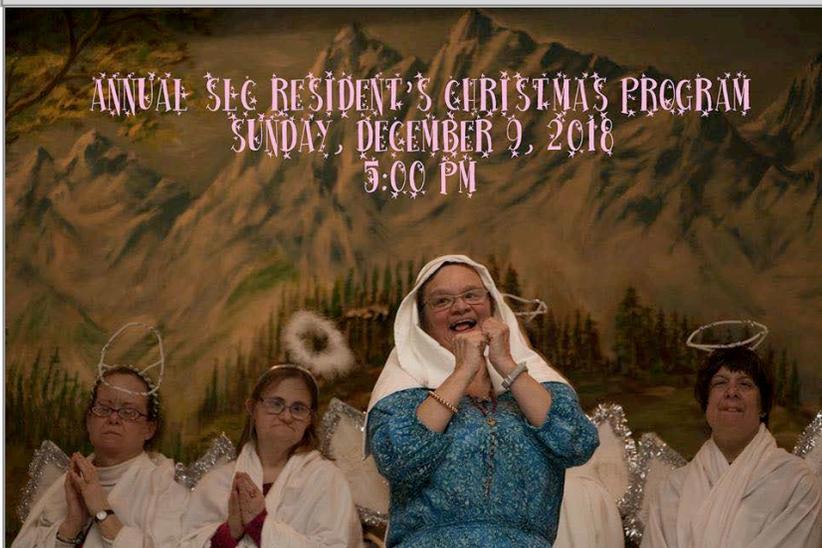


# THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS' NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 5

December 2018 - February 2019

## WHAT'S COMING ...



Share the joy! Play begins at **5:30 PM**, 12/9 at SLC

## DECEMBER - FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 12/1 - Women's Retreat at Pious Union
- 12/8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 12/8 - Feast Day of Fr. Amal
- 12/9 - Resident's Christmas Program at St. Louis Center
- 12/13 - **Birthday** of Fr. Joe
- 12/19 - Birthday of St. Louis Guanella
- 12/20 - Anniversary of the Baptism of St. Louis Guanella
- 12/21 - Anniversary of the Ordination of Fr. Joe
- 12/25 - The Nativity of the Lord
- 1/24 - Feast of St. Francis de Sales
- 1/31 - Feast of St. John Bosco
- 2/4 - Anniversary of the Death of Mother Marcella Bosatta
- 2/14 - **Birthday** of Fr. Amal
- 2/28 - Anniversary of the Anointing of the Sick for Blessed Clare Bosatta

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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

Advent and St. Joseph by Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

Every year, as soon as the Christmas season is in the air, my mind automatically goes back to Sr. Agnes, my one and only teacher for the first five years. She was a mother, a teacher, a holy woman and a nun. Preparation for Christmas



was like preparation for Easter, and she took it seriously. Advent has significance because it is a season of looking forward and waiting for something greater: both for the annual celebration of our Lord's birth and for the time when Christ will come again.

We prepare ourselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the Incarnate God of Love. We make our souls dwellings fit for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through a life of Grace. We make ourselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.

To accomplish all this, Sr. Agnes hammered a few points in our minds and our souls: some spiritual practices for a successful Advent Season. I remember some of them: attend Mass frequently; receive Our Lord frequently and spend time in Adoration; recite the Holy Rosary with the joyful mysteries; go to confession to clean your soul and prepare your heart to receive Jesus; place an Advent wreath at your dining table; have a personal prayer talk with the baby Jesus; yes, He talks and listens; He is God even if still a baby; set up a crèche in your house.

Then we were taught to add a personal touch to the coming of Jesus. My name is Joseph and therefore I had to prepare myself to be in the company of St. Joseph. Not an easy task. St. Joseph had his personal problems and divine solutions. But I learned plenty, especially from him: "Joseph, be not afraid!" Only God knows how often I recite this prayer!

Of all men, Joseph was chosen to be the husband of Mary, the foster father of Christ, the guardian of the Redeemer and the head of the Holy Family. Therefore, we can rightly say that he is blessed among men.

The Gospel relates God's Annunciation to St. Joseph. While Joseph was pondering over what he should do, the Angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and explains how Mary conceived and who the Child is: He is Christ the Redeemer.

