montanaro’*, which he wrote 20 years later, we can, precisely, admire the farsightedness of his feelings and the constancy with which he was able to keep faith with his spiritual tension and his youthful enthusiasm: *“That young son of a mountain-dweller who in offering himself to God was already saying: ‘Father, I want to become a priest’... now, here he was; having overcome multiple obstacles he exclaimed at last: ‘I am now a priest for ever! Blessed be the Lord! I was a shepherd who tended sheep and now I am the pastor of a people... My people, pray for your pastor... For I want to be angelic in my habits, I want to be a sword of fire in the holy ministry’”*. The pastor of a people and a sword of fire: these were indisputably two characteristics lived in an extraordinary way by Fr Guanella in the 49 years of his priestly life. For Fr Guanella being a priest always meant serving his people in order to defend them from dangers and from attacks against their faith. He called this to mind writing in his autobiography: *“It seemed impossible for Fr Guanella to be silent about the truth and he was never silent about it, neither in church nor outside it, and hence the wickedness, threats and political surveillance that arose... Crooked ways and timidity were utterly unknown to him”*.



Faithfulness in our Vocation



Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio Generale

Yet his was also a priesthood entirely dedicated to relieving human wretchedness, without ever saying “enough”. Before proposing it to us he himself felt that it was “*A very serious duty to go to the spiritual and corporal help of our many brothers and sisters who, forced to emigrate to foreign parts, all too often encounter abroad the ruin of their faith, together with the ruin of their bodies*”. Fr Guanella was the first to experience the beatitude of the “*Good Servants of Charity who over the long course of the years and so frequently every day have rescued the poor with faith, these good Servants of Charity who, still alive, never say ‘that’s enough’ in works of charity and sacrifice; these good Servants of Charity will be raised on high with Jesus Christ and will possess that Kingdom which the Lord in his infinite goodness has prepared since the beginning of the Creation. What a gain! What a triumph!*”

Should it be necessary to highlight a fundamental characteristic in order to understand Fr Guanella’s priestly life, one cannot but think of his “multi-ness” as a mountain-dweller; in being able to confront difficulties and in wanting to be faithful to his vocation, indeed to strengthen it continuously, to the extent that he perceived that the Lord’s mercy went even beyond his own forms of wilfulness. Now, however, he had had the experience of God’s almighty Providence in his own life and for the poor... Fr Guanella went through many experiences of suffering in his priestly life, but they fortified within him the conviction that the prie-



thood is not such unless the priest assumes Christ’s sufferings in himself, out of love for his brothers and sisters. We may say that the whole of Fr Guanella’s priestly life was a continuous ascent to Calvary, but with the conviction that he was receiving from his sacrifices a major benefit, such as to prompt him to say in his autobiography, *Le Vie della Provvidenza*: “*The good Lord converts contradictions and adversities themselves, whether of mind, of body or of heart, into a shower of golden rain, and converts the squalls of storms into as many crystals as the precious stones that enrich the dwelling of the religious heart*”. When he wrote these words Fr Guanella was already nearing the end of his life, thus almost half a century had passed since his Ordination

to the priesthood: a sign that his almost 50 years of priestly ministry had produced as a fruit his full conformation to Christ, who gave his life for his own and made life spring up even in the arid ground of human forms of poverty. We might ask ourselves today: “What is the secret of such a fertile priestly life”?

For Fr Guanella it was certainly his trust in Providence which sheltered him from human discouragement and accompanied him sensitively on his journey through life. So will it also be for us!

