

THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS' NEWS

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Enjoy your summer!

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JUNE - AUGUST EVENTS

- 6/2 - Ascension
- 6/9 - Pentecost
- 6/13 - Anniversary of the Death of Catherine Guanella
(sister of SLG) in 1891
- 6/16 - Most Holy Trinity
- 6/21 - Anniversary of the Death of Alexander
Mazzucchi in 1890
- 6/23 - Corpus Christi
- 6/27 - Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Bishop
Aurelio Bacciarini in 1935
- 6/28 - Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 7/1 - Anniversary of the Death of Fr. Carlo Coppini in
1881
- 7/4 - Anniversary of Blessed Clare's First Communion
in 1869
- 7/18 - Feast of St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
- 7/24 - Anniversary of Fr. Satheesh's Ordination in
2002
- 8/6 - Anniversary of the Ordination of Frs. Amal,
Franklin and Leo Joseph in 2013
- 8/6 - Transfiguration
- 8/7 - Feast Day of St. Cajetan, Priest
- 8/10 - Feast Day of Fr. Enzo
- 8/15 - Assumption of the BVM
- 8/16 - Birthday of Pope St. Pius X



GUANELLIAN MISSION PRINCIPLES

The Innate Value of the Human Person
The Treasure of the Person is His Heart
Dignity of the Poor
Family Spirit

PLEASE LOVE, FOR LOVE GIVES LIFE

by Fr. Amalraj, SdC

We have been called to love. Twelve times in the new testament we are expressly commanded to "Love one another". Loving someone is more than just words; more than just saying I love you brother or sister. Then what is this thing called love? It is described as a selfless kind of love that involved giving without expectation of anything in return (**Agape**). This agape love does not serve to be seen; does not serve to be elevated; does not serve to be gratified; and does not serve with partiality. It is totally demonstrated in **giving, forgiving and communion**.

Giving: Although we can give without loving, we cannot love without giving. Agape is the love that always gives. There is no taking involved. It is completely unselfish. It seeks the highest good for another no matter what the cost is. It is demonstrated supremely by Christ through His sacrifice on Mount Calvary on our behalf. **Forgiving:** A rattle snake, if cornered, will sometimes become so angry it will bite itself. That is exactly what the harboring of hate and resentment against others is like, a biting of oneself with deadly poison. We think we are harming others in holding these ill feelings and hate but the deeper harm is to ourselves. When Moravian missionaries first went to the Eskimos, they could not find a word in their language for forgiveness. So they had to create one. This turned out to be "**ISSUMAGIJOUJUNGNAINERMIK**". It is a formidable looking assembly of letters. But is an expression that has beautiful connotations for those who understand it. It means "**not being able to think about it anymore**". This is the beauty of forgiveness that flows from agape.

A professed believer who is down on fellow Christians does not love according to God's standard of loving. When a Christian hates or despises or is bitter toward another brother or sister in Christ, he mentally commits murder. A person controlled by the Holy Spirit will manifest the fruits of love and forgiveness. Let us look at our life, if we hate someone, if we are bitter toward them, if we resent them, we are definitely 100 % carnal. When we allow sin to control us, we appear no different than non-Christians. Absence of love for fellow Christians is an indication of absence of fellowship with God. A loveless believer cannot commune with God who in His very essence is love adapted. He who can't forgive others destroys the bridge over which he himself must pass.

Communion: The world will judge us and the Church by how our fraternal love is manifested. One of the factors that caused the 1st century Church to grow rapidly was the oneness and selfless love of the saints. Church father Tertullian (AD 200) quoted the heathen saying about Christians, '**see how they love one another; see how they are ready even to die for one another**'. He saw this as a great factor in causing people to believe in Christ. We have been called to proclaim the love of Jesus both in word and deed. What is our standard? Let us immerse ourselves into Christ to be bathed in the true love of God. Being illumined through this spiritual bathing, we may progress from carnal Eros and rational Philos to **sacrificial and sanctifying Agape**. Let us initiate this from self, journey through altruistic fellowship and destined in divine bliss. Therefore, **Please Love, for Love Gives Life.** †

REBUILD MY CHURCH

by Kelly Flaherty, Guanellian Cooperator

Much of the world watched with horror when, on the first day of Holy Week, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was devoured by flames. Indeed it was a moment of great sorrow for the Church and the world, such a treasure of antiquity revered for its architectural and spiritual wonder. But as we know, this Church is not alone in devastation to its structure. Churches all over France, Africa, and many other places are being vandalized and desecrated.

