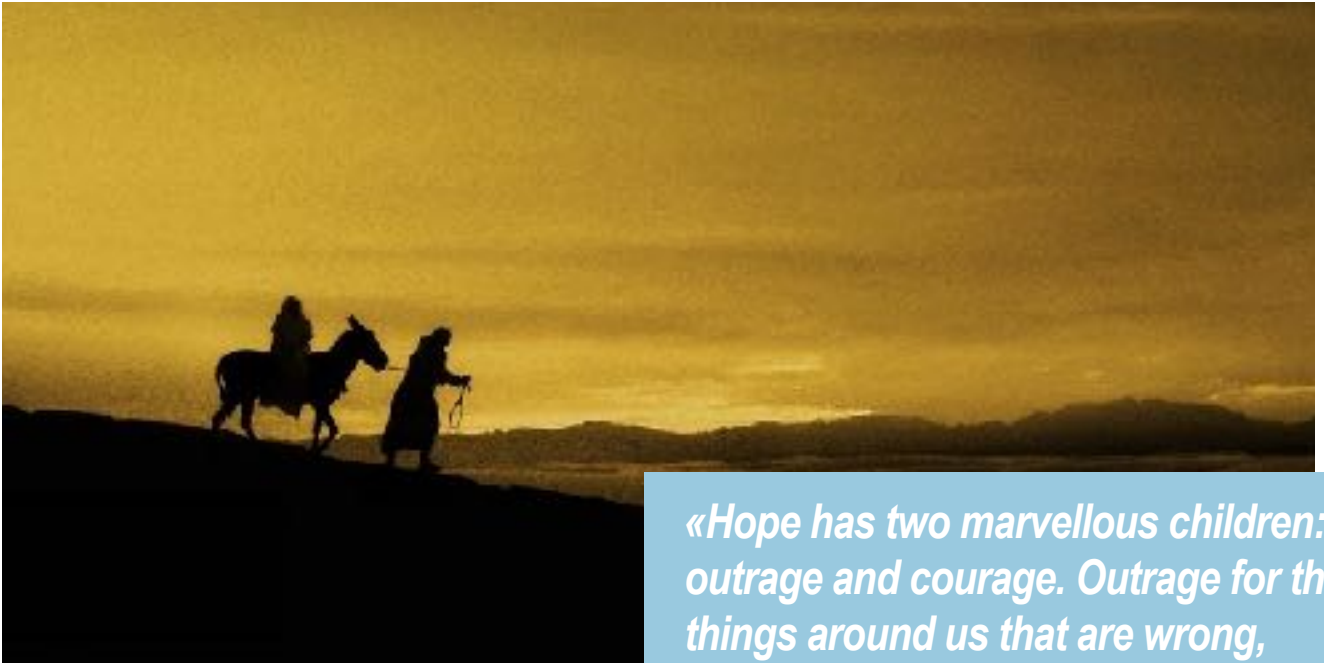




Guanella News



- > Letter from Father General

- > Message of the Holy Father Francis to the General Chapter

- > Final Document of the 21st General Chapter

- > Programme of the General Council for the year 2024-2025

- > Functions of animation and areas of responsibility of the General Council members

- > **Notizie di Congregazione**
Eventi di consacrazione
Defunti: Famiglia Guanelliana, Parenti, Confratelli



«Hope has two marvellous children: outrage and courage. Outrage for the things around us that are wrong, courage to change them»

Dear confreres!

Best Advent wishes, inspired by the hope that Pope Francis presented to us as an act of faith in God to be celebrated every day of our life in the coming Holy Year, to be inaugurated at Christmas. UA hope that always attains what has planned, a hope that is never defeated, but always holds suggestions and opportunities to strive anew, a hope that never disappoints, being our ally and our fellow traveller. Maybe, this is the hope we also need as a Congregation! It is my wish for all, also on behalf of the General Council, as the Christmas gift of God our Father.

On the theme of hope I found a meaningful expression for our life: *“Hope has two marvellous children: outrage and courage. Outrage for the things around us that are wrong, courage to change them”*.

Letter from Father General

The experience of the 21st GC urged us strongly to hold our life in our hands, in this Holy Year that is given to us, with these two attitudes: a) *outrage* for what is wrong in us, in our communities, in our Congregation. We should feel the shame of the mediocrity within and around us. This is the first step, recommended also by the Fathers of the Church among the criteria to grow as Christians: reading ourselves, our life, with sincerity, justice, and mercy. b) *courage* to reset everything. It is not a waste of time, it is the time of salvation, of Kairos, of holiness, of happiness. It is a positive action leading to the “better”, the “more” God is expecting of us and we can give Him as an act of faith.

Have a good Advent, dear confreres, with these two words as

points of reference: *outrage and courage*, the children of hope! I am sure that Christmas, toward which we are journeying, will be better because of this adjustment of our path we will do with our lives. Best wishes to all, to the communities, the beneficiaries, and your collaborators.

May the Founder's words be a

good wish for us: “On the eve of the upcoming Holy Christmas, Father Louis Guanella shares his satisfaction with the Servants of Charity for that fervent zeal which he seems to find in them, for the greater glory of the Lord, for their sanctification, and for a better strengthening of the Institute. His spirit rejoices also in expressing his joyful hope for an ever more prosperous future. I am consoled for the charity reigning among you and I wish you are more and more united in the charity of Jesus Christ, avoiding all those defects and dangers which are opposed to tis practice” (*Circular letter, Christmas 1908*).

Roma, 21 novembre 2024

Presentazione di Maria al Tempio

Padre Umberto

« I am consoled for the charity reigning among you and I wish you are more and more united in the charity of Jesus Christ, avoiding all those defects and dangers which are opposed to tis practice...»





To Reverend
Father Umberto Brugnoli
Superior General
Congregation of the Servants of Charity – Opera Don Guanella

I address a cordial greeting to all of you, who are celebrating the 21st General Chapter, wishing that this important event may revive in everyone resolutions of faithful commitment for Christ and joyful apostolic effort. During the Chapter works, you will be pondering and praying on an inspiring theme that you have stated as: “Faithful and creative in the charism; co-responsible in mission. With Christ we face the challenges of our time”. In fact, this is a very timely opportunity to rediscover how the charism entrusted by the Lord to your Founder is rich and still relevant today.

I encourage you to dialogue with inner freedom and fraternal spirit, to accomplish a work of discernment, finalized to grasp the will of God and the impulses of the Holy Spirit in today’s social and ecclesial context. This effort will produce a new dynamism to become witnesses of God’s consolation and tenderness for those marginalized and for the persons with great difficulties.

May the evangelic commandment of love, that guided the action of St. Louis Guanella, lead you to make choices of service and promotion of the poorest and be present at the frontiers of charity, always trusting in Divine Providence. Not few are the injustices, the hardships and the suffering met by the weakest part of our populations. Facing all this, you are called to follow the example of Christ, the good Samaritan, who stoops on the physical and spiritual sores of mankind.

Wishing that the General Chapter’s indication may foster in your Congregation a renewed vitality in spiritual commitment, fraternity, and mission, I invoke the heavenly protection of our Lady and of St. Louis Guanella and, while I ask you to please pray for me, I bless you wholeheartedly.

Fraternally,

Francesco

Motions and Proposals

21st General Chapter of the Servants of Charity
Barza D'Ispra, October 6-24, 2024



CONSECRATED LIFE

1. THE SIGN OF SONSHIP

Having attentively listened to the reports on the situation of our Congregation, both globally and in the various Provinces, Vice-Province, and Delegations, the Chapter members are firmly aware that it is urgent for us to retrace the footsteps of don Guanella, with a life immersed in an intense experience of God as a father. This is the experience that shapes our lives, as persons consecrated for the Kingdom at the service of the poor.