*Fr Alfonso Crippa
Superior General*

Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio Generale

- **Don Alfonso in visita fraterna: Roma Seminario Teologico dal 3 al 7 maggio; Nazareth dal 9 al 16 maggio; Comunità della Puglia dal 19 al 24 maggio; San Ferdinando e Skawina dal 6 al 10 giugno; Como, Novara, Gozzano e Chiavenna dal 16 al 23 giugno.**
- **Don Luigi a Pforzheim (Germania) dal 2 al 10 giugno**
- **Don Gustavo in Terra Santa, Como e nella Valle del Fondatore dal 9 al 25 maggio.**
- **Don Ciro e Don Mario in Brasile, Argentina e Cile dal 2 al 27 maggio.**
- **Don Ciro a Naro dal 14 al 20 giugno**



FIDELITY TO OUR VOCATION

(The Confrères in the first years of their apostolate – The Tutelage and the Tirocinium)

It is no rare occurrence that in the General Council we are called to take into consideration the situation of Confrères who, in the first years of their apostolate (and also in the year of their Tirocinium), encounter difficulties in living their vocation with the right balance between attention to their own development, the fulfilment of their apostolic responsibilities and a fraternal life which sustains them both humanly and spiritually. And we sometimes have to note the decision of certain Confrères who, a short time after their perpetual profession and their Ordination to the priesthood, question their vocation.

None of us can fail to reflect and to feel responsible for these forms of frailty too, first of all by reviving in ourselves the gift of our vocation and also by asking ourselves what we can and must do to create that stimulating environment which strengthens the fidelity of us all to the gift we have received. It is not enough to call into question either the frailty of young men today or the lack of an initial formation...

Instead, it is necessary to give effective priority to some of our commitments which are more directly addressed to looking after the Confrères who the Lord has entrusted to us.

Our Ratio, with reference to the Tutelage and recalling the Exhortation Vita Consecrata, reminds us: “(It) represents **a phase, critical in itself**, marked by the passage from a guided life to a situation of full and active responsibility”. For this reason, throughout the years of the Tutelage the Institute offers the opportunity for an experienced Confrère to help those Confrères in the first years of their apostolic activity to expend themselves with enthusiasm and balance in the sequela Christi, at the service both of the Church and of the Congregation (Ratio n. 288). This is the minimum that every Provincial Superior must ensure that our young Confrères receive, but above all we must revive the way we live our fraternal communion which enables us to develop and to progress together in God’s friendship.



The greatest responsibility, of course, is that of the Confrère who must draw spiritual strength from Christ, chosen as the model of his consecration, and from the Spirit, received in fullness in priestly Ordination. Each one must contribute with his creativity and youthful liveliness to enriching the Community in which he feels a fully entitled member. We know that there is no such thing as a perfect Community and that we live in a world in constant transformation (and we too change with the passing years!) and so for us there can only be dynamic and creative faithfulness which is constantly renewed.

However, our Communities too must be more attentive to not neglecting the life of fraternal communion. Often at our meetings as a Congregation we highlight the need for deeper relationships between us in order to prevent Confrères from seeking compensation outside the Community or from

retreating into their own individualism; and then let us be more fully involved in the – certainly very real – concerns of the apostolate and in the activities that have been entrusted to us.

Initiatives of permanent formation have increased in the Congregation and it is a real grace of the Lord to have available Confrères and projects which stimulate us to keep alive our human and spiritual qualities. However, we owe thanks above all to those Confrères who stand beside us in the practical routine of our daily lives to share with us the joys and difficulties we encounter on our journey. The acceptance and sincere friendship they offer us make us feel loved and esteemed and enable us to achieve

that encounter in which we open with trust and transparency to the other in order to surmount those difficulties which on our own we tend to deny.

All of us know that a crisis or a specific moment of weakness can occur in each one of us. What matters is that we never let the other person lack the help he needs in these moments too. Indeed it is necessary to foresee them, personally, with sincerity to ourselves and with the help of a spiritual director, and in the com-

munity, by assuming responsibility for our brothers and by having the courage to administer fraternal correction, if necessary, as well as always by the witness of our lives.

We often say that vocational fecundity also depends on our prophetic capacity in living our vocation, as well as on the Lord's grace, and this is all the truer if we are not to lose on the way those who feel called by the Lord. Let us all take to heart this commitment to accompany our Confrères in their experiences of the Tirocinium and of their first apostolate in our Communities.



