



Guanella NEWS

Notiziario della Casa Generalizia dei Servi della Carità - Anno XXII (II Serie) - Direzione e Redazione: Centro di Comunicazione

As Don Guanella, witnesses of God's fatherhood

We are in the month focused on the Founder, when we will re-live all the fundamental and serene stages of his life as an apostle and servant of the charity of Christ, in the various ways he has been acknowledged by the Church, interpreting the will of God (pag. 1).

Embrace our vulnerability and its transformative potential

In every crisis, at every graced crossroads, there is a deeper invitation. Look again at what you noted as your graced crossroads and its deeper invitation. I'll give you a moment to jot down any further reflections that might be emerging within you (pag.3).

Yearl program 2022-23

the first steps of the new Italian Province, the sensitive theme of the "third sector" Italian law, the youth pastoral in view of the WYD, some problems arising in other Provinces and Delegations of our Congregation (pag.5).

News di Congregazione

Avvenimenti; parenti defunti (pag.9).



«Without our realising it, our life will lose order, be scattered, wear out. We need to put in order the little bits of our time, of our body, of our heart. All of us need it, and all of us should do it, not only once in life, but rather every day of our life».

(Card. Carlo Maria Martini)

As Don Guanella, witnesses of God's fatherhood

Dear Confreres,
I great fraternally all, and especially those who are in distress because of health, of human relations, of mission.

I want to take off from the sentence of Cardinal Martini, whom we all know and respect, to bring his wish to you and to me: and invitation, while we begin this last leg of our journey in the Congregation before

the coming 21st General Chapter, animated by the desire to make order, serenity, peace within and around us!

The General Council prepared the general programme, like every year, making reference to the 20th GC, that animated the journey of this stage of the Congregation

We present it to you, trusting that you will take it into consideration these suggestions both as Provinces and Delegations and as local communities and individual persons. Our Congregation is spread in the five Continents, and these guidelines, for some parts of the world, will be taken into consideration with the beginning of the new social year in February 2023, in other parts one quarter of the year has already gone, in other parts the year has just begun. Let everyone use them starting from his own situation of the journey.

We are in the month focused on the Founder, when we will re-live all the fundamental and serene stages of his life as an apostle and servant of the charity of Christ, in the various ways he has been acknowledged by the Church, interpreting the will of God.

Let us be proud of being Guanellian, of giving witness with the highest availability and dedication to God's paternity, given to us by the Founder as the founding character of our life and mission. Let us put order in the little bits of our life, worn out with time and not allowing to show clearly the image of Jesus, our model!

I wish for all that the new social year, whenever it starts doesn't matter, may be the good opportunity for a new birth in the spirit of our charism. Our Constitutions, in No 102 give new strength to the Founder's belief: "The Lord is a good Father to us and could never leave the children who trust in him without the help they need. It is primarily on this assurance that we base our hope and willingness to remain in his love till the end". Let us keep one another in prayer. Have a good journey!

P. Umberto

Roma, ottobre 2022

*«Il nostro cuore abbiamolo
sempre nelle nostre mani,
per mostrarlo a chi li deve curare e perfezionare.
Poniamolo tutto intero nelle mani
del medico e del padre nostro,
il confessore, o dei superiori della casa e,
se fia possibile, porgiamo loro le lenti
perché guardino entro più
attentamente e ne scorgano
fino all'interno i movimenti del nostro cuore»*

San Luigi Guanella





Embrace our vulnerability and its transformative potential

Before we explore that deeper invitation, let me describe the crises we are facing in our world more fully and invite your reflections. There is a Great Turning taking place across our planetary home. Do you not perceive it? Within this Great Turning are the tectonic shifts taking place across the religious landscape.

The good news is that Religious Life is not dying. It is transforming, just as it has through many lifecycle changes since the time of Jesus. It is on the leading edge of an emerging consciousness in support of our planetary evolution. The good news is that you are a part of this Great Turning! You are, no doubt, working hard to make sense of your future and plan for it. The denial that persisted in recent decades is finally giving way to more proactive efforts to adapt and change.

Religious Life will rise again. But there are hard choices ahead and no quick fixes or off-the-shelf solutions. All of the options you have will require hard work. There is no escaping it. Even if a community were to come to “completion,” there would be tough decisions and complex plans to implement just to take care of business, say nothing of grieving the losses and negotiating the inevitable differences of opinion regarding all the decisions they must make. You know these complexities all too well. The only solace, perhaps, is that God is with you and will not abandon you. This is God’s covenant.

Thomas Merton tells us that grace is granted to us in proportion to how well we “dispose ourselves to receive it.”