(continued on page 3)

(Advent and St. Joseph continued from page 2)

Joseph, the just man, obeys God. He asks no questions. He simply believes and trusts in God. Because of his belief he was obedient and humble. Joseph accepted his role as husband and father. He provided a home for his family; he supported and protected Jesus and Mary. Sr. Agnes wanted me to imitate St. Joseph's humility and to accept God's will without complaining. In doing so, she insisted, I would experience true peace and joy. Therefore, let us ask St. Joseph to prepare us for receiving the Baby Jesus as he did. Let us ask him to make us simple and pure of heart so that we will experience the love for the baby Jesus as he did. †



*In switching on the light of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus.*

*Pope Francis*

# PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

BY ST. LOUIS GUANELLA

## *A flower of devotion to Mary*

Let us go in spirit to the holy temple in Jerusalem. A venerable elderly man, holy and just, is reading through the Sacred Bible. Each time he reflects on the content, deepens the concepts while his heart is overwhelmed with desires and affection. Lo and behold the Virgin Mother comes over to him carrying the baby Jesus. Simeon hastens his steps and stretches his arms. He received Jesus in his arms. Then, raising his eyes aloft, he exclaims: "Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed displayed for all the people to see; a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel." Holy old man, how admirable you are in your aspirations! We want to imitate you.

Simeon read and meditated on the great mystery of the virgin who would give birth to the Savior and was greatly comforted by it before he died. We, too, let us read and reflect on the same adorable mystery. This is the flower of true devotion to Mary. Let us hasten, since it is too important for the salvation of our soul to find a way to please Mary.

We can please a friend in two special ways. Firstly, by appreciating as much as possible in our mind our friend's virtues. Secondly, by urging ourselves to love our friend with greater affection.

This is how a child does toward his mother. He observes her features, remembers her smiling face, observes her dignified demeanor. Then he attempts to penetrate the mysteries of a mother's heart, the love of a parent which seems to be limitless, the providence of a mother that reaches out to everything, then her virtues of patience and consistent prayer that make her resemble an angel of piety. But above all, a well-bred child remembers the tenderness of her motherly love, remembers the celebrations, the times of honest relaxation; he remembers also the days of sorrow. Ah, how much does the heart of a child burn with affection by reflecting on all these events!

Likewise our thoughts and affections must be toward Mary. Let us imitate the gifts which this mother and incomparable virgin received by divine preference, let us consider the immense affection she has for us, besides all the numberless benefits she brings to us.

This exercise of good reflection is very necessary. We cannot love something we do not know. Likewise we cannot know unless we apply our mind to something through study and meditation. Through pious meditation our heart is lifted up. God in his goodness adds to it his inspirations and enlightenments that are very effective in giving us his powerful assistance. The heart is like a baby who doesn't know anything; the intellect is like a child who knows little. There is a need for the light to come down from heaven, which is granted because of the power and merit of attentive meditation. Let us, then, meditate upon the privileges of the Virgin Mary, let us consider the love she has for us. This is excellent milk to nourish in us the devotion to Mary. The bees that lay on flowers for a longer time are the best ones. Our souls will become so much dearer the more eagerly they will rest on the flowers of the holy virtues of the Virgin Mary.

*(continued on page 5)*

(Purification of the Blessed Virgin *continued from page 4*)

To pious meditation we have to add pious reading. Let us pick the best writings among the many which discuss the glories of Mary. Let us recite them with great vigor, as we do with an exquisite food, taking in as much of it as we can digest, so that as the material food becomes flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood, so the good reading may become part of the thoughts of our mind, may enter the affections of our heart and may multiply the vigor of our soul. A child who is well fed and educated in many occasions has grown to become an excellent king, an unconquered pope, an illustrious saint, who eventually saved scoreless numbers of other people. How beneficial will it be to us to read and know about the virtues and love of our Blessed Mother Mary!

They say that Christopher Columbus had read a book by Plato, named *Timeus*, where the philosopher discussed how a land previously attached to our continent separated from it because of unusual earthquakes. It was referred to as the Atlantida. Fascinated by that, Christopher Columbus decided to search for it and ended up discovering what we call today the Americas, which have poured out so many riches upon Europe.

Like Christopher Columbus, read a book on Mary. You will find in it admirable information on the virtues and assistance she gives. Invoke her name and immediately a pious emotion will stir your heart. Take care of this good affection, because from it strong and firm resolutions may flow that, carried into action, might turn you to become beacons of light to other Christians, and a source of your personal satisfaction. You will be one day glorious candidates for paradise. There you will look to the Virgin Mary with exultation and will say: "Because of you, O Mother, we are saved." In saying so, you will immerse yourselves into the blessedness of God and will be happy forever.

### REFLECTIONS

1. *The milk of true devotion to Mary is found in meditating upon and reading about her virtues*
2. *Through meditation the heart is illuminated, the intellect is instructed, and one receives light from above.*
3. *Through reading one learns good principles, which eventually produce most abundant riches of heavenly treasures. †*

(This is one of St. Guanello's homilies from the book "Oh Father! Oh Mother!")

*"Have patience with all things but first of all with yourself."*

St. Francis de Sales

Feast Day is January 24

## Catholic History by Dr. James N. Phillips, Jr, Guanellian Cooperator

God bless our priests and all in religious life. From the first Apostles to the parish priest at the local church, we are indeed fortunate to have them. But do we really know why we are fortunate and what they have done for us, rather God's Church?