My mind goes back to a time and place where there was another church in ruins. It was in the early 1200s when a young nobleman named Francis had paused to pray before the crucifix in the wayside chapel of St. Damian's below Assisi. He heard a voice saying, "Go, Francis and repair My house, which as you see is falling into ruin." We know this as the beginning of the work of the 'poor man of Assisi,' St. Francis, founder of the Friars Minor. His reputation for poverty, generosity and call to repentance soon gained him followers including, in 1212, the first woman, St. Clare a young heiress of Assisi. This motley band of mendicants did more than just repair a few broken down buildings, they truly inspired the Church to repent and live the Gospel.

In today's post-Christian society, I think we need to ask ourselves what could be behind the motive to 'rebuild Notre Dame.' On the surface it seems very necessary to repair the historic structure, adding to it the story of new architectural wonders and accomplishments with the great advances in building technologies of our day. The creativity and ability of the designers, builders and workers are sure to astound us. We will all look with awe and wonder upon the way they were able fix it. But I also think we need to be sure that we are not missing the point that maybe we don't need to put all of our treasures into earthly vessels. This earthly vessel housed many of our Church's revered treasures: art, relics, sacramentals.

In these moments of pain for our French brothers and sisters, and all those who call Notre Dame their spiritual home, we pray for them, that especially they do not lose hope in the love of God. Let us also keep in prayer our Christian brothers and sisters around the globe who live in fear to even go into their spiritual homes for fear of persecution or death just for doing so, for on the day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday many lost their lives in Sri Lanka when at least 9 bombs hit Catholic churches and area hotels. Nearly 300 people lost their lives.



Rebuild Notre Dame? Rebuild other Christian Churches around the world? Absolutely! But let us not forget to rebuild the church in our hearts. Let us return to a more simple, sacramental life. Let us live the faith we profess in everything we do and say and everywhere we go. Let us make our rebuilding efforts noticeable by all whom we encounter; inspiring others to rebuild the churches of their hearts too. Let the greatest commandment be the personal goal of each one us, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt 22,37-39). †

Reflections on Through the Year with Thomas Merton by Dr. James N. Phillips, Jr., Guanellian Cooperator

"MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

In the Confraternity of Prayer we are children seeking help. I particularly like Fr. Thomas Merton's prayer above, most specifically the sentence, "But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you."

In this sentence we have faith that a good and loving Father will hear us. We are called to pray without ceasing as St. Paul reminds us and Fr. Merton adds the dimension of uncertainty in our faith journey that only faith, a belief will overcome! Lord, "I do believe, help my unbelief" as it is said in the Gospel.

The Prayer to St. Joseph reminds us that when we pray think of the little ones, the suffering and dying!

O St. Joseph, foster-father of Jesus Christ and true spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the suffering and dying of this day!

And remember the words of Fr. Merton, "But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you" and the words of the Gospel, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" Amen. †





Strictly connected to the Eucharist is the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion that Father Guanella cultivated since his youth. The Sacred Heart of Jesus reveals a fundamental aspect of Guanellian spirituality: the Heart of Christ is the origin and example of the merciful love of God for the poor. "As an apostle of the Eucharist, Father Guanella chose the Sacred Heart of Jesus as protector of his work. Since he knew that daily material and spiritual graces would be abundantly showered from the Divine Heart upon his Houses, he wanted his followers to draw the strength, power of sacrifice, enthusiasm, and tenderness of Christian charity from that same Holy Heart."

Father Beniamino Giacomini, SdC wrote "I believe that a characteristic of Father Guanella's admirable

life is his unlimited love and trust in the Heart of Jesus in the Eucharist, from which the Works of Divine Providence had their beginning and life.

It is for this reason that Father Guanella decided to build the church of his House in Como, he dedicated the new temple to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There he was buried, and there today we venerate his incorrupt body. According to the wishes of the Founder, that church was built to be the center of the Sacred Heart devotion, a place of supplication for public and private needs, a temple of Eucharistic Adoration, a place where people would go to implore graces and comfort; a place where we should go as the source of inspiration for our life; a place where we look for the strength to carry out our loving service to the poor.

It is for this reason that Father Guanella named his priests and his Brothers "Sons of the Sacred Heart". He changed the name later on to "Servants of Charity" because another Congregation already carried that name. The reason was that the Servants of Charity had "to unite themselves to the charity of the divine Heart". That bond of charity had to be the unifying bond among them and the source of their patience toward the neighbor entrusted to them.

