

THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS' NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 1

January - February 2018

FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...



Dear Guanellian Cooperators,

New Years Day keeps us close to Christmas as we celebrate the Holy Family and look forward to the Epiphany. The presents are tucked away and at our house the Christmas tree remains because we also celebrate Orthodox Christmas on January 7, Рождество as it is called in Russian. Try telling our son, Jack, that there aren't two Christmas days!

By now, most of us are back to reality enjoying the routine we created. As Guanellian Cooperators, we have received the spirit of charity and hope and have experienced the evangelical experience which characterizes and

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From Our President - 1, 2
Guanellian Mission Principles - 1
From our Spiritual Advisor - 3
A Reflection on Linus in A Charlie Brown's Christmas by Dr. James N. Phillips, Jr. - 4
On the Feast of the Epiphany by St. Louis Guanella - 5-7
The Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord - 8
Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children - 9
St. Francis de Sales - 10
The Story of the Conversion of St. Paul - 11
St. John Bosco, Apprentice of Fr Bosco - 12, 15
International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking - 13
The Story of the Chair of St. Peter - 14
Prayer to St. Louis Guanella - 15
Cooperators' Leadership Team - 15



Looking for something else?



If there are other topics you would like included in the newsletter, please contact Sharon Pignanelli at (pignansh@umich.edu).

GUANELLIAN MISSION PRINCIPLES

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

(From Our President ... continued from page 1.)

gives credence to our relationship with God and to our relationships to the poor. Remember, we have received the spirit as the gift of the Lord to the Church and as its precious inheritance. The spirit as a gift is precious.

(<http://www.piousunionofstjoseph.org/guanellian-cooperators/>)

Happy New Year! Now is the time to take a chance and edit our routine to include the vows we publicly expressed. Let's each consider another way to create a relationship with the poor through our outreach. Please share your inspirations with me. ✚

Blessings,

Ken Klovski

JANUARY - FEBRUARY EVENTS

1/1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1/7 - The Epiphany of the Lord

1/8 - The Baptism of the Lord

1/22 - Day of Prayer for the
Legal Protection of Unborn
Children

1/24 - Feast of St. Francis de
Sales

1/25 - Conversion of St. Paul the
Apostle

1/31 - Feast of St. John Bosco

2/4 - Anniversary of the Death
of Mother Marcellina Bosatta

2/8 - International Day of Prayer
and Awareness Against Human
Trafficking

2/14 - Happy Birthday to Fr.
Amal

2/14 - Ash Wednesday

2/22 - The Chair of St. Peter the
Apostle

2/25 - Anniversary of the
Anointing of the Sick for

2018 Guanellian Meetings

It has been a very cold and snowy winter so far and **we will not be meeting in January**. The leadership team will be using this time to plan events for February and beyond. Stay warm!

THE
VIRGIN
AND CHILD
(THE
MADONNA
OF THE
BOOK)
SANDRO
BOTTICELLI



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
- JANUARY 1

Hypocrisy Hurts the Church by Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

If you wish not to damage the Church and others, be truthful and never hypocritical. Pope Francis gave this recommendation during his daily morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta a couple of weeks ago, while speaking to a group of pilgrims from the United States. He warned that hypocrisy isn't the language of Jesus, nor of Christianity.

Drawing inspiration from the Gospel, where some Pharisees and Herodians tried to ensnare Jesus in his speech, the Holy Father observed: "The hypocrite always uses language to flatter." Jesus, Pope Francis reminded, uses the word "hypocrite" often to describe the doctors of the law, because, as their title illustrates, they claim to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case, they give opinions and issue judgments, but are false.

Hypocrites, the Holy Father warned, always begin with adulation, exaggerating the truth, feeding into one's vanity. However, Pope Francis underscored, Jesus makes us see reality which is the opposite of hypocrisy and ideology.