We are grateful for so much light and for the many positive signs coming from our communities spread throughout the world, nevertheless we feel we must speed up on our journey to the goals shown by the values of our rule of life, and we see the need to practice a careful “revision of life” as persons and communities.

Aware that we are sons, loved by the Father

Proposal 1 – Aware that we are sons

As we need to keep a vivid consciousness of our being sons, loved by the Father, we find in our Constitutions a detailed and practical trace to give, day by day, new energy and growth to this awareness. (art. 29-37). Therefore, the 21st General Chapter encourages every community and each confrere to faithfully follow the trail marked by our rule.

Proposal 2 – Action and contemplation

We encourage all communities to live the active dimension united with the contemplation. Our Houses should be not only witnesses of charity, but also “schools

of prayer”. In a special way, our Parishes should offer the Church the gift of the choral prayer (Morning and Evening hours, etc.) to promote a unity of life between the ministry of charity and the union with God.

Proposal 3 – Revision of life

The Chapter Assembly, as a response to the urgent need for a “spiritual re-awakening”, strongly recommends each community to practice regularly a thorough revision of life. To foster its effectiveness in view of an authentic conversion, we suggest that the communities should find the help of external resource persons.

Experiences of contemplative life with Guanellian features

Proposal 4 – Expressions of contemplative life

For some decades, some confreres have shown an inclination – in line with the Founder’s sensitivity – and the desire to give some prominence to expressions of contemplative life. The 21st General Chapter wants to express support for some confreres or communities to make such experience, in dialogue with their major superiors. These experiences should be linked to a community and to the mission.

Sincere practice of the Evangelical Counsels

Proposal 5 – The giving of self to God and the gift of our life to our brethren

In order to live the evangelical counsels in an authentic way, we think it is essential to undertake the demands of our religious vows as a way to give ourselves to God and as the gift of our life to the brethren. Articles 38 – 60 of our Constitutions give us suggestions and encouragement to live day after day following Christ, Shepherd and Samaritan, as faithful disciples, loving brothers, and good servants, who abandon everything because of love, desiring to live and die only for His charity.

1. THE SIGN OF FRATERNITY AND VOCATIONAL ATTRACTION

Called to be leaven of evangelical life, to be “like the magnet, that attracts” people’s hearts, we need to give substantial meaning to our fraternal relations and mutual affection. We think that today this is the keynote and the clear mark to make the sign of our fraternity practically visible and attractive for vocations.

Our lives acquire sense and meaning when they express our desire and effort to live with serene acceptance of what is different, with an amiable approach, choosing the ways of the heart, welcoming people joyfully, caring for hospitality, being inclined to mercy, actively charitable, unsparing in labour, co-responsible in a synodal way. The Chapter Assembly believes that even only one of the above elements can effectively help to awaken new fruits of vocations and stimulate reflection, especially among the youth.

Experiences of fraternal communion and vocational growth

Proposal 6 – “Face to face”

To give substantial meaning to our fraternal life, today especially endangered by individualism and isolation because of an over-use of the social media, the Chapter members encourage all to seize all opportunities for personal encounter, so that “face to face” – as the Founder wished – we can come together as brothers, exchanging ideas with simplicity and love, sharing places and times of relaxations, entertainment, sharing of faith, common planning and service.

Proposal 7 – Guided by Jesus to grow in vocations

In the sign of fraternity, the Chapter Assembly encourages all communities to be guided, in their practical way of interaction, by “gestures and words of Jesus”. He is our elder Brother who gives us light also for our vocational growth, to educate one another to selfless love, care for the weak, self-giving service.

Proposal 8 – Potentials and dangers of the social media

The Chapter Assembly is aware of the potentials of the social media and also of the risk related to their use. To reduce the negative effects on fraternal life, and foster active involvement in activities, we encourage local communities to study and enact effective strategies to curtail their impact on the components of our consecration.

Proposal 9 – Regular meetings

The 21st General Chapter urges the Superiors of Provinces, Vice-province and Delegations to accompany the local Superiors, so that they will regularly fulfil the norms of our Rule about House Council and Community meeting (R 356.357.361). With due respect to specific roles, these moments are an opportunity of fraternity, of active participation to the life of the House, of involvement of the laity and of synodal co-responsibility. The minutes should always be written and sent in copy to the competent superiors in due time.

Vocational Fecundity

Proposal 10 – “Proposing Communities”

The Chapter Assembly suggests that Superiors of Provinces, Vice-province, and Delegations choose and support among the Houses some “Proposing Communities”. These are communities opened to welcome, give lodge, and accompany youngsters opened to a vocational discernment and to the values of our apostolate. They should be accepted also for short periods while they continue their normal duties of studies or work.

Proposal 11 – Special vocation proposals

Grateful to God for the gift of the witness of the Servant of God brother Giovanni Vaccari, we are encouraged, as confreres and communities, to propose the beautiful vocation of “Guanellian lay brother”. We also think that our times call us to consider and propose other ways of Guanellian consecration or Guanellian Christian life (e.g. Associated and Guanellian Cooperators).

MISSION AND FORMATION

1. OUR SERVICE IN MISSION

We are inserted in today's context of the universal Church and of the Congregation, and that is why we are more and more aware that our response to the charity of Christ the Good Shepherd, that gathers us and sends us, requires our strong determination to grasp the signs of our times and undertake the initiatives that the Spirit of Christ requires us to accomplish. Quite often, in fact, the real life around us gives us signals that some of our patterns of consecrated life and of activities are no more functional and effective as they were in the past. Nevertheless, we are convinced that such a situation of "epochal turning point" becomes for everyone the opportunity to "reveal new things", bearing hope and urging to a "creative fidelity".

On one side, we may feel we are "the last examples" of a type of mission, but on the other side we are "the first examples", ready for the creative action of the Holy Spirit. This is the action that urges us to renew our way of being present in mission and, more specifically, in the management of the services and in relaunching ever more humanising procedures of education, pastoral ministry, care, rehabilitation.

In this context of "giving birth of new humanity" is situated the apostolic and prophetic action of the Community as the animating core. Here also is developed a specific attention to vocation and integral promotion of the person, so that – as stated by don Guanella – "along life's journey, no one may find any type of evil, and all may reach the happy goal"

Community as animating core

Proposal 12 – Community with the style of the good Samaritan

With the guide of the local Superior each Community – as the animating core of the House – should be committed to evangelise, promote, encourage, include, witness, care, administer and manage in the style of the good Samaritan.

After the example of our founder St. Louis Guanella;

- a) the religious have fatherly and brotherly attitudes among themselves, traits of friendship and co-responsibility in mission with the lay persons;
- b) the community strives to harmonise action and contemplation, and assures regular common moments of prayer for the religious, lay persons and the beneficiaries of our service;
- c) all foster the flourishing of Christian life, some evangelising drives, a professionally and technically updated mission
- d) all are active part and participate in a community/family, where planning, mutual evangelisation, education and healing are done together.

Witness and prophecy

Proposal 13 – Consistency, credibility, and exemplarity

Oftentimes, Consecrated life was the first to grasp the historical changes, seizing the calls from the Spirit for witness and prophecy. On this line, continuing what Guanellians have

been doing in the past, the Chapter Assembly invites the Superior of each Province, Vice-province, and Delegation

- a) to periodically evaluate how their Communities and Works are consistent and credible, keeping alive the awareness that we should revitalise our service of charity in the world and the Church today;
- b) to offer the means to direct our presence in the Works in the line of charismatic witness and prophetic meaning, realistically and with determination.

Proposal 14 – Request to the Cooperators World Council

The 21st General Chapter is attentive to those who do not meet all the conditions to be part of the Cooperators as stated in their Statutes, as well as those belonging to other Christian Churches or other religions. Therefore, we suggest that the General government should study forms allowing their participation. We also urge to present such proposal to the Cooperators World Council.

