

A STORY OF CHARITY...



This story, however, must not justify our indifference, but on the contrary it should increase our shame for the very fact that there is so much poverty! The Guacito family is one of those families that with dignity and faith have known how to "rise" to a new life thanks, also, to the solidarity of the Guanellian Community of Manila. Seven the members of the family: father, mother, three brothers and two sisters, one of whom is deaf-mute. This last one was, indeed, the intermediary between the family and the Work of Fa-

ther Guanella, when she learned that there was a special school with a section for deaf-mutes in our Center. Thus, it happened that the parents decided to enroll the girl in the school and the course. Considering the case and the family situation, the parents assumed the cost for the teaching material and the transportation. The relationship with the family grew, the frequent visits with the "squatters" let us understand more the living conditions of the family. A house built with poor materials, plastic and wood, located on the border of the street, with no hygienic services. Every day it was necessary for them to secure the supply of water with containers and bottles. The occasional work of the father and of the mother were able to guarantee the payments for the school for each of the children and the necessary daily sustenance. Thus, the decision matured in us of suggesting to the members of the family to abandon the streets. We offered them the opportunity to become part of the group of families residing in our "Housing Project" and in the first months of 2017, the family was accepted. Now the father continues his usual work as a painter, the mother works as a housekeeper in our center for disabled, and in order to round up the income of the family the mother washes and irons the clothes of wealthy families. The three older children are enrolled in the upper schools, the little boy is in the elementary school and the deaf-mute girl attends our special program. Besides, the boys are involved with our Pastoral activities, the youth club, the youth group, and the lectors in the liturgies. The parents actively attend the scheduled times of religious education reserved for the families in the "Housing Project". The solid foundations of faith rooted in the Quacito family have produced (and still do) the courage to keep going with hope, trusting in God who is good and provident. An invitation for myself and for all of you, readers, comes from the words of Pope Francis: *"Let us make whatever we can to help the families to keep going in the trials of poverty and misery that hit the affections, the family ties... The Bible says: 'My son, rob not the poor man of his livelihood, force not the eyes of the needy to turn away. A hungry man grieve not, a needy man anger not. Do not exasperate the downtrodden, delay not to give to the needy. A beggar in distress do not reject, avert not your face from the poor. From the needy turn not your eyes, give no man reason to curse you" (Sir 4,1-5a).*

Happy Easter in Christ who gives us the true life, the new life!

Brother Mauro Cecchinato SdC

On February 20th in Rome the formation of seven youths has begun. They will depart in the coming month of March for Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo. After Micol and Esther, who will spend three months in Tanzania, Camilla - Lucia - Michela - Sara - Paola - Adam and Damiano will stay in the African continent for their Universal Civil Service. The news that cheers us up and makes us feel more being a family is the fact that one of these will spend her service with the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence in a home for former street girls. This is the first time that the Civil Service will be shared by the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. A new journey has begun.



PRESENZA MISSIONARIA GUANELLIANA

My Dearest Ones!

It is Easter! The Lord is risen and is alive in our midst! It is so good for me, but I also think of all of you, brothers and sisters of the Guanellian family on a mission in the world. It is good to read and enjoy again the words that Pope Francis writes almost at the end of *Evangelium Gaudium* and keeps recalling in his ministry as a Shepherd and as a Pilgrim of the Gospel: *"His Resurrection is not something of the past; it holds a power of life that has penetrated the world. Where it looks like that everything is dead, everywhere the buds of resurrection keep appearing again. It is a power without equals... Every day in the world the beauty that gives life again, transformed through the dramas of history, comes back"*(EG, 276). Just like on the dawn of that day in Jerusalem, after the pitch dark and the tragedy of Good Friday. The pope continues: *"This is the power of the Resurrection and every evangelizer is an instrument of this dynamism. Jesus did not rise in vain!"*(EG 276-278). To continue being buds of resurrection, visible signs of redeemed and transformed life, seeds of a possible real fraternity that combines with diversities, places where the most fragile and vulnerable life is welcomed and surrounded by motherly and fatherly hearts: is not this the meaning of the wish and mutual encouragement that we want to exchange with one another and spread around us during this season which the liturgy compares with spring? Perhaps we are not a flame, though small and fragile, by vocation. However, are we not lighted by the Spirit to radiate in the Church and in our location the light of the Resurrected and the warmth of his charity that gives life, and to rekindle hope? As a Missionary Guanellian Presence we want to think on this Easter 2020 in a special way of all those new buds of resurrection and charism which are the most recent communities and courageous initiatives of charity brought about by Divine Providence in the various continents. They are the expression of a livelier communion among the consecrated and lay members of our family. Let us continue praying and urging solidarity in order to provide a roof for the homeless of Iasi. In the mean-time let us not get tired of opening wide hearts and hands toward the poor of all the peripheries, both geographically and existentially. In them, we know it well, the face of the Crucified Risen Jesus shines more lovingly!