Grace flourishes in every nook and cranny of creation, but never are we more aware of its presence and amenable to its ways than when we are at such a crossroads. Grace comes bidden and unbidden, whether we are aware of it or not. When we arrive at a crossroads, individually or as a community, the pain we must endure hollows us out.

We are emptied of all hubris and stripped of our defenses. It is here in the deep quiet of own soul's searching that we come face to face with those parts of ourselves we have rejected, hidden from ourselves and from those we loved. It is here, at these crossroads, that grace works its way into every nook and cranny of our being.

A graced crossroads, for individuals and communities, is a place wherein God continually puts before us choices between life and death. God beckons, beseeches us to choose life, but these choices are always ours to make. Religious communities are now at a graced crossroads, a threshold between what was and what is yet to come. Here, at these graced crossroads, is a deeper invitation: Choose life so that your descendants might live. Choose life so that you might live more fully in whatever time you have left. Choose life so that you might have a hand in the transformation of Religious Life and our planetary home, bringing Christ into our world.

In every crisis, at every graced crossroads, there is a deeper invitation. Look again at what you noted as your graced crossroads and its deeper invitation. I'll give you a moment to jot down any further reflections that might be emerging within you.

What is the inner work of transformation that helps create the conditions for grace to intercede and for life to flourish? In my work with religious women and men across different cultures, I have offered them an approach that relies on the principles and processes of transformation. It is a means for cooperating with grace that I've described in my book, *Graced Crossroads*.

I can't describe these in detail but let me give you the shorthand version. You have a handout on these, as well.

These are the five dynamic elements that, when woven together, constitute the key processes for personal and communal transformation:

1. Shifts in consciousness: creating a new narrative
2. Reclaiming our inner voice: the seat and soul of everything that lives
3. Reconciliation and conversion: the womb of our becoming
4. Experimentation and learning: acting our way into a new way of being
5. Transformative visioning: listening to our deepest longings

We have only to create the conditions for grace to intercede and dispose ourselves to receive it. For a community to do this, it will need to engage not only in organizational change but choose to embrace the personal and interpersonal soul work of transformation. Admittedly, the personal and interpersonal work is far more messy, intimate, and painful than organizational change, and that is exactly why most groups avoid it. Yet, members, and the communities they create, are the heart and soul, the glue that holds it all together. If there is no concentrated focus upon personal and communal transformation, what will you have, and who will you be, at the end of all of your organizational change?

Transformation is not a boardgame and does not come in a box with a set of instructions.

It doesn't take place as a result of a great speech or one-and-done assemblies. It does not fit neatly into artificial timelines, such as leadership terms or Chapter cycles. It is not a strategic plan. In this sense, it is more a pilgrimage than a plan, more about the sort of people you are becoming, than an effort to create some kind of grand vision. If you want

a strategic plan, discern what will make God smile, and then implement it. There's your strategic plan.

Let me ask again: What are you seeking? A journey of transformation is for those who are courageous enough to listen and respond to a deeper invitation. It is for those who, by embracing their vulnerability and doing their inner work can learn to cooperate with grace and participate in this Divine Mystery of transformation. Those who participate in these ways will have the opportunity not only to transform themselves, but they will help facilitate the emergence of a new Religious Life, a new world stirring. They will put their mark on this Great Turning and add a page to the ongoing story of creation.

Ted Dunn

Dr. Ted Dunn is a licensed clinical psychologist and co-founder of "Comprehensive Consulting Services" in Trinity, Florida. He has over thirty years of experience providing consultation, training and facilitation services to religious communities and other faith-based organizations throughout the United States and internationally. His background as a consultant, facilitator, professor, and psychotherapist has prepared him well for his current focus on guiding communities seeking deep change and transformation.

(Summary of an article published in the UISG Bulletin, Number 178, 2022. *Embracing vulnerability on the synodal journey*. May 2022, pp.9-18).

YEARLY PROGRAM 2022-2023

This is the last year for our Congregation animation, after which will start the so-called “semestre bianco” (*white six-months*: in the Italian constitution, the last part of the presidential term, when the president cannot dissolve the parliament) with the preparation to the General Chapter. It is a particular year specially to accompany the first steps of the new Italian Province, the sensitive theme of the “third sector” Italian law, the youth pastoral in view of the WYD, some problems arising in other Provinces and Delegations of our Congregation. May the Spirit give us strength and help our weakness!