Management and pastoral models in a vocational perspective

Motion 1 – Appreciation of the vocation of the laity

We appreciate in a special way the value of co-responsibility with the laity, and so we want to enhance “management models with lay direction”. Therefore, the 21st General Chapter asks the local communities to continue appreciating the Guanellian lay vocation and the governing organs to make the experiment – when possible – of entrusting the management of activities to lay persons duly prepared to take this responsibility. Their formation to Guanellian charism and pedagogy should be provided, together with the professional ability. Nevertheless, our presence as religious by the side of the beneficiaries of our apostolic action shall not be forsaken: we should be present and involved in the service and attentive to their personal journey in faith.

Proposal 15 – Accompany the lay persons with key roles and the confreres

In the places where lay persons are already involved in co-responsibility, the Chapter Assembly invites the governing organs to offer adequate flanking to those who undertake key roles in the activities, and to prepare confreres to take on the duty of animation, so that in the House all are provided for their growth in vocation.

Proposal 16 – Aware and part of the transformations going on

The Chapter confreres suggest that the Superior General and his Council, through yearly initiatives

- a) promote further in-depth reflection on our charismatic identity;
- b) encourage to read pastoral texts about today’s society and culture;
- c) propose vocational and interpretative keys about our new management models;
- d) offer means to help our being aware and part of the on-going transformation;
- e) encourage our collaboration with the local Churches in line with our specific charism;
- f) support the appreciation of vocations within the Guanellian Family.

Motion 2 – Document on functions and tasks of those involved in the activities

Each Province, in agreement with the General Council, should prepare a Document stating clearly the functions and tasks of those involved in the management of our charitable activities (superior, director of activities whether religious or lay person, treasurer, administrator and coordinator of general services ...)

2. CULTURE OF VOCATIONS AND FORMATION

In several parts of the Congregation, we notice a sort of “vocational crisis”, so that apparently young men don’t find in us people who can accompany and follow them adequately. The Chapter Assembly wishes that Guanellians, in their communities and works, may elicit in young persons the desire for God, by praying for vocations and by meeting them where they live (schools, charitable and pastoral centres, social network, public squares etc.). The Chapter believes we have to work so that young persons will not be lacking paths of faith, service, and vocational growth. At the same time, special care has to be given to the initial formation of our candidates and the permanent formation of professed confreres.

Facing the widespread indifference about religion nowadays, we think that we should support the faith of young persons and of those who work with us, accompanying them in their baptismal vocation, appreciating their ministry and, when possible, promoting vocation to lay cooperation and Guanellian consecrated life.

The special attention to the charismatic formation of both religious and lay persons relies on a proportioned affective/relational balance, a sufficient spiritual maturity, an adequate education to recognise, accept, and make use of one’s weaknesses, and on opportune procedures of synodality.

Vocations Animation

Proposal 17 – Vocations pastoral: commitment and initiatives

Reaffirming proposal No. 16 of the 20th GC, the Chapter Assembly urges every Province, Delegation or Nation to choose at least one confrere who

- a) takes care of vocations’ pastoral as his main task;
- b) promotes the vocations to the Servants of Charity brothers and priests, of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, of Guanellian Cooperators, Associated or other forms of consecration;
- c) organises initiatives of vocational drive and experiences of service and makes opportune use the social media.

Proposal 18 – Prayer groups for vocations

Local communities should start prayer groups for vocations in our charitable and pastoral centres. Where the traditional weekly Eucharistic adoration continues, it should have a strong vocational character.

*Charismatic formation***Proposal 19 – Charismatic formation for confreres and lay collaborators**

The 21st General Chapter suggests that major superiors should increase their attention to the charismatic formation of the confreres, both those in first formation and those in permanent formation, as well as to the formation of our lay collaborators (especially those with key roles).

In a special way we suggest to focus on:

- a) keeping the relationship with God as father and with others as brethren;
- b) the habit of seeing life as a vocation and a project;
- c) synergy in the common charitable and pastoral service in a family style;
- d) attention to the community dynamics in the House;
- e) education to mutually recognise, accept, and make use of our weaknesses and to evangelical compassion.

*First formation***Motion 3 – Formation and practical experience of service**

The Confreres of the 21st General Chapter ask the formators to give prominence, during the first formation, to the ways of experience rather than the ways of speculation. According to the particular situation, cultural context, and the possibility given by the service of our centres, candidates should have practical experiences of service and sharing with the poor.

Motion 4 – Attention to integral formation

The 21st General Chapter asks the formators to study ways and strategies more in line with the perspective of integral formation, harmonising the inner and spiritual growth of the candidate with the intellectual knowledge and the development of his competence.

Motion 5 – Common formation of religious and lay persons

The 21st General Chapter, aware of the importance of a common formation of the religious with lay persons, asks those in charge to give this opportunity during the initial stages of formation, especially during Practicum and Tutorage.

Proposal 20 – Preparation of formators

The 21st General Chapter urges major superiors to adequately prepare formators, both through qualifies studies (especially in psycho-pedagogy) and with initiatives to know the Ratio Formationis and understand the pedagogic dynamisms it describes. They should also encourage formators to use the support of experts in human sciences, and invite them to prepare special programs of spiritual guidance, of education to awareness and acceptance of one's weaknesses, of charitable and pastoral service.

Proposal 21 – Vigilance on the formation curriculum

The 21st General Chapter invites the General Council to be more vigilant on the implementation of the formation curriculum. The stages should be those stated in the

Ratio Formationis, keeping in sight both the unity of the process and the specificity of each stage.

To grant this, the General Council should

- a) demand written programs of formation and approve them;
- b) urge the Provincial Councils to ensure opportunities of permanent formation for those who are engaged in apostolate and also for those who are no more working because of age or sickness: those in active apostolate will grow in spiritual, doctrinal, technical knowledge; and all will remain deeply rooted in their vocational values.

Proposal 22 – Guidelines about studies outside one’s Circumscription (i.e. Province, Vice-province, or Delegation)

The confreres of the 21st General Chapter, considering the issues treated at the last General Consultation

- a) propose that the major superiors allow some candidates to do their theological studies outside their original Circumscription, accepting the possibility to be involved in the mission in the area where their preparation is accomplished;
- b) suggest that the General Council will see to it that in the Theological Seminary in Rome the studies of specialisation (licentiate) will be concluded before the priestly ordination.

Permanent formation

Proposal 23 – Opportunities of permanent formation

The 21st General Chapter, with due regard to the distinction between the Tutorage (concerning the first five years of ministry) and the permanent formation (concerning everyone and all ages) asks the General government to organise:

- a) moments of permanent formation to strengthen the charismatic aspect and the fraternal communion in the Congregation;
- b) initiatives of formation for the confreres in tutorage;
- c) itineraries of Guanellian spirituality in the Guanellian places for those who never visited them.

Motion 6 – Theological specialisation in Rome

For the theological specialisation in Rome for confreres who are already ordained priest, the General Chapter asks the General Council that these Confreres be inserted in communities where they can carry on their studies and also perform some service.

Synodality processes

Motion 7 – Synodality, expression of participation and listening

The Chapter Assembly, journeying with the synodal Church of our times, asks the local communities to remain faithful to the methods of extended involvement and co-responsible participation in the life of the Houses (House Councils, Community meetings, Team meetings, Pastoral Councils, Economic affairs Councils etc.) according to the norms of our Congregation, Province, Vice-Province, Delegation and to the Church procedures.

These forms of synodality should be practiced with mutual listening and appreciation of the contributions of all the participants, even the “smallest”.