Father Luigi De Giambattista SdC - Coordinator MGP

Happy Easter of Resurrection...





WIDEN UP THE TENT OF CHARITY!

The invitation of our holy Founder Father Louis *"We can never stop as long as there are poor to be assisted!"* encourages and urges us to never stop. In the footsteps of Jesus who preferred the poor and was always in their midst, we too, daughters of God, following the example of our Founder Father Louis Guanella, cannot stay away or not approach those whom the world removes: we get involved in helping them in their needs. In a town in Romania, Scheia, this invitation of our founder *"not to stop until there are poor to be assisted"* is carried out in action: this is what our Sisters are doing with eighty children and with their families in difficulty. The needy is not only the one who needs clothes or food, but also those who need a caress, a kind word, a smile, a hug etc. The Guanellian Sisters by their presence and their help they seek to be mothers, sisters and a staff for those in need. The Social Center run by the Sisters, with their loving and delicate presence, aims at offering assistance and support to the children coming from families in difficulty. Decreasing the percentage of those who leave early schooling coming from families disadvantaged, and with learning disabilities, we help them with after school assistance, and make available for them a good social, human and religious formation. Also, the Sisters are involved in the parish activities of Catechism, home assistance, and families and youth encounters. They, also, lead a large group of Guanellian Cooperators. According to the spirit of our Congregation, which draws from the inspiration and pedagogy of the Founder, St. Louis Guanella, we aim at creating a family environment where the children feel loved, cared for, appreciated, supported and encouraged.

Sister Melania FSMP



FROM MEXICO...

The Religious Guanellian Community, the Group of Guanellian Cooperators, the Guanellian Youth Group "OLMO" and numerous volunteers from the Parish for a while have been thinking of ways to help those who actually have been abandoned by everyone and now are living on the streets. Thanks to the consulting office of the University UAM of Mexico City and to a group of good-will people with specific abilities, assisted by volunteers from various groups of the parish, we have decided to make a move in organizing what we now want to call the "Sacred Little House". This structure, very simple, intends to be a place where no one feels being a stranger and foreigner; a place for encountering, for life in common, and closeness. A place where life experiences are shared, especially the experiences and realities of those people who have to live through difficult, at times tragic, situations, moments and experiences. The Chief Manager of this project is the Guanellian Religious Community that bought a 430-squarefoot land, with a run-down building in 2006. Finally, after fourteen years we have the strength to start this new work of Charity making use of what is already there. The house has three bed-rooms, one bathroom, a kitchen and a dining room. There is no other building on the property. Actually, nothing is available in the three rooms, in the dining room and in the bathroom: the walls only. As you can see in the pictures, the situation is one of total abandonment and decay. All this, however, did not stop us. The determination of establishing a house for the first aid of street dwellers from within the territory of our Parish remains in our hearts. Here and in the surrounding areas it is not a rare case to encounter individuals who wander on the streets looking for a spot where they may rest and eat. What we want to offer is a temporary shelter to give food, assistance and support to people in difficulty. We rely on the supportive help of the so many faithful members of our large Parish, who are already showing their sensitivity in helping people in difficulty. We cannot find the right words to describe the actual conditions of the existing building and of its spaces: a total abandonment! The pictures speak by themselves! We have to check out the security of the roof and of the walls. We have to fix the doorway, to reset the bathroom and the kitchen. All the utility installations need to be replaced in full (water, gas, electricity), and all the doors, the windows and the fixtures as well. All the walls need to be scraped, smoothed up and painted. In conclusion, there is much work to be done and the financial resources to be found, yet with the help of everyone and yours we will make it!



Father Cosimo Pedagna SdC - Mexico City