The doctrine of Father Guanella on the Sacred Heart could be easily found in his writings, especially in his book "The Month of Fervor", a collection of sermons that he had prepared for the month of June, traditionally dedicated to the Heart of Jesus. To Father Guanella the Sacred Heart was and is the source of our love and charity. To his Servants of Charity he wrote in their 1910 Regulations, "The admirable Pope (Pius X), who tirelessly governs us, cries like the apostle Paul that it is necessary to *Instaurare omnia in Christo*, that is, to renew and establish everything in Christ. In order to restore people and their work, we must fulfill the desire of the Divine Heart, Who, appearing in the form of an immense light of fire, cries out: 'I have come to light a fire of Charity on the earth. How I wish the blaze would be ignited in the hearts of men!' May the light of truth come down from heaven to scatter the darkness of error! May the fire of heavenly charity descend and stop the plague of vice! The members of the Institute on their part should understand this very well, and firmly, knowledgeably and indefatigably put forth their hands to promote the kingdom of Charity. †

(Excerpted from "**Prayer and Suffering: The Legacy of Father Louis Guanella**" by Father Tito Credaro, SdC)

Know When to 'Say When' by Dr. James N. Phillips, Jr., Guanellian Cooperator

The statement, 'say when' is used when a decision has to be made when choices are available. Sadly however many have lost the ability to 'say when', especially in many non-profit organizations. Non-profit organizations experience the clash between two perspectives, that of the volunteer and that of those who rely on volunteer support.

A dilemma occurs when the volunteer can't say no and those that use volunteer support can't temper their use of the volunteers. This is a common occurrence for churches, scouts, and any volunteer-based communities. In organizations whose mission is of the heart, volunteers tend to wear their support on their sleeves.

So when a nexus occurs between the volunteer and those who need them there is also an increased likelihood of burnout of the volunteer and an over reliance on individual volunteers by those who rely on them. Edward Everette Hale wrote the following poem to address this dilemma,

I am only one,
but I am one.
I can't do everything,
but I can do something.
The something I ought to
do, I can do.
And by the grace of God,
I will.

Most volunteers want to help and will often give more of their time, talent, and treasure. The dilemma occurs because the volunteer can't 'say when' (self regulate) and the user of volunteer services can't say no.

The answer is to know when to 'say when', when enough is enough and any more is too much.

So when is 'when' in 'say when'? Here are some ways to know when: only do what you want to do, or what you are good at! Always look at your life circumstances that may regulate what you can accept! Come clean early when it appears you are over your head! Remember doing something you love is important and valuable, however when you can't regulate your volunteering, burnout is close behind!

So remember that while you can't do everything, you can still do something, and know when to 'say when'.

FATHER GUANELLA'S CHARISM: SPRINGBOARD OF HOLINESS

From the spirituality and heart of Father Louis Guanella blossomed two beautiful flowers of holiness publicly recognized by the Church.

Blessed Clare Bosatta

Dina Bosatta was born on May 27, 1858 in Pianello Lario, Italy, where Fr. Guanella became a pastor. She grew up under his spiritual leadership. Silently and deeply she absorbed his faith and love for the poor. In Pianello, she joined a fledgling congregation that would become the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence founded by Fr. Guanella. She became a contemplative in action and took the name of Clare. Sister Clare's life became a story of obedience, sacrifice and contemplation.

At the direction of Fr. Guanella, in the spring of 1886, Sister Clare and a small delegation left to establish their new mission at Como. Clare modeled Christ Crucified in sacrificing everything for others. She served Christ in the poor and lived under extreme conditions to the point of exhaustion. She returned to her home in Pianello and died at the age of 29. She was declared Blessed by John Paul II, on April 21, 1991. Blessed Clare Bosatta, DSMP, is the small mystic flower in the Guanellian Garden of Holiness. †

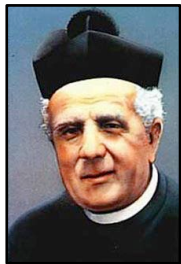
Venerable Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini

Born in Lavertezzo, Switzerland on November 8, 1873, Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini was the first pastor of the Basilica of St. Joseph in Rome-Trionfale. He succeeded Saint Louis Guanella in the leadership of the Congregation of the Servants of Charity and in 1917 was appointed Bishop of Lugano, Switzerland.

Fr. Bacciarini first led the Congregation and then the Diocese of Lugano during a politically and spiritually troubled period for the Church and Europe. A man of mystic orientation, he balanced his life and leadership between courageous decisions and a deep life of prayer. He embodied in his life the Guanellian motto to "Pray and Suffer" continually for his people, especially the poor. By the time of his death on June 27, 1935, Bishop Bacciarini had completely restructured the Congregation of the Servants of Charity and the Diocese of Lugano toward a path of success. On March 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the report of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, and decreed the heroic virtues of Bishop Bacciarini be publicly declared and recognized him to be "Venerable." †

(Excerpted from *Father Louis Guanella: Samaritan Priest* by Juan Bautista Aguado)

Prayer to St. Louis Guanella



O St. Louis Guanella, apostle of charity, you spread the treasures of your heart to the poor and suffering, whom you dearly loved, in a world filled with hatred and selfishness. Obtain for us from Divine Providence an ever increasing love for God and our neighbors. Obtain for us also the favor we are asking for... and the grace of final perseverance. Amen

Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
St. Louis Guanella, pray for us!

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