Pope Francis underscored that, as we see with the doctors of the law in the Gospel, flattery is triggered by bad intentions. The Holy Father warned that they had put Jesus to the test, flattering him first and then asking him a question with the intention of making him err, namely that: "is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Pope Francis stresses that the hypocrite is two-faced, but Jesus knew their hypocrisy. Jesus always responds to hypocrites and ideologists with reality: everything else is either hypocrisy or ideology. In this case Jesus said: "bring me a coin", and he answered with the wisdom of the Lord: "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." The reality was that the coin carried the image of Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.

The language of hypocrisy, Pope Francis also said, is the language of deceit, the same language the serpent used with Eve. While it starts with flattery, it ends up destroying people. It tears to pieces the personality and the soul of a person. It destroys communities, Pope Francis stated.

Warning all Christians who at times are hypocritical, Pope Francis stressed how problematic this sin is for the Church. The hypocrite is capable of destroying a community. While speaking gently, he ruinously judges a person. He is a killer, Pope Francis said.

Pope Francis concluded, giving two pieces of advice: Respond to flattery only with truth, and respond to ideology only with reality and prayer. Pope Francis concludes his talk: "Let us ask the Lord to guard us from this vice, to help us be truthful, and if this is not possible to keep silent, don't ever to be a hypocrite." †

I wish I thought this up but I didn't, recently I was reading on theblaze.com a story by David Urbanski, about Linus and his solo on "a Charlie Brown's Christmas". You know Linus, the one who carried around a security blanket and who was Lucy's little brother, yep that Linus. Like you, I have watched "A Charlie Brown's Christmas" for years and never noticed what Urbanski pointed out.

A Reflection on Linus in 'A Charlie Brown's Christmas' by Dr. James N. Phillips, Jr., Guanellian Cooperator

Near the end of the program, Charlie Brown is on stage and cries out, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" to which Linus replies, "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about." Then Linus goes to the middle of the stage and recites St. Luke's Gospel 2:8-14:

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

During the recitation of St. Luke's gospel, Linus gets to the point in the gospel where the angel said to the shepherds, "Fear not", and at that point Linus drops his security blanket. It is a small, yet powerful gesture undertaken by Linus as he never lets his blanket go! You see Linus lets go when the angel says there is nothing to fear. So what blankets do we hold that we ought to let go if we only trusted in Him.

As we pass through Christmas and Epiphany and move back into Ordinary time we mustn't forget what Christmas is all about. Perhaps the greater lesson of Christmas was that which was proclaimed to the Shepherds by the angel, to "Fear not". As Linus let his security blanket go, we too can let go of our earthly fears and security blankets and trust in Him who tells us to "fear not" and provides us a heavenly security blanket. †

IT IS CHRISTMAS EVERY TIME YOU LET GOD LOVE OTHERS THROUGH YOU.
ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

On the Feast of the Epiphany by St. Louis Guanella

A happy wish

1. During this season people exchange greetings, visit one another and express to one another I do not know how many messages of good wishes. I, on my part, express to you my own good wishes as well, yet I do so with simplicity. I have only one word to say to you. Before explaining it to you, let us at least give a thought to the feast we celebrate today.

Out of an excess of love the Lord said: "Let there be light!" and there was light. In an excess of love God created man. In an excess of love he redeemed him. Behold the infant Jesus still in the manger. With the pity of his wails, he calls for the love of the most far away peoples. In Chaldea there were three illustrious personages who wore kingly crowns. Tradition says that their names were: Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. One was caucasian white, the second was bronze color, and the third one was African black. They represented the three races of human kind.

Pious tradition also says that our personages not only were rich, but they were also learned. In fact, studying the splendor and the truth of the stars, they came upon a heavenly vision in the skies. There was a virgin mother, a chaste spouse and a child in their midst. No doubt. An angel appears to them and says: "Set out, for the Messiah and Savior is going to appear." The Gospel says that a star appeared with a marvelous trail of light, willing to lead them. They then, had their camels and dromedaries ready. They brought along the gifts they were going to offer: gold, myrrh, frankincense. They were accompanied by a retinue of servants, and there they went on a journey for six months through the deserts of Arabia until they reached Jerusalem. But here the star disappeared. Thus they turned to King Herod. Herod questioned the priests who answered: "It is written that the Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem." If he is born, I will have this child savior killed, before he might grow and become the king in Palestine." Concealing his perturbation, he dismissed the kings saying to them: "Please when you have found the Messiah and savior, report it to me so that I may go and offer him homage too."