Specific attention to Guanellian studies

Proposal 24 – Areas of study

The 21st General Chapter suggests that the General Government should

- a) consider the opportunity to enlarge the areas of interest of the Guanellian Studies Centre in Rome including themes of pedagogy, spirituality, education, pastoral, etc.;
- b) to see, by consequence, that the magazine “Pagine Guanelliane” (presently only historical) could contain multi-disciplinary contributions;
- c) to relaunch the “Guanellian School” coordinated by a specific interdisciplinary committee;
- d) to support – enlarging their areas of study – also the activities of the Study Centres in other areas of the Congregation.

ORGANS OF GOVERNANCE, GUIDELINES FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL

1. ORGANS OF GOVERNANCE

Pondering about the service of authority and the art of good governance, we focused on the unity of purpose and direction to which the various governing bodies are called – with due respect to the liveliness of the charism and the different cultures. In this regard, we highlight the opportunity to carry it out in a spirit of great familiarity, in a synodality key and in the logic of a broad co-responsibility, especially when facing decisions of organization and economy that have particular impact on the life of single Houses and the entire Congregation.

We are aware that the Congregation, spreading to new geographical areas, with a variety of services for the poor, with financial constraints, needs a strong unity of direction to keep the vitality and impulse of our consecrated life and to enhance creativity in assimilating the charism and implementing the mission.

Reviewing the Final Document of the 20th General Chapter about the reorganisation of the geographical and civil organisation of some Organs of governance, the Chapter Fathers encourage the General government: to have open dialogue with those involved; to foster the accomplishment of the canonical and civil procedures well begun; to support and promote the study of the needed “Bylaws” (such as Statutes, Internal regulations etc.) of each Circumscription.

When we look at the history of the Church and the present social change, we think that we can still see great potential in our proposal of Guanellian life, able to find new

ways of sharing and service and to suggest – within and outside our centres – methods of pastoral presence in line with our identity.

Urged by the words addressed by pope Francis to Christians on the 7th World Day of the Poor, we make our own his call to go and meet every poor and every type of poverty, shaking off indifference and banality, embracing with enthusiasm also new lively charitable services. We cannot resist the call of local Churches to be present among the new poor and to extend the tent of charity to new geographical areas. We believe that the response to such calls is for us and for all a practical sign of charismatic vitality and apostolic fecundity.

Unity of purpose

Proposal 25 – Major superiors’ encounters

The Chapter Assembly underlines the need for major superiors to collaborate in communion and, at the same time, to be close to the local communities. Therefore, we encourage the General Council to continue the practice of the yearly meeting with all the major superiors and the delegates. We also suggest that, at least once a year, the General government should meet each government of Province, Vice-province and Delegation.

Proposal 26 – Involvement of General Councillors

To help the acquaintance with the real situations, the unity of direction, and the sharing of orientations, the 21st General Chapter encourages the superiors of Province, Vice-province, and the Delegates to invite often the General Councillor link for their geographical area to their Council meetings.

Geographical and civil Organs

Motion 8 – Accomplish the recently started geographical organisation

The confreres of the 21st General Chapter give a positive evaluation of the reorganisation of the governing Organs started by the past General government. Keeping in mind the requirements of No. 309 of our Regulations, we now ask the General government to accomplish what has been started.

Attention for all types of poverty

Proposal 27 – Attention to various types of poverty: animation, service, vocation attractive

The Chapter confreres want to give attention to all sorts of poverty, giving prominence to types of presence and action that can produce new dynamism in the communities and attract vocations. Therefore, we invite major superiors

- a) to keep in the confreres the awareness that, beyond any role of direction, their main task is to undertake roles of pastoral animation or services useful for a smoother management of the work;
- b) to allow the beginning or consolidation of new forms of services, responding to emerging needs of social distress.

Proposal 28 – Attention for every type of poverty in Centres and Parishes

The 21st General Chapter suggests that local communities should be watchful about emerging needs and to all types of poverty (also spiritual) and, with the consent of the competent superiors, work in order to

- a) use some spaces of our centres “alla carità”, for agile services, not necessarily long-term, to exercise the “charity of person”;
- b) have particular and practical solicitude in our parishes for the traditional beneficiaries of our mission and for emerging types of poverty.

Perspectives of missionary pastoral

Proposal 29 – Wise and pondered missionary expansion

The 21st General Chapter suggests that the Councils of Provinces, Vice-province and Delegations should favour – in dialogue with the General government – a “wise and pondered” missionary expansion, in the light of the criteria of creative fidelity to our charism and to the mission given us by the universal Church. Such criteria are: call from the local Church, meaningful presence in the new place of insertion; prophetic witness and charismatic vitality, apostolic – vocational sustainability and economic sustainability in medium and long term.

Proposal 30 – Reviewing the project “Guanellian Missionary Presence” (PMG)

The confreres of the 21st General Chapter ask the General government to review the project “Guanellian Missionary Presence”, reformulating its goals, resetting it within the missionary Guanellian voluntary work, improving its action and recalculating the need for human and economic resources.

Particular attention to the Guanellian sites

Proposal 31 – Charitable-pastoral animation of the Founder’s valley

The Chapter Assembly proposes that the General government – in collaboration with the government of San Luigi Guanella Province and involving the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence – should consider the possibility of reformulating with determination the project of charitable-pastoral animation of the Founder’s valley.

3. GUIDELINES FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL

The Chapter Assembly considered some experiences of the General Councillors during the past decades and the different context of the Congregation in terms of society, culture, and laws. We considered the composition of the General Council, the responsibility of its members, evaluating their number, their competence (by zone or by type of activities) and their residence.

We also looked thoroughly into the norms about the insertion of confreres in Circumscriptions different from their origin, defining criteria, ways and perspectives for an effective insertion in a new cultural context.

Recalling that don Guanella had in mind one Religious Family, including Servants of Charity and Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, and taking into consideration some lines of thought recently expressed by the Dicastery of Consecrated Life, we chose to encourage the study for a possible unification of the two Religious families.

Finally, seeing that the 20th General Chapter treated the theme of transmission of the charism and the need to express it with the contribution of the entire people of God, we think it is useful to continue its narration.

Tasks and collaborations of the General Councillors

Motion 9 – Tasks and collaborations of the General Councillors

Continuing the present practice, the 21st General Chapter asks the General Council to assign each councillor the attention to a specific geographical area as the link person. About the council's members:

- a) they should make the prophecy of fraternity shine;
- b) when needed, and in agreement with the competent superior of the assigned area, the councillors can spend adequate periods of time in that area;
- c) without prejudice of their primary service to the entire Congregation, councillors can be given functions of collaboration in pastoral ministry or of service within our centres.

Norms for changes

Motion 10 – Guidelines about changes of Circumscription

The 21st General Chapter asks the major superiors to allow changes of Circumscription both for the confreres with temporary vows and for those with perpetual vows.

- a) The confreres with temporary vows should join the new Circumscription during the “stages in preparation to perpetual profession” (see Ratio No. 138), to facilitate their insertion and the process of acculturation.
- b) The confreres with perpetual vows should usually join the new Circumscription after spending an adequate time of ministry in their area of origin.

In view of a possible unification with the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

Proposal 32 – Itinerary towards a possible unification with the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

To allow the charism to unleash all its potentials, the 21st General Chapter invites to study, also through a specific mixed committee, the opportunity to activate an itinerary allowing Servants of Charity and Daughters of St. Mary of Providence to unite their forces and experience forms of co-responsibility, without excluding a possible unification of the two Congregations.

Study Groups, scientific Commissions and publications

Proposal 33 – Guanellian culture and dialogue with the challenges of our times

The 21st General Chapter proposes that the Superior General and his Council may encourage the formation of specific Study Groups to enrich the “Guanellian culture” with

contributions in the fields of history, theology, science, and pastoral, in dialogue with the challenges of our time.

