



Guanella NEWS

Curia Generalizia - Vicolo Clementi, 41 - Roma
www.operadonguanella.it



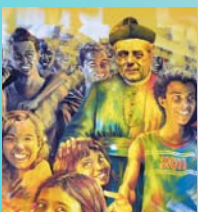
' 110 Years ago.... like today? '



' The contributions of the confreres on Prophecy '



' From the General Council '



' Congregation News '

' 110 Years ago.... like today? '

110 years ago, Father Guanella and his first confreres made their public profession of religious vows on the evening of March 24, 1908. It is easy to make some considerations uniting that moment of our history as a Congregation to our today's historical moment.

To Father Guanella, that event was the beginning of the public recognition of the Congregation not only in front of God, but, finally, in front of the Church. That event, as a matter of fact, was the result of an advice from Fr. Claudio Benedetti, a Consultor of the Holy See. He told the Founder that the profession would be the first juridical identification of the Congregation whose Constitutions were not yet approved by the Church.

Four days after the profession in Como, on March 28, Father Guanella repeated the religious profession with the confreres stationed in Milan and right away called the first general chapter of the Servants of Charity.

The minutes say that, "14 confreres of perpetual vows were present plus Fr. Giovanni Calvi who professed for three years and had only active voice." Father Guanella was proclaimed Superior General and the first General Council was elected. The minutes go on saying that, "the Chapter lasted only a few hours in the morning and on the afternoon the General Council held its first meeting. Its members were the Founder, Fr. Silvio Vannoni, Fr. Vittorio Pontoglio, Fr. Martino Cugnasca and Fr. Salvatore Alippi."

The first task of the first general council was to consolidate the plan the Founder had begun, a plan that has found a lot of obstacles in its development.

We can thus understand the inspired words written by Fr. Mazzucchi when recording the event happening at the Sacred Heart Shrine in Como on March 24 evening: "At that late hour, Father Guanella by humble, good and simple words expressed the feelings of his great heart... When he thanked us for having given us the opportunity to welcome his invitation to follow him... and thus being able to close his tired days in poverty and in the holy atmosphere of religious life, our hearts could stand no more, and we shed tears of love, of holy jubilation, of repentance, of gratitude which made a mark on our souls, never to be eradicated."



In remembering this event of our history, it is not too much to ask each one of us to take again the responsibility in continuing that charis-

matic beginning so that we may reinforce the same bond of charity and fraternal communion which, in the mind of Father Guanella, is the true strength of the Congregation.

As Fr. Mazzucchi recorded, Father Guanella gave his sincere thanks to his first confreres. We can do the same by showing a better commitment in seeing each confrere as riches and gift to the Community. All confreres have to be devoted to show the Congregation open to everyone and not distant from the project of their life, when the project is following the mind and heart of the Founder.

The same experience of being a little flock at the time of the Founder is the same today at our time. We have many weaknesses to overcome, but the experience of the Founder should help to trust more and more in God's Providence so that we should not be discouraged by the present trials. We should also be aware that we, "earthen vessels" as we are, have welcomed in our life the great value of our charism. It is the charism that is able to expand not only geographically but also to increase the sharing of it among the people of God and among the people of good will who have the opportunity to come closer to Father Guarella and his poor.

We don't have the fortune to have among us, physically, the Founder who, by his strong personality, was able to pass on to his first religious his fervent spirit of charity and his ardent love toward Jesus Christ, the Church, and the poor.

However, we can remember our history: first the history of the Founder, and second, the history of the confreres who came before us. We should be able to listen to those signs compelling us to propose again and again the gift God gave to us, to the Church and to the world with the same enthusiasm of the first confreres.

Fr. Mazzucchi makes clear that at that evening, surrounded by the shadows of the Shrine, they felt very strongly the presence of the Holy Spirit breathing on the small group of confreres gathered together around the Founder. They were aware to experience the unforgettable moment of a new Pentecost.

We are invited to celebrate with gratitude the history that preceded us, but above all to answer with courage and trust in Divine Providence what the Holy Spirit asks from us in this historical moment for our Congregation.



As it happened to our first confreres, we should ensure that our Founder may repeat to us also his grateful thanks, if we seriously want to follow him. At the same time, we must thank him too, because he helped us to fall in love with his charism and holiness. He is the one also who involved us and helped us to carry out God's project in us and for the world.