The magi left and the star reappeared outside Jerusalem and led them to the house in Bethlehem. Upon entering the house, they saw Joseph and Mary who came to meet them and the infant Jesus lying in the crib. They prostrated themselves and spoke to the Lord those words that faith and love stirred in their hearts. Then they offered their gifts with great love. But suddenly an angel appeared to them and said to them: "Did you not realize that King Herod is planning to kill the child? It is better that you set out and return to your countries taking a route other than the one you have followed so far." Those wise men adored the mysteries of God and promptly departed. They brought the good news of the Savior to their own regions and became the preachers of the Messiah. Years later, the Lord called them to himself. Their bodies honored the city of Milan for many years. Now they may be seen in Cologne, a crowded city in Germany.



Shrine of the Three Kings and Purported Reliquary,
Cologne Cathedral, Cologne, Germany

(continued on page 6)

(On the Feast of Epiphany *continued from page 5)*

Let us now come to our point. I promised you a good wish, Here it us: love God. Listen to the discourse the Lord addressed to each of us: "With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you." (Jer 31:3) Here you have my wish for you: love the Lord; if you love God, heaven will grant you all the other blessings of wisdom and holiness which your worldly friends come around to wish you so pompously in words but with minor power of affection.

2. The famous sculptor Michelangelo went to a marble quarry and enjoyed looking at it. Then he arranged to have a huge block taken out, which he looked at and examined with great interest. "From this," he said, "I will draw out a statue of Moses, and I want it to be a beautiful one." He put his hands to the chisel: he started the work and completed it. Here he had the statue of Moses before his eyes. He saw in it the historical personage with thundering authority. He seemed to find in it a ray of light from heaven illuminating the features of the face. It was a wonder-worker returned to life. Without taking his eyes away from the lips of Moses, Michelangelo raised his hammer and hitting the statue on the knee, said "Speak!" What a great affection did the famou artist show for the work of his hands!

The Lord did not look outside of himself as Michelangelo did. God searched within himself with a penetrating eye, as the eternal thought of God is and said since everlasting centuries: "The moment will come and I, in the fullness of time, want to give life to a creature capable of loving me." So he thought about the mind, the heart, the spirit and the body of the human being he was going to create, and ever since the farthest eternity he began to love with divine love me and the person of each of you and of all. It has been a love for so many centuries, is it not fair that we love him with lively affection in every period of time in this miserable life? Let us love the Lord: here is my joyful wish.

3. At times it happens that a husband, forced by necessities of life, has to leave his pregnant wife and move to a far away country. Months later he receives the news that he has become the father of a charming child. How much does the heart of that man rejoice! All along he works harder and harder, diligently figures out how to save and expands his attention as to be able to put together a bundle of money that can guard him against the frightening shadow of destitution. The child grows, reaches the age of reason and with delight listens to those who talk about his father. Finally, one beautiful day, a beloved personage comes home: "Here is your father, here is your father!" The father embraces the son and the son embraces the father. Quickly the father opens up his little treasures and shows them to him saying: "If you knew, my son, how much these cost me, yet seeing you and being able to provide for you makes me extremely happy!" The son, then, exclaims; "Who could ever believe that the love of a father would do so much?" And goes back to his father in a moset tender embrace.

My brothers and sisters, do you leave the Lord who is your father in order to love others instead of him? Not only for the past seven years or seven centuries has God loved you. He has loved you since eternity. Go and find friends who have loved you without knowing you, or parents who have loved you so much without seeing you! I say it again, this is a joyful wish:let us all love the Lord.

4. Look once again at the attentions which a father uses so that his child may benefit afterwards. The dear father not only provides means of sustenance, but he even thinks about giving his child a wise teacher. With equal care he sees to it that his child grows healthy and robust in his body.