Motion 11 – Review of the “Basic Document for Guanellian Mission”

Aware of the importance of the “Basic Document for Guanellian Mission” (“PEG), the 21st General Chapter asks the Superior General and his Council to convey to the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Guanellian Cooperators our satisfaction about the review of the PEG done so far. We wish that – after receiving also their contributions and positive evaluation – the review can be accomplished and the new text printed and translated in different languages.

Proposal 34 – Suggestions for the knowledge of PEG

About the reviewed text of PEG, the Chapter confreres suggest that the Superior General and his Council will provide a glossary to clearly define terms and concepts, and to consider how to make the confreres, both in first formation and of perpetual vows, study the pedagogic dynamics contained and internalise them.

Proposal 35 – Formation to Guanellian pedagogy and Local Educational Project (PEL)

The Chapter Assembly advises the superiors of Provinces, Vice-province, and the Delegates to promote the development of the PEG into Local Educational Projects (PEL). Therefore, we encourage them to provide a systematic formation to Guanellian pedagogy for the religious as well as for lay workers and volunteers.

Approval of the changes to Constitutions, Regulations, and Chapters Directory

Motion 12 – Review of Constitutions and Regulations

The 21st General Chapter approves the changes to the text of our Constitutions and General Regulations and entrusts the General government with the task of adapting the expressions and remake the numbering according to the Code of Canon Law.

After the necessary approval by the Dicastery of Consecrated Life, the text of the Constitutions and of the Regulations should be published in separate volumes and in different languages.

Motion 13 – Review of the Chapters Directory

The 21st General Chapter approves the changes to the text of the Chapters Directory and entrusts the General government, in agreement with the superiors of the Circumscriptions, to do the final review and final approval.

ECONOMY

1. ECONOMY AND CONTRIBUTIONS

After hearing the reports about economy from the superior general and the general treasurer, the assembly dialogue focused on the importance to have inspiring principles and practical criteria for the growth of the charism and the life of our mission.

First of all, to grant the evangelical inspiration, we must once more stand firmly on God's Providence, sure that He will take care of his children. From this certitude comes the awareness that we must share our goods in a dynamic of faith, communion, fraternity and sobriety. This will prepare us to better be in solidarity with the poor and to use all our resources, also the financial resources, for the good of the integral development of persons and the implementation of the Works.

These values urge us to give great relevance to transparency, especially about faithful and correct account reporting, at all levels (personal, local and of all the governing organs).

The value of co-responsibility makes us shun any idea to delegate our responsibilities, therefore we must value also economic sustainability, in order to be "prudent and previewing" while facing the complexity of the management of our Works. Thus, we also treated the support of the governing Organs and of the activities depending from the General government, and of formation in finance and management.

Subsistence of the governing Organs

Motion 14 – Motions to be included in the Regulations

The 21st General Chapter asks the General government to see that the contents of the motions approved by the 20th GC and already approved also by the 19th GC are included in the General Regulations. They are Motion No. 39 (*Criteria about alternative financial resources*); No. 41 (*Norms about contributions on income from legacies and inheritance*); No. 42 (*Norms about contributions on income from sale of unused real estate/buildings*)

Motion 15 – "Fixed rate" for the contributions to General curia

The General Chapter confirms Motion No. 40 of the 20th GC: "Taking into account the ordinary needs of the General curia, the General Council and the Provincial Councils will yearly fix, with their treasurers, the contribution that each Province or Vice-province will give, in a way that is proportional to the budgets and the financial potential of each".

Motion 16 – Financial subsistence of General curia: creating an investment fund

In view of financial sustainability of its institutional activities, the General Council should study how to create an investment fund whose interest can significantly contribute to decrease the dependence from the Provinces' contribution. This procedure shall follow clear ethical principles as required from the Church teaching and in line with our charismatic inspiration.

*Stable patrimony***Motion 17 – Assigning the stable patrimony**

The Chapter confirms Motion No. 44 of the 20th GC: “The stable patrimony is made of all movable and unmovable goods that by lawful designation are destined to grant the economic security of the Institute

- a) for the goods of the whole Institute, this designation is made by the Superior General with the consent of his Council;
- b) for the goods of a Province, as well as those of a House lawfully erected, the designation is done by the Provincial superior with the consent of his Council and is confirmed by the Superior General (see: *Economy at the service of the charism and the mission*, 38.40.72)”.

*Depending activities***Motion 18 – Value and challenges of the Theological Seminary in Rome, to be considered**

We think that the economy is not the only determinant criterion, therefore the Chapter Assembly reaffirms the value of the Theological Seminary in Rome for the following reasons: international experience of practical encounter among cultures; charismatic formation close to the sources of Guanellian life; qualified theological preparation.

Nevertheless, we ask the Superior General with his Council and the support of the General Treasurer, to check the economic challenges detected in the seminary in Rome

- a) by starting a study finalised to optimise the cost, reconsidering the assigned budget and finding sources of income;
- b) considering, at the same time, a possible different site in Rome.

*Formation in finance and management***Motion 19 – Incorporating the new economic guidelines**

The Chapter confirms Motion No. 46 of the 20th GC: “Following the statements of the Document *Economy at the service of the charism and the mission*, the Chapter asks the General government to study how to incorporate in our proper law its suggestions, particularly:

- a) the norms about the Legal Representative for both canon and civil law;
- b) the norms about the Works, especially the larger ones;
- c) other aspects underlined in the Document”.

Motion 20 – Guidelines for financial policy

During the time of its mandate, the General government should prepare guidelines as required by the Church’s teaching about financial matters. The document should state clear ethical and moral criteria, social and environmental responsibility of the invested funds.

Motion 21 – Assemblies in view of possible managerial re-organisations

In line with Motion No. 43 of the 20th GC, the General government should organise moments of formation at the general level (general and provincial treasurers) and at

Provinces and Delegations level. These moments should join technical formation with the acquaintance and deeper study of the Church teaching about financial matters.

Need for regular and transparent accounting

Motion 22 – Accountability: awareness and formation

The General Chapter asks the General government to enact in the entire Congregation initiatives of awareness and formation in view of a correct and transparent account reporting from the Communities to the Province/Delegation, from the Provinces/Delegations to the General Treasurer. While insisting on the duty to grow in this awareness, simple and accessible instruments for exact and effective report should be offered.

Proposal 36 – Poverty and sobriety in the use of money

We realise that some habits in the way of using money have changed (e.g. legal need for personal accounts, use of electronic cards, of digital transactions ...) and we reaffirm the need for a strong formation to sobriety and transparency in giving account of personal expenditures. We also reaffirm the importance that personal pensions or stipends are destined to the local Community or the Province (see Reg. No, 63).

2. FUND RAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

We have seen the need to give special attention to the sustainability of our social action. Trusting in Divine Providence, we reaffirmed the opportunity to make our procedures of fund raising more effective, going beyond our usual ways and creating special organs for this purpose.

We have thus seen the need to have professionals in the fund-raising offices and, for an effective work, the need to use instruments of communication that can make the activity and the spirit of our Works known.

Fundraising Organs

Motion 23 – Fundraising Office

Seeing the financial challenges faced by several of our Works in different areas of the Congregation and noticing the good result of some experiences, the General Chapter asks the General government to encourage the competent superiors and their Councils to activate in every Circumscription a Fundraising Office. The General Treasures should promote a specific formation in order to reach this goal.

Single Houses/Works should also be encouraged to activate their local Fundraising Office, coordinated with the central Office of their Province.

Boosting social communication

Proposal 37 – Fundraising and social communication

In view of new possibilities of fund raising and in continuity with our tradition of “Pia Opera” (i.e. benefactors’ desk), we propose the need to boost our ability in communication, increasing our investment in this area.