The celebration of the General Chapter is getting closer and closer. We have to increase our prayer and our openness to be attentive to the Lord's Spirit and, also, to the contributions of the confreres given on the topics to be discussed at the Chapter.

Regarding this, during this year of preparation, the confreres sent many contributions that can be found in our official website in the page dedicated to the XX GC. I would like to thank those confreres who have contributed their reflections. Not everyone contributed with the same generosity...

I would like to thank in particular the Delegates to the Chapter who, asked to choose one of the Chapter Committees beforehand, are offering now their contributions to some topics of the Chapter.

I take advantage of this Newsletter to offer a synthesis of answers on the Pro-

phesy, a theme of the Chapter. My desire is that our discernment at the Chapter might answer effectively to our being "Prophecy" in the Church and in the world with our holy life and mission of charity. Being close to Easter, I take the opportunity to give you my Happy Easter!

Rome 24 March 2018,

P. Alfonso Crippa, SdC Superior General

‘THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CONFRES ON PROPHECY’

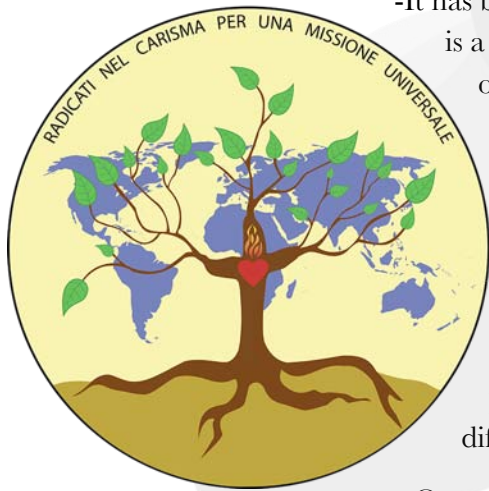
I offer only a very concise samples of answers that the confreres have given to a questionnaire about how we should be prophetic today.

Are loose sentences, suggestive however of an aspiration to an inner change, but also visible, about our lives.

- Be prophets of whom? Certainly not of myself but of Christ. The choice of consecrated life is just that! Becoming prophecy of the future good things.
- Prophecy means reading the present time in order to understand the future and take us into it: are we capable of it? We should probably be more mature in this respect...
- Jesus puts the preferential option for the poor as foundation of prophecy. We Guanellians will be prophets when we make the poor protagonist in welcoming the Gospel.
- Prophecy means putting more Gospel in our lives, especially by a life of sobriety and poverty, by being more human, more fraternal, and closer to the people.
- Prophecy is inviting us to establish our identity not from the roles and tasks we perform, but from the source from which we draw our apostolic and charitable commitment.
- Not everyone can be a prophet in the same way. It is necessary to support some concrete experiences encouraging everyone to walk on the same path.
- There are some who point out that we lost the joy of consecration, that we should get it back through a more essential personal and community life by encouraging fraternal and friendly human relations.
- In today's society we can run the risk that our charism may be smothered by dominant individualistic culture or even by bureaucracy. So it is critically important not to pull us out from the reality surrounding us, but to define well the purposes of our projects.
- Our works are also likely to be seen as mere social works, depending on the State, which should be managed according to a corporate business and this may tarnish the values of being instead gift and gratuity.
- We cannot limit ourselves to live the charism according to the traditional works, usually well handled. In fact we wondered: "What kind of message are we religious sending through our houses, when the lay workers are almost the only presence?"
- It is necessary to be able to see and do something for those who ask for help because they do not have anyone (the corner of charity, for example where it is easier to include gratuity and the help of volunteers ...)
- One of the normal consequences in managing our Works is to make ends meet on our budgets with the danger of putting in the first place the economy as our only concern. And where do we put Providence?
- One of the current problems in our Congregation seems to better define the meaning and the value of the presence of religious in our facilities, taking into account the diversity of situations of our communities:



- From reflecting on the importance of a direct testimony of religious in our centers, some confreres conclude that it is time to call into question the necessity of keeping open some of our centers.



- It has been underlined that the PEG is for us not only an educational method, but it is a spirituality we have to assimilate inwardly, not to keep it hidden in the private of our ministry but to propose as a lifestyle. The Christian vision of man, the strong emphasis of education as "the art of love with the heart of the Lord," confidence in the educability of every person, even the most limited, make certainly a prophetic tool in today's culture.

- It seems clear today that the most important prophecy is our community life. In a world so divided, the example of brothers who love each other, though different from each other, means showing to the world that it is possible to live together, to love each other and to work together despite differences. If religious are doing it, then it is possible.