Solennità del Sacro Cuore di Gesù

“Per restaurare le persone e le opere si deve compiere il desiderio del divin Cuor che apparendo in figura di immenso fuoco, grida: Sono venuto a portare nel mondo il fuoco della carità e che voglio io se non che tale fuoco si accenda nel cuore degli uomini?”

Don Guanella, R. 1910

***Auguri ai Confratelli, Servi della Carità,
che nel giorno del Sacro Cuore rinnovano
per devozione la propria consacrazione a Dio!***

Incontro Formazione Centro Studi Guanelliani

Dal 9 al 14 Maggio, si è svolto un Incontro di formazione per i Centri Studi Guanelliani, vi riportiamo la lettera di Don Bruno Capparoni, direttore del CSG, a conclusione di tale evento.

“Carissimi,

mando queste righe per dare una informazione conclusiva dell'Incontro di Formazione per Addetti ai Centri Studi Guanelliani, tenutosi a Roma e a Como dal 9 al 14 maggio u.s.

Eravamo 19 (10 FsMP+5 SdC+ 4 addetti al CSG di Roma/Biblioteca Bacciarini); inoltre varie volte sono stati presenti confratelli della Casa Generalizia SdC e del Seminario Teologico mons. Aurelio Bacciarini. A Roma siamo stati ospiti del Seminario e della Casa San Giuseppe: ringraziamo cordialmente! Pure ringraziamo la Casa Divina Provvidenza di Como, la Casa Santa Maria di Lora, la Casa Sacro Cuore di Pianello, la Casa delle Ginestre a Recanati per la cordiale accoglienza.



L'Incontro ha trattato tre tematiche.

In primo luogo abbiamo affrontato alcuni temi che possono aiutare a "studiare don Guanella", indicando con questa parola il compito di approfondire la conoscenza storica della Guanellianità e di diffondere i risultati fuori del Centro studi. Qui abbiamo accostato a) gli Scritti di don Luigi Guanella (Volumi Opera Omnia), b) l'Epistolario on line dello stesso, mentre a Como abbiamo conosciuto c) l'Archivio storico guanelliano; una tematica era rivolta anche alla d) conoscenza delle "fonti" del pensiero di don Guanella, specialmente Paolo Ségnier e René-Francois Rohrbacher.

Collegata con questa tematica è stata la presentazione del vol. 21 dei Saggi storici, dedicato alle figure di don Leonardo Mazzucchi e di madre Marcellina Bosatta. Essa è avvenuta nel Teatro Don Guanella di san Giuseppe al Trionfale (grazie!). Una voce interessante è stata quella di suor Grazia Loparco FMA, che ha presentato una sua stimolante lettura del volume presentato. E sempre a questo proposito abbiamo rilevato la difficoltà della diffusione delle nostre stampe: vari dei presenti non avevano avuto in mano il vol. 21 dei Saggi storici e nemmeno il vol. VI (Inediti e postumi) degli Scritti del Fondatore!

In secondo luogo abbiamo affrontato temi riguardanti l'eventuale organizzazione di un Centro Studi locale. E qui abbiamo seguito a) la Presentazione del Centro Studi di Roma, b) modalità e problematiche concrete per l'organizzazione di un Centro studi, c) importanza, attenzioni e difficoltà nel compito delle nostre traduzioni, d) uso di strumenti di ricerca quali l'edizione Intratext degli scritti di don Guanella e l'uso dell'Opac delle Biblioteche Centro Studi e Bacciarini.



In terzo luogo ci siamo interessati delle modalità di conservare le memorie della storia guanelliana. Abbiamo visitato a Pianello a) la chiesa parrocchiale e soprattutto la casa parrocchiale, prendendo contatto con la auspicabile conservazione di quei luoghi, come pure b) la raccolta di cimeli presso la Casa Sacro Cuore di Pianello. Abbiamo visitato con interesse c) la Biblioteca dei Frati minori di Dongo, luogo frequentato da don Guanella e conservatosi sorprendentemente oltre le alterne e pericolose vicende del passato; infine abbiamo visitato d) il Museo Guanelliano della Casa divina Provvidenza a Como.