(continued on page 7)

(On the Feast of Epiphany *continued from page 6*)

There is a letter in the alphabet that, repeated three times gives the best one can ever long for here on earth. This letter is S, that stands for *sanctity, science, soundness of body*. Sanctity helps in perfecting the Christian entity of a religious individual. Science helps in perfecting the intellectual faculties of an individual. Soundness of body perfects the development of the physical body. What else can a father wish for his children better than that? Parents are pleased with their child if he is healthy, they are satisfied with him if he is knowledgeable, they are comforted when he is holy. Fortunate is that parent who, employing all his cares, is able to obtain that his child grows rich with these qualities!

The Lord, who is infinite wisdom and love, *ab eterno (since eternity)* planned to give to each of all of us all those means of sanctification with which he has provided us abundantly through the mystery of human redemption. What do you say about it? Today the infant Jesus calls around himself all the nations on earth to bless them. Oh, that the Lord may bless us always, that he may bless us all! Let us love our God because it has been so long a time that he loves us!

5. What pity God has for us! Let us consider the affection a father shows for a child of his who is sick in body, or sick in his mind, worse still evil in his heart. What a pity for a child like this! How much compassion in taking care of those wounds, how much patience in enduring those insanities, how much bounty in bearing with those strains! Yet what is there that the heart of a father does not endure?... What is there that God does not tolerate for our sake? How blind our mind is! And how many wounds are in our heart, and how many blame-worthy infirmities in our body! Still God knows how to regard us with indulgence and benefit us.

There was a magnificent king who, upon encountering a miserable leper on the public square, took care of him. Once the leper was cured, the sovereign invited him to join him in his royal palace. What would you think of such great generosity? Yet much more generous is the Lord, who today calls all human beings from the square of the most dismal sin, idolatry, to lead them back to himself to take posts of honor in the kingdom of the Church of Jesus Christ.

By inclination, we tend to love those who love us, and to respond to those who benefit us. Let us love the Lord more than all others and let us respond to Him, because there is no one who loves us more and benefits us more than God. This is the wish that I exchange with all my heart with each of you: love the Lord! Pray yourselves to obtain for me this blessing from heaven; it is the most abundant one for a priest, the most cherished one for the faithful.

REFLECTIONS

1. *A happy wish; love the Lord.*
2. *Love him because he loved us since eternity.*
3. *And since eternity he distinguished each of us, to love us.*
4. *He planned so many means of salvation to show His love for us.*
5. *The Lord regards so many frailties of ours with indulgence to save us. †*

(This homily is from the book *Oh Father! Oh Mother!* published by the Servants of Charity.)

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JANUARY 8

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.


In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."



Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. †

(Information in this article is from www.catholicculture.org.)





DAY
OF
PRAYER
FOR
THE
LEGAL
PROTECTION
OF
UNBORN
CHILDREN

JANUARY 22

The over 56 million abortions since the 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* reflect with heartbreaking magnitude what Pope Francis means by a “throwaway culture.” However, we have great trust in God’s providence. We are reminded time and again in Scripture to seek the Lord’s help, and as people of faith, we believe that our prayers are heard.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”: “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”

A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 100 ✝

(Information in this article is from www.usccb.org.)

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
1567 - 1622
JANUARY 24

Francis was destined by his father to be a lawyer so that the young man could eventually take his elder's place as a senator from the province of Savoy in France. For this reason Francis was sent to Padua to study law. After receiving his doctorate, he returned home and, in due time, told his parents he wished to enter the priesthood. His father strongly opposed Francis in this, and only after much patient persuasiveness on the part of the gentle Francis did his father finally consent. Francis was ordained and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, then a center for the Calvinists. Francis set out to convert them, especially in the district of Chablais. By preaching and distributing the little pamphlets he wrote to explain true Catholic doctrine, he had remarkable success.

At 35, he became bishop of Geneva. While administering his diocese he continued to preach, hear confessions, and catechize the children. His gentle character was a great asset in winning souls. He practiced his own axiom, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar."