Spiritual Life

- 1) *Spiritual Exercises for the Guanellian Family*. The proposal of some Retreats offered to Confreres, Sisters, and Cooperators by the Team instituted by the General Council (EquEs) will continue. We could think of the retreat usually offered at Barza at the end of August, and another one at Rome. Outside Italy, the team shall be in contact with Provincial and Delegate Superiors.
- 2) *Spiritual Exercises for the two General Councils* (DSMP and SoC) in June 2023: this will be the last chance during our tenure to have this positive experience.
- 3) A scheme for *Lectio Divina* during Advent and one for Lent, possibly related to the common theme of the *bond of charity* will be offered, with the suggestion to celebrate this Lectio with the confreres in community or, even better, as Guanellian Family with Sisters and Cooperators.
- 4) The fourth *formation booklet* (Advent 2022) is substituted by the theme of the *bond of charity*, that needs to be promoted through social media. Two parts have been given, the third will come. The three parts will be later composed in one booklet and will be offered to the Guanellian family as formation booklet: 1) Charism; 2) Spirit; 3) Mission; 4) Bond of charity.

Formation

- 1) Continues the follow-up of the *philosophy and theology seminaries* about the application of the Ratio Formationis and the development of the Guanellian themes for the different stages. In Rome, at the beginning of the academic year, three days of studies on the Charism.
- 2) *Continues also the program of online formation* not only for the seminaries, but – according to the different languages – also other communities. The theme is that of the year: *the bond of charity*.
- 3) The General Councillors are available for talks both with physical presence and online, for the *immediate preparation for final profession* and Diaconate of our candidates.

- 4) By the end of the year 2023 should be concluded the new editing of the Basic Document for Guanellian Mission (PEG) and of the Regulations. A specific liturgical moment will be prepared to entrust the new Basic Document and initiatives of presentation to the Staff, Cooperators, and friends shall be organised.
- 5) In Rome, at the House of Via Aurelia, in September 2023 there will be a 2 weeks course of *formators' formation*: 1-15 September 2023.
- 6) The Guanellian committee for GYM is at work for the organisation of their participation to the WYD: three days at Arca will be organised before joining the rest of the Youth with the Pope at Lisbon. Schemes of preparations will be offered both for the youth that will go to Spain and Portugal and for those who will celebrate in their own Countries.
- 7) In a Church more and more open to the involvement of laity in animation, coordination, and responsibility even of important administrative tasks, the Congregation of the Servants of Charity is giving importance to the common responsibility together with some lay persons in central roles in the administration of our Works, with positive results. Can we be questioned and encouraged to a special awareness about the *lay consecrated Guanellian*? What can we do? Which programs? The General Council, through brother Franco Lain, will give a contribution to the meetings for Brothers in San Paolo (Brazil) November 17 – 22, 2022, and at Barza in March 2023.

Fraternal Life

- 1) As Guanellian Family we are on formation on the theme of the *bond of charity*: this requires a greater witness of this among us, in our communities. May each one of us, during this year, put a clearer effort in trying to understand, condone the unavoidable faults in our relations, decide to pardon one another, pray for one another every day.
- 2) The communities should put more stress on: reciprocal communication, involvement of those confreres who cannot be active part of the mission, dialogue, fraternal correction, synodality in mission. We are aware of our being all sinners, as humans, but of the animating presence of God's grace in us. "I can do all things in the one who gives me strength!". (Phil 4,13).
- 3) Each community should give a privileged time to the formation theme *the bond of charity*, having at least a couple of community meetings during Advent and Lent devoted to a sharing on the published booklets.
- 4) The union of Provinces and communities that is going on in these years should help us open our hearts to a larger fraternity, as a large family. During this year let us foster more communication between the communities that have been united, among communities and Countries united in one Province or Delegation. Let all be interested in other confreres and their mission, in what is being accomplished outside our door.
- 5) Let us be welcoming and available to accompany young persons around our communities, encourage moments of prayer and reflection with them, be available to

welcome them in the house for experiences of fraternity, service, sharing. **ST. Paul VI said, “No vocation can mature without a spiritual director accompanying”.**

Governance

1) New Italian Province:

- A. The General Council will co-operate with the two Provinces to organise a meeting (done on October 4 – 6) of dialogue, sharing, awareness with the confreres of the different communities.
- B. We will accomplish the process for the new Italian Province, and follow the first steps. On December 19th, 180 years from the Founder’s birth, there will be the installation of the new Provincial Council at the altar where his body rests.
- C. On *December 20th* we will have a day of reflection and general programs with the General Council and the Provincial Council.
- D. The National committee, in a synodal work with the new Provincial Council, will continue to work in view of the preparation of the Italian houses to the *Law Terzo Settore*.