Al termine di questa settimana ci è rimasta la domanda circa la modalità di dare continuazione a questo cammino. Da parte del Centro Studi di Roma vi è l'intenzione entro un tempo ragionevolmente breve di far avere ai partecipanti gli appunti delle tematiche trattate e poi di mantenere un periodico contatto di informazione e stimolo ai confratelli venuti all'Incontro.

Tra le varie suggestioni emerse, una ha avuto speciale rilievo: quella che le Province e Delegazioni FsMP e SdC organizzino Centri Studi locali; ne sono già provviste le Province italiane (a Roma il Centro Studi centrale, ma anche il Centro Ricerche FsMP e a Como l'Archivio storico guanelliano), ma anche la Provincia del Brasile e quella Argentina.

Abbiamo riflettuto sul fatto che quanti per inclinazione o preparazione personale si sentono di dedicare un po' del loro tempo e attività agli studi storici, è desiderabile che siano incoraggiati non solo a parole, ma anche con qualche spazio di tempo consentito e qualche opportunità di specializzazione: questa raccomandazione viene rivolta in prima istanza ai Superiori.

Infine ringraziamo di aver dato questa opportunità, a cui dovrà far seguito in un tempo ragionevole qualche altra iniziativa analoga.

Grazie per il sostegno economico offerto a questa iniziativa e per l'incoraggiamento colto nelle varie istanze che si sono interessate ad essa. Grazie a coloro che hanno portato anche la fatica di preparare ogni cosa.

Se avessi commesso qualche omissione, me ne scuso fin da ora.”

*Con stima.
don Bruno Capparoni*



NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION AND GUANELLIAN FAMILY

● **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land.**

As a Permanent Formation activity, the general council has organized a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for confreres coming from English speaking countries who never had that kind of experience. Many were the bureaucratic procedures to go through. Hopefully, the fruits will be greater than them. We desired to offer the same experience to the confreres of Spanish language, but it was not possible.

● **New openings in mission territories**

A few months ago the Congregation got ready either to open new entities in new nations or to consolidate presences already in place.

Two confreres from India are preparing themselves to go to the Solomon Islands. They were preceded by a diocesan priest from India who willed to share with them this new mission in those remote Islands in the Pacific Ocean. He is already there.

Regarding Tanzania (Africa) there was a longer visit in order to know better the local Church and her activities. Next October, two confreres will be in the diocese of Mbeya for their inculturation and organization of the religious community. Later on, the community will participate to a larger project regarding home-visits to the disabled spread around a vast territory.

Regarding nations where our presence is already established, the general council has decided the following. In Ghana the confreres accepted to run an elementary school and a middle school. In Nigeria we are preparing confreres to take over a parish in Benue State where the Servants are not present yet.

Beginning next year, different religious communities will have a supplement of young confreres: In Romania to begin, in collaboration with our Sisters, a small house for the homeless; In the USA to consolidate our houses; In other Communities to strengthen community life and apostolic activities.

● **Our Sisters**

Mother General called the general chapter beginning on November 21, 2016. It is our commitment to be close to them with our prayer.

Two Sisters will open a new House in the Amazon (Brazil)

On April 18, Sr. Giustina informed us that two Sisters (Sr. Noemia Valgoi e Sr Victoria Arul) were ready to go to Kinshasa (Congo-Africa) to open there a new House for the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. The two Sisters, Sr. Clara e Sr Luigia, now are there and were welcomed with great joy by our Confreres.

● **Other News**

We are working for the new Web-site of the Congregation. It is necessary because some communities have a hard time to open it. The new web-site will change its name: operadongaunella.it and the old one guanelliani.org will be dismissed. The necessary instructions will be sent soon.