Besides his two well-known books, the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *A Treatise on the Love of God*, he wrote many pamphlets and carried on a vast correspondence. For his writings, he has been named patron of the Catholic Press. His writings, filled with his characteristic gentle spirit, are addressed to lay people. He wants to make them understand that they too are called to be saints. As he wrote in *The Introduction to the Devout Life*: "It is an error, or rather a heresy, to say devotion is incompatible with the life of a soldier, a tradesman, a prince, or a married woman.... It has happened that many have lost perfection in the desert who had preserved it in the world. "

In spite of his busy and comparatively short life, he had time to collaborate with another saint, Jane Frances de Chantal, in the work of establishing the Sisters of the Visitation. These women were to practice the virtues exemplified in Mary's visit to Elizabeth: humility, piety, and mutual charity. They at first engaged to a limited degree in works of mercy for the poor and the sick. Today, while some communities conduct schools, others live a strictly contemplative life.

(Information in this article is from www.franciscanmedia.org.)

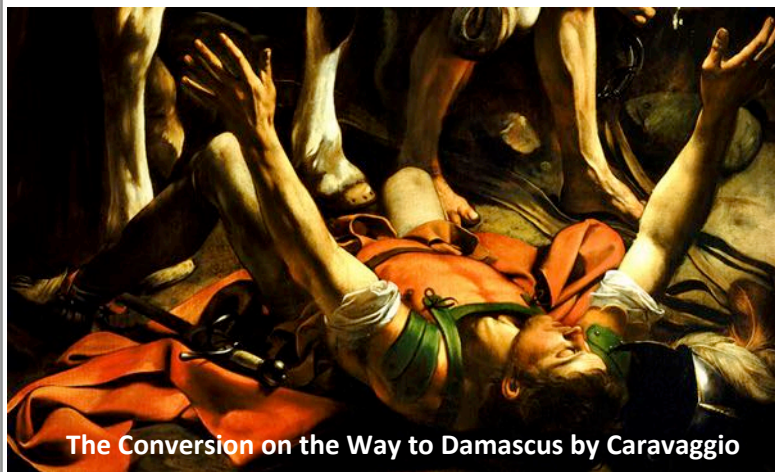


Editor's Note: St. Francis de Sales died more than 200 years before Fr. Guanella was inspired to form his own schools and congregation. Fr. Guanella greatly admired his work and often looked to St. Francis de Sales' spirit and model for guidance when setting up his own organizations. Both men were devoted to serving the needs of the youth around them.

THE STORY OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

JANUARY 25

Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never



The Conversion on the Way to Damascus by Caravaggio

seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.

One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul's great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more "works" than the Law could ever contemplate.

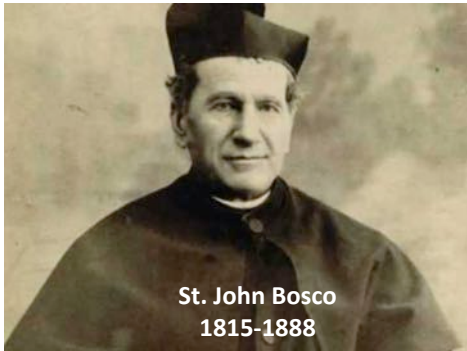
Reflection

Paul is undoubtedly hard to understand. His style often reflects the rabbinical style of argument of his day, and often his thought skips on mountaintops while we plod below. But perhaps our problems are accentuated by the fact that so many beautiful jewels have become part of the everyday coin in our Christian language. †

(Information in this article is from www.franciscanmedia.org.)

ST. JOHN BOSCO JANUARY 31

John Bosco's theory of education could well be used in today's schools. It was a preventive system, rejecting corporal punishment and placing students in surroundings removed from the likelihood of committing sin. He advocated frequent reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. He combined catechetical training and fatherly guidance, seeking to unite the spiritual life with one's work, study and play.