Local and central Fundraising Offices should have special care for communication, to make the activity and the spirit of our Work known.

We suggest that the same office should take care of fundraising and communication, investing adequately in expert staff.

Proposal 38 – *Specific attention about communication*

The General Chapter reaffirms the need to give adequate attention and suitable economic and human resources to the use of the social media (Facebook, Instagram, website, etc.). The correct use of these instruments is finalised to evangelisation, vocations' pastoral, spreading of the charism and the mission, fund raising, presentation of the public and institutional face of the Congregation.

At all levels, therefore, the use of such media should be opportunely promoted. At the same time the competent superior should use vigilance on their use, to avoid damage to the relationship within community life and also to our Institution.

FINAL MOTIONS

Motion 24 – *Approval of the Treasurer Report*

The 21st General Chapter approves the Report of the General Treasurer, having seen the screening and the suggestions done by the “Commission analysing the Report”.

Motion 25 – *Final document of the 21st General Chapter*

The 21st General Chapter mandates the Superior General and his Council to give final touches, specifications and adaptation to the approved Proposals and Motions, to promulgate, and to enact them.

Motion 26 – *Approval of the minutes*

The Chapter Assembly approves the minutes of the 21st General Chapter, giving the secretaries the task to give uniformity to the text.

Motion 27 – *Closing the Chapter*

The Chapter Assembly, unanimously and by show of hands, votes the closing of the 21st General Chapter of the Congregation of the Servants of Charity.

PROGRAMME OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025

In the second meeting of our council, at Rome on November 8, we considered some lines for the programme of this social year, with reference to the Final Document of the 21st GC. We chose to delay the preparation of programme of the five years, to be done at the time of the meeting with Provincials and Delegates, that will hold presumably at Rome at the end of April/beginning of May, 2025.

Per questo fine 2024 e tutto il 2025 il Consiglio generale offre questi punti:

- ◆ 1) In this first year of our term, we give prominence to the **programme of the Holy Year**, what is proposed by the Church as well as what is going to be proposed by the Guanellian Committee. The General council, and the Provincial and Delegation councils will: create awareness in the communities to give evidence to the dates already defined by the committee: December 19, Intercontinental Mass; June 27, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart; November 12, Solemnity of Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence.
- ◆ 2) We enter the Jubilee with the Church with **sentiments of hope** and of positive views. The Jubilee is the time for restoration and conversion, both personally and as communities. The 21st GC has urged very strongly such "reformation" of our lives.
- ◆ 3) Examine the **Final Document of the 21st GC** after the work of review and publication by the General Council. Advent can be the opportunity for an attentive reading, also in community, and an evaluation of our personal and community life in the light of the expectations the Chapter expressed for the entire Congregation.
- ◆ 4) Participate, within our possibilities, to the **audience of the Holy Father** to the Italian pilgrims at the "Camino de Santiago" on December 19th.
- ◆ 5) The General Council is inclined to organise the **first encounter with Provincials, Vicars, and Delegates** at the end of April/beginning of May 2025 (*Proposal No. 25 of the GC*). In that moment we can also celebrate the Jubilee for the General curia with staff and collaborators (legal representant, Studies Centre, Pious Union, etc.). We are considering the idea of asking for a special Papal audience.
- ◆ 6) During the coming months, before Easter, each Councillor shall visit his particular **geographical area** giving a report on the positive aspects and the problems. They will also report on how the Province or Delegation has in mind to face the challenges and how we can collaborate. This material will be useful for the meeting with Provincials and Delegates during springtime.
- ◆ 7) Prepare a **general programme of the six years** to be submitted and approved by the major superiors of the Congregation during the same meeting.
- ◆ 8) Prepare the **Formation for the Guanellian Family** (SoC – DSMP – GC) in the Founder's places (two weeks). We are foreseeing this period during May 2025. A commission will be formed to take care of this Guanellian formation. (*Proposal No. 19*).
- ◆ 9) The Superior General with the General treasurer will meet the formation team of the **theological seminary in Rome** to review the formation lines in the light of the suggestions of the 21st GC and to study how to reduce the budget. They will also consider some hypotheses to move in a more economic location (*Motions Nos. 6 and 18*).
- ◆ 10) Father Gustavo and Father Umberto will have some dialogue with the Director and the Council of the **Guanellian Studies Centre** in Rome to

present what has been required by the 21st GC with *Proposal No. 24*.

- ◆ 11) The General Council, in dialogue with the superior of Provincia San Luigi is organising a **contemplative experience** in the House of the Founder at Fraciscio. This experience is not yet a formed contemplative community, but an “experience” of a few confreres particularly attentive to this aspect of our spirituality. It will last three months, during the coming winter, having as purpose: to evaluate the particular vocation felt in one’s heart; to study the possible references in the life and thought of the Founder on the contemplative aspect; to give suggestions on how to harmonise such community with our Rule; to possibly write a type of rule for this life; to join contemplation with some charitable action proper to our charism (*Proposal No. 4*).
- ◆ 12) We will continue the **dialogue with the DSMP** for an increased collaboration in formation, in the management of works of charity, as well as on whether or not to start a journey of discernment, study and evaluation toward a unification of the two Congregations. On November 30, the first meeting of the two General Council will hold. (*Proposal No. 32*)
- ◆ 13) We shall accomplish the **review of Regulations and Constitutions** in the light of the suggestions of the 21st GC. After the placet

from the Holy See we shall go on with publishing them in separate booklets. (*Motion No. 12*)

- ◆ 14). We shall continue **reviewing the Basic Document for Guanellian Mission (PEG)**. We will integrate with the commission that has been working other representatives of the Guanellian Family. The whole work will be presented to the General Council of the DSMP and the World Council of the Guanellian Cooperators. Once approved, we can print, present to the Provinces, and forward to the Houses the Document. (*Motion No. 11*).
- ◆ 15) Le same commission of Regulations will also review the **Directory of the Chapters** (*Motion No. 13*).
- ◆ 16) The **Congregation Website** has been entrusted to the General secretary, Fr. Francesco Sposato, who will seek the help of some professional to make it more updated and richer. (*Proposal No. 38*).
- ◆ 17) Many are the motions about **economy** to be considered during the six years term. For this social year we shall focus in a particular way on motions No. 23, No. 29, and No. 16.

Prossimi Consigli Generali

- 23 dicembre 2024

- 9 gennaio 2025

■ Functions of animation and areas of responsibility of the General Council members

- ◆ **Father Umberto Brugnoli: Superior General.** *Referent for the Confreres, for first formation, for permanent formation and seminaries, Referent for the DSMP.*
- ◆ **Father Soosai Rathinam: first Councillor and Vicar.** *Referent for Divine Providence Province and Stella Maris Delegation; Procurator at the Holy See; Director of “Nuove Frontiere”; Parish Vicar at Firenze.*
- ◆ **Father Gustavo De Bonis: second Councillor.** *Referent for Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Province (Latin America) and San Luigi Guanella Delegation; Referent of ASCI and Guanellian Studies Centre in Rome.*
- ◆ **Father Vitus Unegbu: third Councillor.** *Referent for the Our Lady of Hope Vice-province (Africa); Spiritual assistant of the Guanellian Cooperators and the Guanellian Youth Movement.*
- ◆ **Father Francesco Sposato: fourth Councillor.** *Referent for San Luigi Guanella Province; General Secretary; Coordinator of the General House; in charge for Website, Caritas, Guanella News.*
- ◆ **Father Mario Nava: General treasurer pro tempore.** *treasurer and legal representant of the General House.*

Eventi di Consacrazione

Notizie e Avvenimenti di Consacrazione

Il 26 luglio 2024, nella Provincia N.S. di Guadalupe, a Villa Madero, nella Parrocchia di San José Obrero, Buenos Aires, **Luis Alberto Avalos Coronel** e Francisco Erivan Nascimento dos Santos hanno ricevuto il Ministero dell'Accolito da don Ciro Attanasio, superiore provinciale.