The two Italian provincial councils met on March 7 to talk about some topics of common interest.

On May 26 , renewal of ratings for 16 temporary Brothers at the Theological Seminary of Rome

● **Main activities of the General Council**

- . Nulla osta for the Priestly Ordination of 9 confreres of the African Delegation.
- . Approval of Fr. Charlton as new Secretary of the 'Divine Providence Province'
- . Appointment of Fr. Dong as Master of Novices in the Philippines
- . Appointment of Fr. Battista Omodei as responsible of the philosophy and theology students in Manila
- . Nulla osta for other appointments of African Confreres as Superiors of Religious Communities

News di Congregazione

Anniversari di professione religiosa e sacerdozio

✓ Fr. John Kennedy Alphonse, Fr. Perianayagasamy Ananadarayar, Fr. Paul Francis Arul Pragasam, Fr. Arputharaj Joseph, Fr. Franklin Michael, Fr. Shantam Michael, Fr. Sagayaraj Selva, Fr. Anandham Thavamani, Fr. Leo Xavier e Fr. Antony Samy Arul il 31.05 celebrano il 10° anniversario di professione religiosa; P. Matías J. Bentos e P. Antonio Brítez Godoy celebrano il 10° anniversario di prima professione religiosa il 18.06.2016.

✓ Fr. Arulraj Antonysamy, Fr. Felicks Kirupanithi e Fr. Gnanaraj Rayapillai il 4.05 hanno festeggiato il 10° anniversario della loro Ordinazione Presbiterale.

Eventi di Consacrazione

✓ Il 26 Maggio, rinnovo dei Voti per 16 Confratelli temporanei al Seminario Teologico di Roma

✓ Il 31 Maggio, Prima Professione Religiosa per tre nostri Confratelli in India a Bangalore, **A. Jerome Victor, S. Philomin Raja, K. Yesu Babu**, la celebrazione Eucaristica verrà presieduta da **Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC** Superiore Provinciale

Nella Casa del Padre Confratelli

✓ Il 7 marzo nella Comunità de La Piedad, ad Asunción in Paraguay, è ritornato alla Casa del Padre, **Don Danilo Vaccari**, alla bell'età di 93 anni, 74 anni di professione religiosa, 69 di sacerdozio e 67 di permanenza in America Latina.

✓ Il 5 aprile scorso, a Civitavecchia (Roma), all'età di 84 anni, è tornato alla casa del Padre, **Don Giuseppe Merlin**,

✓ Il 17 aprile ad Alpago (BL), è tornato alla casa del Padre, **Don Serafino Gandin**, nostro confratello per molti anni.

✓ Il 20 aprile a Grono (Cantone Grigioni) all'età di 84 anni, è deceduto **Don Mario Gasparoli**.

✓ Il 19 Maggio a Como, Casa della Divina Provvidenza, è tornato alla Casa del Padre il nostro confratello **Don Paolo Oggioni** all'età di 72 anni

Familiari dei confratelli

✓ Il 17 aprile è morta la Sig.ra **Maria Pastorello**, sorella del nostro confratello **Don Benito Pastorello**

✓ Il 23 aprile, all'età di 96 anni, è deceduta la Sig.ra **Lucia Cornaggia**, sorella del nostro confratello **Don Franco Cornaggia**

✓ Il 6 maggio è venuto a mancare all'affetto dei suoi cari **Mr. Emmanuel Nneji Azubuike**, papà del nostro confratello **P. Anthony Azubuike**

✓ Il 9 maggio è morta la Sig.ra **Maria Jesi**, madre del nostro confratello **Satheesh Canington**

✓ Il 23 maggio all'età di appena 41 anni, dopo tanta sofferenza, ci ha lasciati la Sig.ra **Loretta Di Rosa**, sorella minore del nostro confratello **Don Lillo Di Rosa**.