2) *Online meetings with Provincial and Delegation Councils* will continue, and if necessary, after accords with the Provincial or Delegate, also with individual local communities, about some themes that need to be treated together.

3) Some representative of the General Council will take part to the *Provincial Chapters and Provinces or delegations Assemblies*, to encourage and offer practical directions on the accomplishment of the planning and of the theme of the General Chapter.

4) The Superior General will conclude his *fraternal visit* to the communities of: Rumania, Ghana, Tanzania, Colombia, Guatemala and Solomon Islands.

5) We are proceeding on preparation of the *Charter of communion* with our Sisters and the Guanellian Cooperators. It should appear during this academic year.

6) We will try to encourage more and more the *World Council of Guanellian Cooperators* through online meetings to help them take charge and be leaders for all the groups. A programme for their formation will be prepared.

7) The *guidelines for the protection of minors and vulnerable persons* will be updated and represented. All the Provincials and Delegates will be invited to organise at least one yearly meeting of the confreres on the theme.

8) Particular attention will be given to our *channels of communication*: website, Guanella News, booklets for animation.

9) Give relevance to the procurator for the Congregation in Germany to present projects and pleads approved by the Superior Provincial, Superior of the Vice-province/Delegate Fr. Uche asks to be contacted because there are possibilities of receiving help for our Works.

10) *Meeting in Rome* with Provincials and Delegates with their vicars from 9 to 15 January 2023, on some urgent themes of the Congregation and the preparation to the 21st General Chapter

11) *announcement of the XXI GC* at least six months before its celebration, preparing a proper prayer to be used also in the Provincial Chapters and Delegation Assemblies.

11) Celebration of the 2nd meeting of the Guanellian Family in preparation of the 21st GC. Probably in January/February 2024.

Economia

1) Some documents have been prepared by the General Council through the General Treasurer in view of the institution of the Italian Province. These are suggestions for the future Provincial Treasurer.

2) The General Treasurer is planning a *meeting in Rome with all the treasurers* of Provinces and Delegations. Date and schedule will be communicated later.

3) Through Fr. Salvatore Apreda who is now the person in charge, we monitor the situation of the Nova Domus with the proposals of the two Italian Provinces, accepted by the General Council.

A new look for the website for communication that is increasingly attentive to today's challenges

According to the program recently posted, some technical changes were made to the Congregation's website www.operadonguanella.it before the summer. There have been changes in the type of "search engine" that our portal supports. From a Cloud Server service that perhaps ensured a faster and more stable performance, we moved to a Web Hosting service that is equally reliable and aligned with our needs, but much cheaper.

Now, the changes regarding the graphic layout. The current model is no longer up-to-date and therefore, over time, many applications may become unresponsive.

We will present a new model, but of what always intends to project our charism abroad as a gift of communication and dialogue.

We apologize if there are moments of impasse in the navigation of the site due to the reasons for the readjustment.

News di Congregazione

Avvenimenti di Consacrazione

- ✓ Nella parrocchia San José Obrero in Villa Madero, Argentina, il 19 agosto, i chierici **Mubungu Kaziala Emmanuel**, **Ogbuagu Emmanuel Chukwusom** e **De Holanda Francisco De Assis** hanno ricevuto il ministero del Lettorato. I chierici **Barrios Ramos Alvaro Luis** e **Laguado Ortiz Yumar Rigo** hanno ricevuto l'Accolitato. Il chierico **Luis Avalos** ha fatto la sua dichiarazione di intenti per lo studio del Teologia, in vista del ministero sacerdotale.
- ✓ Il 19 agosto, a Villa Madero, **Francisco de Assis Holanda**, **Emmanuel Kaziala** ed **Emmanuel Chukwuson** hanno ricevuto il Lettorato; **Álvaro Ruíz Barrios** e **Rigo Yumar Laguado** hanno ricevuto l'Accolitato.
- ✓ Il chierico **Saúl Bernabé Morales Hernández** ha emesso la Professione Perpetua il 20 agosto ed ha ricevuto il Sacro Diaconato il 21 agosto nella Parrocchia del Transito di San José per le mani di Mons. Ernesto Giobando, Vescovo Ausiliare di Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ✓ Il 27 agosto **John Bosco Sammanasunathan** and **Sachin Son Maria Louis** sono stati ordinati sacerdoti guanelliani, mediante l'imposizione delle mani e la preghiera consacratrice da Sua Ecc.za Mons. George Antonysam, Arcivescovo di Madras-Mylapore, nel "Don Guanella Major Seminary", a Chennai, India.
- ✓ **Andrei Gherguț**, originario di Șcheia, e **Iosif Barticel**, di Horlești, sono i primi novizi romeni. Nella cappella delle Suore Guanelliane in Iași hanno fatto la Prima Professione Religiosa nell'Opera don Guanella l'8 settembre nelle mani del Superiore generale, durante la messa presieduta da mons. Petru Sescu, vescovo ausiliare di Iași.
- ✓ A Manila, il 1° ottobre 2022, don Luigi De Giambattista, Superiore della Delegazione Stella Maris ha accolto la Dichiarazione di intenti del chierico **Francis Le Van Toan** e ha conferito l'Accolitato al chierico **Joseph Pham Dinh Khiet**.