- Our vow of poverty, when lived fully and joyfully, is a prophetic expression inside a world where money is the master.

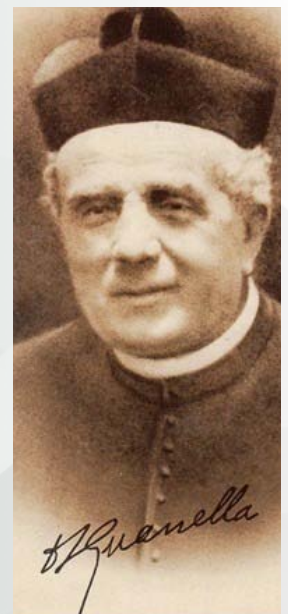
- We make the vow of poverty but, in truth, we have a hard time to live as the poor live, because we are sure to have everything. So people do not believe that we are poor, even though we take good care of the poor.

- Even today there are in our Guanellian world some communities where religious are financially well provided but also wasting, while there are some communities who perhaps lack the necessary. Let us start concrete initiatives for a greater sharing!

- We should verify with frankness our lifestyle with that of poor families around us and be able to renounce unnecessary expenses.

- We should proceed with courage and confidence in going toward geographical and existential peripheries where the cry of the poor is more tragic and strong.

**Lord Jesus, you have called us
to come after you as Servants of Charity,
send your Spirit to enlighten our minds,
and to set on fire our hearts in preparation for the Twentieth General Chapter,
(during the Twentieth General Chapter).
Renew us in living joyfully your Gospel,
and rekindle the charism you have given us
through our Founder, Saint Louis Guanella.
May this time of grace be for us an occasion of spiritual renewal.
Strengthen our bond of charity
that makes us open to appreciate the beauty of fraternal love,
and to understand and treasure the different cultures
into which our Congregation carries out its mission of charity.
Grant us the courage to be in our world
prophets of communion and servants of the poor
that your mercy entrusts to our care.
We ask this through the intercession
of Mary, Mother of Divine Providence,
and of our Holy Founder. Amen.**



‘ Dal Consiglio Generale ’

1. L'attenzione del Consiglio generale in questi mesi è particolarmente diretta alla preparazione del Capitolo generale, ormai alle porte. Questi i passi compiuti:

a. Innanzitutto mettendo a fuoco i contenuti che dovrà avere la Relazione del Superiore generale, su cui poi il Capitolo dovrà riflettere e lavorare.

La Relazione è stata già abbozzata e inviata per parti ai Delegati al Capitolo, a cui si è chiesto di pre-iscriversi a una della 4 Commissioni, perché incomincino a riflettere su qualche tema specifico.

Le Commissioni sono:

I Commissione: Carisma – Spiritualità – Vita fraterna e Consacrazione

II Commissione: Pastorale Giovanile/Vocazionale – Formazione – Famiglia guarelliana

III Commissione: Missione – Interculturalità – (Profezia)

IV Commissione: Governo – Amministrazione – Gestione delle Opere – Organizzazione di Congregazione.

Un buon numero di delegati si è già iscritto ad ciascuna di esse.

b. Si sono fatti gli inviti a chi ci accompagnerà durante il Capitolo:

◦ Il vescovo di Como, Mons. Oscar Cantoni, presiederà la concelebrazione eucaristica di apertura del Capitolo nel Santuario del S. Cuore a Como

◦ Mons. Martinelli, Vicario episcopale per la Vita Religiosa nella Diocesi di Milano sarà con noi nella prima mattinata del Capitolo per l'iniziale momento di spiritualità.

◦ Mons Mario Delpini, Arcivescovo di Milano celebrerà con noi la sera del giorno 24 aprile, vigilia della giornata dedicata alla elezione del Superiore generale.

◦ Don Mario Aldegani, Superiore generale dei Giuseppini di S. Murialdo ci presenterà le esperienze della sua Congregazione sui temi del nostro Capitolo.

◦ Si saranno inoltre i saluti della Madre generale e di altri componenti della Famiglia guarelliana, per portare i risultati del Mini-Capitolo che abbiamo tenuto in preparazione al nostro Capitolo generale.

c. Il Segretario sta organizzando tutto quanto corrisponde alle pratiche necessarie per l'arrivo dei confratelli dalle varie Nazioni per il capitolo, oltre a tutto quello che sarà necessario per lo svolgimento corretto del Capitolo.