Rigo Yumar Laguado Ortiz colombiano e Emmanuel Chukwusom Ogbuagu nigeriano, hanno emesso la loro Professione Perpetua il 27 luglio a Buenos Aires nella Parrocchia del Transito di San José e hanno ricevuto il sacro Diaconato il 28 luglio 2024 per le mani di Mons. Alejandro Daniel Giorgi, Vescovo di Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Nella cattedrale di Kinshasa (Congo), il 29 luglio 2024, sono stati ordinati sacerdoti guanelliani **don Jacques Mbembe Mpotiyolo, don Cedrik Lokange Ilumbe** dal Cardinale Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, O.F.M. Cap., Arcivescovo di Kinshasa.

Paul Nguyen Van Dao (Vietnam), **Michael D. Adlaon** (Philippines) e **Peter Nguyen Van Dien** (Vietnam) hanno emesso la Professione Perpetua il 2 agosto 2024 nel nostro Centro Guanella della Comunità di Quezon City. L'ordinazione diaconale è stata il 3 agosto 2024, nella parrocchia di San Isidro Labrador a Tandang Sora, Quezon City, Manila.

Il 14 agosto, nella casa di Nnebukwu, sono entrati in noviziato **Kapitene Chadrack** (Congolese), **Nimi Christian** (Congolese), **Kitegi Emmanuel Jean Marie** (Togolese), e **Pfinyu Nestor Phambu** (Congolese).

Il 15 agosto, i confratelli **Brian Onyango Otieno, Ndomba James Pius, Kabata Solasa Aristote, Movuli Joel Archange Michael Bajou, Boniface Trueman Mwacholo, Luyela Kingala Emmanuel, Buentuena Luviki Fortunat, Ngamefula Kingsley Chinemere e Eji Kingsley Adimanso**, hanno emesso la loro Prima Professione a Nnebukwu, Nigeria.

Il confratello diacono, **don Melvin Raj Savarimuthu**, è stato ordinato sacerdote nel Saint Joseph Seminary di Cuddalore dal Vescovo di Pondicherry, Mons. Francis Kalist, il 15 agosto 2024 e ha celebrato la Prima santa Messa il 17 agosto nella sua parrocchia di origine, 'Our Lady Queen of Heaven', Irudayampattu (India).

Il confratello diacono, **don Lourdu Samy Arockia William**, è stato ordinato sacerdote nel Saint Joseph Seminary di Cuddalore dal Vescovo di Pondicherry, Mons. Francis Kalist, il 15 agosto 2024 e ha celebrato la Prima santa Messa il 16 agosto nella parrocchia 'Our Lady of Perpetual Church', Siluvaipalayam (India).

Don Govina Roger è stato ordinato sacerdote guanelliano, il 17 agosto, per le mani del vescovo di Keta-Akatsi, Mons. Gabriel Edoe Kumordji, nella chiesa di San Francesco di Assisi in Ave-Dakpa, Ghana.

Don Evbuomwan Kelvin è stato ordinato sacerdote guanelliano, il 17 agosto 2024, per le mani dell'Arcivescovo di Benin City, Mons. Augustine Obiora Akubeze, nella Holy Cross Cathedral, Edo State, Nigeria.

I Chierici **Andrei Gheorghe Gherguț e Iosif Barticel** hanno rinnovato per la prima volta i voti religiosi il 4 settembre nel Seminario teologico di Roma "Mons. Aurelio Bacciarini" dove iniziano il primo anno di teologia.

I Chierici **Arockiaraj Antonysamy, Runa Nayak (Carlos), Mensan Wletou (Didier)** hanno fatto la loro Professione Perpetua il 29 settembre a Roma nella Chiesa del Buon Pastore in via Aurelia Antica, nelle mani del Padre generale. Hanno poi ricevuto il primo grado dell'ordine sacro, il Diaconato, il 19 ottobre a Como nel nostro Santuario Sacro Cuore, dal Card. Oscar Cantoni, vescovo di Como.

Il confratello diacono, **don Alessandro Bassani** è stato ordinato sacerdote a Como, nel Santuario Sacro Cuore, il 19 ottobre 2024, per l'imposizione delle mani e la preghiera consacratrice di Sua Eminenza Cardinal Oscar Cantoni. Erano presenti i Padri Capitolari e molto popolo di Dio.

Defunti

NELLA CASA DEL PADRE

- ◆ Il **Sig. Tony Lara**, nipote di don John Peter Arockiasamy (Divine Providence Province), all'età di 20 anni, è morto il 13/7 ad Arasakuzhi, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu (India).
- ◆ Il **Sig. Thavamani**, padre di don Anandhan Thavamani (DPP), è morto il 15/7 all'età di 75 anni a Minittankudi, Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ Il **Sig. Simon Likita**, padre di don Philimon Likita (Vice Provincia Africana) è deceduto il 17/7, a Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), dopo alcune settimane di malattia, all'età di 64 anni.
- ◆ La nostra Consorella guanelliana, **Sr. Maria Rosa Baietti**, della Comunità di Milano, è morta il 17/7 nella Casa "Don Luigi Guanella" di Milano.
- ◆ La **Sig.ra Lina Priante**, sorella di don Danilo Priante della comunità di Caidate-Castano Primo, è morta il 29/7 a Ferno (Varese).
- ◆ Il 29/7 è deceduta a Messina la **Sig.ra Lucà Giuseppa**, 91 anni, nonna materna del confratello don Giovanni Russo della comunità di Grosseto.
- ◆ Il fratello del tirocinante, Jean Lenescar Wester, il **Sig. Pierre Emile Lenescar**, è morto all'età di 59 anni, nella Repubblica di Haiti, il 7/8/.
- ◆ La madre del nostro confratello, don Sergio Antonio Rojas Franco, la **Sig.ra Ascensión Franco**, di 96 anni, è morta ad Asunción, Paraguay, 10 /8.
- ◆ Il fratello di fratel Hugo Eduardo Maidana Muñoz, **Sig. Miguel Maidana Muñoz**, è deceduto all'età di 89 anni, a Santiago del Cile, il 14/8.
- ◆ All'età di 76 anni è deceduta la nostra consorella **Sr. Antonietta Bonomo**, nella Casa Sant'Antonio di Trecenta (Rovigo), il 21/8.
- ◆ Il 27/8 è venuto a mancare, all'età di 79 anni, il **Sig. Francesco Rigamonti**, fratello del nostro confratello don Lorenzo Rigamonti della comunità religiosa di Como-Casa Divina Provvidenza.
- ◆ Dopo anni di malattia la nostra Consorella **Sr. Carmina Maria Provenzano** è morta il 4/9 nella "Casa Divina Provvidenza" in Cosenza.
- ◆ Il giorno 8/9 è deceduta la **Sig.ra Amalorpavamary**, nonna del confratello indiano don Sachin Son Maria Louis. Aveva 85 anni.
- ◆ Il 12/9 è morto il **Sig. Joseph Augustine**, padre di don Abraham Augustine della comunità di Naro (AG).
- ◆ Il 14/9 è morta la **Sig.ra Ndaya Mpunga Julienne**, madre di don Francois Mpugna dopo una breve malattia, all'età di 85 anni, a Kinshasa, nella Repubblica Democratica del Congo.
- ◆ Il 19/9, Saronno (VA), è morto il **Sig. Mazzola Battista (Tino)**, fratello del nostro confratello don Attilio Mazzola, della Comunità di Como.
- ◆ All'età di 90 anni è morto il **Sig. Guilherme Back**, il padre del nostro confratello, Fratel Edgar Back, a Serranópolis do Iguaçú, Brasile, il 26/10.
- ◆ La **Sig.ra Regina Mary**, zia materna di don Chinnappan Lourduraj, è morta a 82 anni il 27/10, a Mannangurai, distretto di Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu (India).
- ◆ **Sr. Elvira Policicchio**, nata a Lago (Cosenza) nel 1936, è morta il 27/10 nella "Casa Divina Provvidenza" di Cosenza. Sr. Elvira ha collaborato con i SdC al Trionfale dal 1998 al 2008 e ad Alberobello dal 2008 al 2011.
- ◆ **Sr. Marisa Tarisciotti**, nata a Capranica Prenestina (RM) nel 1934, è morta all'Ospedale sull'Isola Tiberina in Roma.
- ◆ **Sr. Tarcisia Capitano**, è deceduta il 30/10. Apparteneva alla Comunità di Verdello. Era nata a Ponte San Pietro (BG) nel 1934. Ha lavorato per 49 anni tra i poveri del Brasile.
- ◆ Il **Sig. Moses Azubuiké Ogbuagu**, padre del nostro confratello don Emmanuel Chukwusom Ogbuagu, della Vice Provincia Africana, è morto il 5/11 all'età di 68 anni, nel Kogi State, Nigeria.
- ◆ **Sr. Silvia Folini**, è deceduta il 22/11 2024. Apparteneva alla Comunità di Albese con Cassano (CO). Era nata ad Ardenno (SO) nel 1929. Ha lavorato anche presso le case maschili di Cassago Brianza (1958-1961), Castano Primo (1961-1963), Nuova Olonio (1963-1979) e Cerano (1988-1989).