Encouraged during his youth to become a priest so he could work with young boys, John was ordained in 1841. His service to young people started when he met a poor orphan and instructed him in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. He then gathered young apprentices and taught them catechism.

After serving as chaplain in a hospice for working girls, John opened the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales for boys. Several wealthy and powerful patrons contributed money, enabling him to provide two workshops for the boys, shoemaking and tailoring.

By 1856, the institution had grown to 150 boys and had added a printing press for publication of religious and catechetical pamphlets. His interest in vocational education and publishing justify him as patron of young apprentices and Catholic publishers.

John's preaching fame spread and by 1850 he had trained his own helpers because of difficulties in retaining young priests. In 1854, he and his followers informally banded together, inspired by Saint Francis de Sales.

With Pope Pius IX's encouragement, John gathered 17 men and founded the Salesians in 1859. Their activity concentrated on education and mission work. Later, he organized a group of Salesian Sisters to assist girls.

(Information in this article is from www.franciscanmedia.org.)

Editor's Note: The following story describes the relationship between SS. Bosco and Guanella.

Apprentice of Fr. Bosco

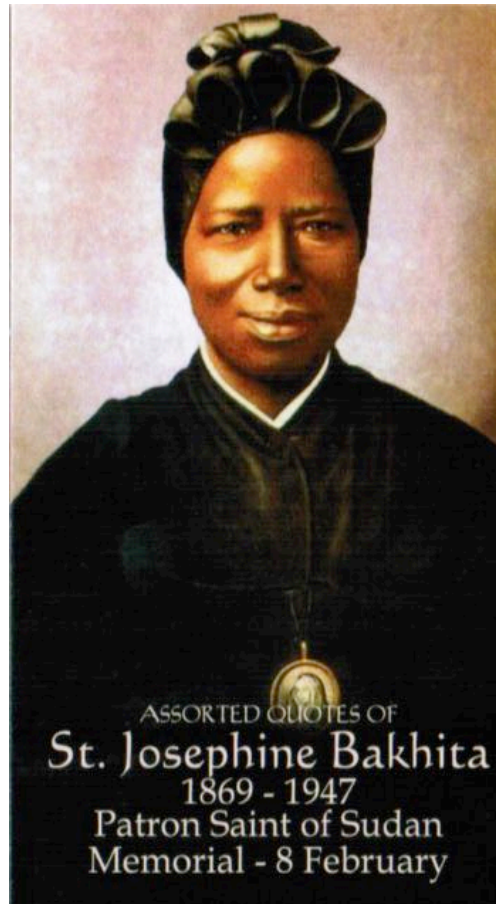
The city of Turin, because of that mysterious bond that draws the saints into one family, had become for Don Guanella like the Gospel city set on a mountain. The Piedmont city was known for the works of charity of Cottonlengo, but also for the apostolate of John Bosco. Turin held within the same womb, the sinister malice of the masonic family set against the Church and the ardor of charity of Cafasso, Faa' di Bruno and Murialdo along with Cottolengo and John Bosco.

Meanwhile, the political authorities placed a cloud of suspicion over the life of that revolutionary priest; like a fox hunted by huntsmen. Don Guanella no longer had enough space for his apostolic action, while his spirit cried out "it is better to obey God than man". For these reasons, he decided to leave Savogno and to go to Turin and be accepted among the Salesians of John Bosco.

(Continued on page 15)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FEBRUARY 8



The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

On February 8, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to host or attend prayer services to create greater awareness about this phenomenon. Through prayer, we not only reflect on the experiences of those that have suffered through this affront to human dignity, but also comfort, strengthen, and help empower survivors. †

(Information in this article is from www.usccb.org.)

THE STORY OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

FEBRUARY 22

This feast commemorates Christ's choosing Peter to sit in his place as the servant-authority of the whole Church.