2. L'altra questione che ci ha tenuto occupati è stata quella su come gestire le conseguenze subite a causa del contenzioso con la 'Nova Domus'. In particolare sull'impegno a estinguere il debito contratto con la Banca per poter far fronte al pignoramento e come gestire il mutuo che si è dovuto accendere in ottemperanza alla sentenza del giudice. L'impegnativo compito è stato affidato congiuntamente alla due Province italiane, che tra l'altro stanno cercando di trovare la forma di rendere indipendente la gestione delle strutture di tipo commerciale per non incorrere nei rischi che abbiamo già dovuto subire.

3. Intanto il Consiglio generale ha continuato a portare avanti la sua attività ordinaria e particolarmente:

- l'attenzione alle singole province attraverso la lettura dei Verbali dei Consigli provinciali, rispondendo alle varie esigenze che ci venivano poste e interessandoci verso la situazione di vari confratelli malati che ci vengono notificati;

- a riguardo dei progetti e realtà dipendenti dalla Curia si è continuato nell'opera di consolidamento delle nostre nuove presenze; Comunità delle Isole Solomon e Comunità di Mbeya (Tanzania) con l'impegno a trovare un confratello che completi queste due Comunità e a sviluppare le attuali strutture con semplici opere per il nostro apostolato;

- a causa della morte improvvisa del nostro collaboratore e presidente della Prokura missionaria in Germania, don Luigi ha rappresentato al Congregazione alle esequie del carissimo Gero Lombardo e ha aiutato i due nostri confratelli della missione cattolica di Pforzheim a farsi carico della organizzazione della Procura missionaria
- si è continuato il dialogo con le nostre Suore per le mutue collaborazioni che si stanno portando avanti; in Romania, Congo e a riguardo dei Luoghi guanelliani
- Si sta cercando di dare una particolare attenzione all'anno di preparazione alla professione perpetua, per la quale quest'anno sono candidati una ventina di confratelli.
- Tra le nuove autorizzazioni date dal Consiglio generale dobbiamo ricordare quella di una nostra nuova presenza nelle Filippine, a Pangasinam (a circa 3000 km da Manila), dove una Associazione locale ci ha chiesto di prendere in gestione un piccolo Centro per anziani. Il Vescovo della zona, a conoscenza di questa proposta ci ha subito offerto un terreno per poter stabilirvi la Casa di formazione per i postulanti e dove risiederà la Comunità religiosa.

XX CAPITOLO GENERALE

“Carisma Interculturalità e Profezia”

Da 8 al 28 Aprile si svolgerà il XX CAPITOLO GENERALE dei Servi della Carità a Barza D'Ispra. Per seguire quotidianamente lo svolgimento del Capitolo in quei giorni vi invitiamo a collegarvi alla pagina: <http://www.operadonguanella.it/xx-capitolo-generale-sdc>



Barza D'Ispra 8-28 Aprile 2018



*A tutti voi confratelli, alle nostre care consorelle,
ai Cooperatori e al MLG,
ai residenti delle nostre Case
e a tutti
i poveri del mondo
l'augurio sereno e ricco di speranza
che nasce dalla Pasqua del Signore,
da tutto il Consiglio Generale*

News di Congregazione



Nella Casa del Padre



Confratelli defunti

✓ Il 22 gennaio, residente nella Comunità di San Giuseppe al Trionfale, è tornato alla Casa del Padre, Don Sergio Cascioli, di anni 89.

✓ Il 16 marzo, residente nella Comunità di Brasília, è tornato alla Casa del Padre, Pe. Armando Bredice, di anni 100.



Familiari dei Confratelli defunti

✓ Il 16 gennaio, è deceduta a Naro (AG) la Sig.ra Giuseppina Casula, nonna del nostro confratello Don Enzo Bugea.

✓ Il 21 gennaio, è deceduta la Sig.ra Luciana Zaccherini, mamma del nostro Don Davide Patuelli.

✓ Il 22 gennaio, a Naro, è deceduta la Sig.ra Anna, moglie del papà di Don Calogero Proietto.



Amici defunti

✓ Il 12 gennaio, a Neuhausen in Germania è morto il Sig. Gero Lombardo, Procuratore ufficiale della Procura per le Missioni della Congregazione in Germania.



Appuntamenti e viaggi del Consiglio generale

Prossimo raduno di Consiglio: 22-24 Marzo.