Confratelli defunti

- ◆ **Don Antonio Marelli**, a 85 anni, è deceduto domenica 15/9 2024 nel Centro anziani "Opera Mater Christi" a Grono. Nipote di fratel Elli, è stato un nostro confratello e per quarant'anni è stato parroco a Grono (Canton Grigioni - Svizzera).
- ◆ **Don Pietro Maniero**, a 97 anni, è morto domenica 6/10, nella Casa di riposo "Cenacolo nostra Signora di Fatima" di Montegalda (Vicenza). Era il decano della Congregazione. Il funerale si è tenuto, due giorni dopo, presso la Parrocchia di S. Maria Assunta di Monteortone - Abano Terme (PD).
- ◆ **Don Giuseppe Gallio Pavan**, a 87 anni, è deceduto domenica 20 ottobre, nella comunità di Como Casa Madre. La santa messa delle esequie, presieduta da don Umberto, neoeletto Superiore, si è svolta il 22 ottobre nella chiesa del Sacro Cuore in Barza d'Ispra. Vi hanno partecipato tutti i capitolari del XXICG.

> Altre notizie di Congregazione



Casa San Luigi Guanella di Iași

> Il 23 agosto, alla presenza del Superiore, è stata inaugurata la Casa San Luigi Guanella di Iași in Romania. È un Centro per disabili che accoglierà 50 ragazzi. Il vescovo di Iași, mons. Iosif Paulet, dopo la messa presieduta nel cortile della Casa, ha benedetto la struttura di cui usufruiscono già trenta disabili. Costruito in meno di due anni, l'edificio si sviluppa su un piano terra, un piano superiore e una mansarda, con un totale di 2700 metri quadri e trenta stanze con 50 posti letto. "È apparso quasi dal nulla", ha detto nell'omelia il vescovo Paulet, notando la rapidità dei lavori. "Questo centro sociale - ha aggiunto - è uno spazio della speranza e della grazia, dove ogni anima è apprezzata e incoraggiata a scoprire la dignità ricevuta da Dio. Sia sempre una testimonianza viva del Vangelo della carità e della misericordia divina". Il Centro offre - ai beneficiari interni ed anche tramite servizi diurni - terapia occupazionale, logopedia, fisioterapia, idroterapia, massaggio, terapia con animali e tramite l'arte, laboratori, attività culturali, ludiche e ricreative. "È l'ultima delle nostre case e sono contento che sia dedicata agli ultimi", ha affermato don Umberto.

Guanella Day Care Centre

> Il 25 agosto, a Mahabubabad, nella Diocesi di Warangal, è stato inaugurato il "Guanella Day Care Centre", in India. La santa messa è stata presieduta dal Vescovo di Warangal, Mons. Udumala Bala, concelebrata da don Francis Selva Raj, Consigliere provinciale, e altri confratelli, partecipata da fedeli, amici, religiosi, benefattori e simpatizzanti. La cerimonia si è svolta nella "Fatima Church". Questa nuova nostra presenza porterà avanti la missione di assistenza diurna alle persone

diversamente abili. Il servizio che si svolge prende il nome di 'Guanella Prema Nivasam' che significa 'Luogo dove abita l'Amore'.

6 ottobre, inizio del Capitolo

> Domenica 6 Ottobre presso il Santuario Sacro Cuore in Como con la celebrazione della S. Messa presieduta da S.E. Mons. Domenico Beneventi, vescovo di San Marino-Montefeltro, si è aperto il XXI Capitolo Generale. Dopo l'appello dei 39 membri del XXI CG fatto dal segretario generale, il Padre generale ha dichiarato aperto L'Assemblea Capitolare.

24 ottobre, fine del Capitolo

> Il 24 ottobre si è concluso a Como il Capitolo generale con la santa messa presieduta dal Superiore generale, concelebrata dai capitolari, partecipata da grande folla di suore, operatori, ospiti, amici e simpatizzanti. Durante l'Eucaristia, don Umberto e don Rathinam hanno fatto la professione di fede e il giuramento di fedeltà. La festa del nostro Fondatore è stata resa solenne per la presenza di tanti ospiti delle nostre Case, i beniamini di Don Guanella.

Nigeria, 1° Gruppo dei Guanelliani Cooperatori

> Il giorno 16 di Novembre, 2024 nella comunità di Nnebukwu, in Nigeria, il primo gruppo dei Guanelliani Cooperatori ha fatto la promessa dopo più di dieci anni di cammino e di collaborazione con la Congregazione in Nigeria. I nominativi sono: 1. Mr. Paschal Uche, 2. Mrs. Helen Oputa, 3. Mr. Rufus Okpor, 4. Mr. Cyril Eke, 5. Mr. Hyacinth Ibeawuchi, 6. Mr. Clifford Anugwarai 7. Mr. Innocent Ekeulu 8. Mr. Athans Okpor

*Le feste del santo Natale
sono i più bei giorni dell'anno...
Affrettati tu stesso a Gesù...
Accorrano tutti gli uomini.
Veniamo là tutti con fiducia
al trono della grazia,
per conseguire misericordia
e per ottenere la salute
in opportuno soccorso.*

(San Luigi Guanella, Nel mese del fervore)



Ogni bambino che nasce è sempre segno di speranza per credere ancora nel futuro. A maggior ragione la nascita del Salvatore, il quale porta con sé un risveglio alla speranza che non delude perché la carezza misericordiosa di Dio nostro Padre possa continuare a toccare i nostri cuori e renderli palpitanti di amore e di pace verso chiunque incontriamo sul nostro cammino.

La gioia del Natale ci accompagni allora a vivere l'Anno Santo quale occasione per rianimare, in questo nostro mondo deturpato da guerre ed egoismi, la speranza «*con i gesti, con le parole, con le scelte di ogni giorno, con la pazienza di seminare un po' di bellezza e di gentilezza ovunque ci troviamo ... perché la sua melodia faccia vibrare le corde dell'umanità e risvegli nei cuori la gioia, risvegli il coraggio di abbracciare la vita*» (papa Francesco).

Auguri di buon Natale!

Il superiore generale e il suo consiglio