Notizie di Congregazione

- ✓ La Casa Santa Maria della Provvidenza, la **Casa Madre delle Figlie di S Maria della Provvidenza in Como**, ha festeggiato 125 anni di presenza. 125 anni fa, il 1° gennaio 1897, don Guanella acquistava per 45.000 lire, la filanda "*Binda*".
- ✓ Il 19 settembre 2022, dopo aver firmato l'accordo con l'Arcidiocesi di Manaus, la Congregazione dei Servi della Carità ha assunto canonicamente la **Parrocchia di Nostra Signora delle Grazie** di Colonia Aleixo, a **Manaus**, Amazzonia. L'accordo è stato firmato da don Ciro Atanasio, Superiore Provinciale e dall'Arcivescovo di Manaus Mons Leonardo Ulrich Steiner, O.F.M.



Nella Casa del Padre

❖ Famiglia guanelliana e parenti defunti dei Confratelli

- ✓ Il **Sig. Martin** (72 anni), padre del nostro confratello don Jeyaseelan, è deceduto il 2 agosto 2022 a Melmidalam, Tamil Nadu (India).
- ✓ A Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu (India), il giorno 11 agosto, è deceduto il fratello del Superiore della DPP, don Ronald Jesiah, il **Sig. Suresh**. Aveva 50 anni.
- ✓ La **Sig.ra Marie-Thérèse Magalano**, madre del nostro confratello, il chierico Francois Maldini, è morta il 23 agosto all'età di 67 anni.
- ✓ La nostra consorella guanelliana, **Sr. Gesuina (Cunegonda) Bertolini**, è deceduta a Berbenno (Italia) il 25 agosto. È stata sepolta nel cimitero di Albese con Cassano. Aveva 91 anni.
- ✓ La **Sig.ra Vency Rajeswari** (56 anni), membro del GLM (Movimento Laicale Guanelliano) di Chennai, è deceduta a causa di problemi di salute il 29 agosto 2022 a JB Estate, Chennai.
- ✓ Il 24 settembre è deceduta la mamma del nostro confratello Constantain Irudayaraj, prete indiano che lavora in Italia a Gozzano, la **Sig.ra MARY IRUDAYARAJ**, all'età di 71 anni, in India.
- ✓ La **Sig.ra Teresa Telega** (75 anni), mamma del nostro confratello polacco, don Piotr Telega, che lavora a Perugia (Italia) è deceduta il 5 ottobre a Przemysl in Polonia.
- ✓ La **Sig.ra Zelaide Catani**, sorella del nostro confratello Pe. Ivo Catani è deceduta il 5 ottobre a Santa Maria, in Brasile.
- ✓ Il 9 ottobre a 82 anni, è tornato alla casa del Padre il **Sig. Luciano Carrera**, fratello di Don Mario Carrera.
- ✓ L'11 ottobre a 92 anni, è deceduta la **Sig.ra Leonor de Costa**, mamma del nostro confratello Pe. Edenilso de Costa.
- ✓ L'11 ottobre, è deceduta, attorniata da tante consorelle, **Sr. Flora Naccarato**, in Casa Santa Maria della Provvidenza (Roma). Il suo corpo giace nella tomba di famiglia a Dipignano, Cosenza (Italia). Era nata nel 1029. Nel suo apostolato era stata sempre vicina ed attenta ai confratelli per i quali nutriva affetto e venerazione. Dal dicembre 2004 al 2016 ha svolto la sua attività nella Casa S. Giuseppe dei SdC di Roma.

CALENDARIO DEI RADUNI DEL CONSIGLIO GENERALE

13-16 novembre	14-15 marzo
13-14 dicembre	18-19 aprile
16-17 gennaio	16-17 maggio
14-15 febbraio	20-21 giugno

Incontro a Roma dei Provinciali e Delegati con i loro Vicari dal **9 al 15 gennaio 2023** per programmare il XXI CG e affrontare altri temi urgenti della Congregazione.