So what does your parish priest have to do with this? Everything. Twenty-first century Roman Catholics and in particular those in the western world (the US and particularly Europe) seem to have lost their identity as Catholics. Yet we don't know our story, our history! Our priests are descendants from a long line of churchmen who have built and strengthened the Catholic Church.

For many of us we have taken the parish priest and all in religious life for granted, not intentionally, but as if they were always there. Of course, we are thankful for the immediate needs that the priests satisfy such as Eucharist and Reconciliation, but we don't know much about what the Catholic Church has done in the grand scheme of humanity since St Augustine, (about 400's AD).

I just finished a rather insightful book titled *Heroism and Genius*, by Fr. William J. Slattery. In this book he didn't emphasize the spiritual aspect of the church, rather he lifted up the aspects of the church which were and still are important. The Catholic Church was uniquely positioned to evangelize just because the Roman Empire declined! Before the time of the decline, the Church was transforming from a persecuted church to a favored religion by Emperor Constantine (300's AD).

After the fall of the Roman Empire (470's AD) it was the Catholic Church that backfilled the necessary infrastructure to support the peoples of Europe. The Irish Monks and Anglo-Saxon Monks (600-800's AD) helped tame and then built up western Europe.

It was the Catholic Church that lived out the beatitudes by clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and so on during this time. It wasn't as if they had extensive lay ministries, what the Church had were men, priests and monks, and women, nuns all on fire for God! It was these men and women who devoted themselves to the service of the Church in ministering to God's people.

In the 800's Charlemagne was made Holy Roman Emperor and protector of the Catholic Church. During that time universal education was started in the Catholic Church and was available to all, boys and girls; illiteracy was being addressed. In higher education, universities sprung up all over Europe in the search of Truth (1100-1200's AD). These universities didn't just teach theology, they also taught the sciences and the arts, all for the Good, the True and the Beautiful.

So what can we do as Catholics? Know our history! We have much to be proud of! Matthew Kelly, evangelist and author, says that there is Genius in Catholicism, but how do you know what Genius is unless you study and reflect on our faith and learn from our history. God values history as he introduced His Son into time, to history, so we may better know our story by knowing His story. (continued on page 7)

(Catholic History continued from page 6)

God chose the Catholic Church as its means to spread the Gospel to all Nations. Each Catholic generation must recall its past to gain strength for the journey in the future! God is with us, who can be against us. So when we read, study, and share, we do it as community as God intended! And lastly, support your priest, help him to be the best priest he can be; our One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church depends on it. †

## DREAM CRUISE II

On September 13, 55 supporters of St. Louis Center boarded the Azamara Quest in Rome and set sail for an 8 night trip around the bottom of the boot of Italy. Among this group were several Guanellians whose smiling faces you may recognize in the picture below. Blessed by good weather and the opportunity to attend daily Mass offered by Fr. Enzo we took in the sights and savored the local culture and delicacies in Amalfi, Italy; Taormina, Sicily; Corfu, Greece; Kotor, Montenegro; Hvar, Croatia; Koper Slovenia; and Venice, Italy where we disembarked. It was great way to get better acquainted with members in our group many of whom we had met briefly at other St. Louis Center functions.

Not only did we have a wonderful time but thanks to Azamara Cruise Lines and Cathy Bilinski of Smart Depart Travel, \$30,000 was raised to benefit St. Louis Center, not including additional donations made by other individuals. So if you hear talk about a Dream Cruise III, be sure to check it out! It is a wonderful way to enjoy yourself while supporting a great cause.



# Advent Women's Retreat

Saturday,  
December 1st  
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Day will include:

- Talk
- Mass at 11:30 am
- Lunch will be provided
- Priests available for Confession
- Adoration

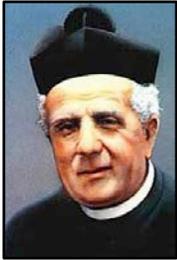
*Please join us at Pious Union of St. Joseph  
953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240*

*Please join us on Wednesday, December 19  
at Pious Union  
in remembrance of the birthday of St. Louis Guanella*

*Mass at 8:30 AM  
Followed by Exposition and Adoration  
Benediction at 4:30 PM*



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

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

Kelly Flaherty (kellyf@stlouiscenter.org)

Rich Hollo, Treasurer  
(richardhollo@aol.com)

Ken Klovski (kenklovski@yahoo.com)

John Koepeler, Secretary  
(jckengr@hughes.net)

Fran Koepeler (mommersk@hughes.net)

Kathi Neuman (kathineuman@hotmail.com)

Norm Neuman (nneuman@msn.com)

Stephanie Kopf, Liaison to Pious Union  
(sjkopf@frontier.com)

Irene Kranick (ikranick@yahoo.com)

Jim Phillips (jnortonphillips@gmail.com)

Sharon Pignanelli, Newsletter  
(pignansh@umich.edu)