After the "lost weekend" of pain, doubt, and self-torment, Peter hears the Good News. Angels at the tomb say to Magdalene, "The Lord has risen! Go, tell his disciples and Peter." John relates that when he and Peter ran to the tomb, the younger outraced the older, then waited for him. Peter entered, saw the wrappings on the ground, the headpiece rolled up in a place by itself. John saw and believed. But he adds a reminder: "...[T]hey did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead" (John 20:9). They went home. There the slowly exploding, impossible idea became reality. Jesus appeared to them as they waited fearfully behind locked doors. "Peace be with you," he said (John 20:21b), and they rejoiced.

The Pentecost event completed Peter's experience of the risen Christ. "...[T]hey were all filled with the holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4a) and began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamation as the Spirit prompted them.

Only then can Peter fulfill the task Jesus had given him: "... [O]nce you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32). He at once becomes the spokesman for the Twelve about their experience of the Holy Spirit—before the civil authorities who wished to quash their preaching, before the Council of Jerusalem, for the community in the problem of Ananias and Sapphira. He is the first to preach the Good News to the Gentiles. The healing power of Jesus in him is well attested: the raising of Tabitha from the dead, the cure of the crippled beggar. People carry the sick into the streets so that when Peter passed his shadow might fall on them.

Even a saint experiences difficulty in Christian living. When Peter stopped eating with Gentile converts because he did not want to wound the sensibilities of Jewish Christians, Paul says, "...I opposed him to his face because he clearly was wrong.... [T]hey were not on the right road in line with the truth of the gospel..." (Galatians 2:11b, 14a).

At the end of John's Gospel, Jesus says to Peter, "Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go" (John 21:18). What Jesus said indicated the sort of death by which Peter was to glorify God. On Vatican Hill, in Rome, during the reign of Nero, Peter did glorify his Lord with a martyr's death, probably in the company of many Christians.

Second-century Christians built a small memorial over his burial spot. In the fourth century, the Emperor Constantine built a basilica, which was replaced in the 16th century.

Reflection

Like the committee chair, this chair refers to the occupant, not the furniture. Its first occupant stumbled a bit, denying Jesus three times and hesitating to welcome gentiles into the new Church. Some of its later occupants have also stumbled a bit, sometimes even failed scandalously. As individuals, we may sometimes think a particular pope has let us down. Still, the office endures as a sign of the long tradition we cherish and as a focus for the universal Church. †

(Information in this article is from www.franciscanmedia.org.)

(Apprentice of Fr. Bosco continued from page 12.)

It was evening in January of 1875 when Don Bosco welcomed him with an invitation, "Let's go to America!"

The time was not yet ready in the book of life. It would be written that in North American, forty years would pass before Don Guanella and his sisters would be welcomed. The poor of Latin America would have to wait even longer before seeing Don Guanella's priests at their side.

The Salesian experience with Don Bosco lasted three years. The "saint of youth" wanted Don Guanella to remain forever a Salesian and to be part of the first mission in South America. Instead Don Guanella dreamed of an institute like that of Don Bosco in his diocese. "His heart," he wrote later, "would have felt a void for his whole life if he had abandoned the idea of remaining near to the poor of his own place of origin".

The years from 1875 to 1878, were three fruitful years not only for Don Guanella, but also for the Salesians. In those years, in fact, the constitutions of the Congregation were approved and the Salesian co-operators were put together. Don Guanella was given the responsibility of writing the first draft of the constitutions. A seminary for adult vocations was opened and Don Guanella was the first rector.

(This article was excerpted from the publication *Don Luigi Guanella His Story is Called Hope* by Mario Carrera.)

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!

COOPERATORS' LEADERSHIP TEAM

President: Ken Klovski
(kenklovski@yahoo.com) or
734-260-7791

Vice President: Sharon Pignanelli
(pignansh@umich.edu)

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Rich Hollo
(richardhollo@aol.com)

Trustee: Don McDevitt
(dmcdevitt9500@gmail.com)

Trustee: Stephanie Kopf
(sjkopf@frontier.com)

Trustee: Jim Phillips
(jnortonphillips@gmail.com)

Spiritual Advisor: Fr. Joseph
Rinaldo, SdC (frjoe@stlouiscenter.org)