

THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS' NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 2

March - April 2018

FROM OUR PRESIDENT ...



Dear Guanellian Cooperators,

March brings forth mighty winds and freezing rains as we thunder toward the last days of winter. We are famished for the Resurrection and continue to remain faithful to our fast from soda, pizza, shopping, or any vice we offer for God's grace and our penance. Perhaps, it may be time to reexamine penance choices and offer up one or more things. Jesus please save me from my sins. Why not make a pledge to incorporate more prayer, more almsgiving, more sacrifice into our days and evenings.

Lent is our walk to the Resurrection and during our journey we must pass through the Holy Week. Palm Sunday brings great joy as Jesus returns to Jerusalem to be recognized as our Savior and King. But as the week progresses we are drawn to accompany our Lord and receive the Last Supper - His most precious Body and

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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

(From our President continued from page 1)

Blood. We are bound to help Jesus carry His cross to His death on Good Friday. And as we await Easter we continue to prepare to celebrate His Resurrection and renew our baptismal vows.

Happy Easter to All!

In Him,

Ken Klovski

NEWS FROM PIOUS UNION

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8
Mass - 10:00 am
3:00 Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
Music, Chaplet & Confession
4:00 Benediction



In February, the **Pious Union of St. Joseph** will begin sharing an email offering a **Midweek Reflection**. Reflections will be quotes from the Bible or by Saints offering you a moment of reflection in the midst of your week.

Interested in receiving the weekly reflection to your inbox? Please share your email address with **Kelly Flaherty** at kellyf@stlouiscenter.org.

MARCH - APRIL EVENTS

- 3/1 - Feast Day of Fr. David
- 3/17 - Feast of St. Patrick
- 3/19 - SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH**
- 3/19 - Feast Day of Fr. Joseph
- 3/24 - Founding of the Servants of Charity in 1908
- 3/25 - Anniversary of the Anointing of the Sick for Blessed Clare Bosatta in 1887
- 3/25 - Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord**
- 3/28 - Death of Fr. Leonardo Mazzucchi in 1964
- 3/29 - Holy Thursday**
- 3/30 - Friday of the Passion of The Lord**
- 4/1 - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**
- 4/ - Cooperators' Meeting
- 4/8 - Anniversary of St. Louis Guanella's First Holy Communion and Apparition of the Blessed Mother in Gualdera in 1852
- 4/8 - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**
- 4/9 - SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**
- 4/20 - Feast Day of Blessed Clare Who Died in 1887
- 4/21 - Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Clare in 1991
- 4/25 - Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist**
- 4/30 - Feast Day of St. Joseph Cottolengo

Tuesday, April 3rd
7 PM

St. Louis Center
(beginning in the Chapel)

Important general membership meeting to discuss the future of the organization.

We need to hear your voice - please try and attend!

The Road to Recovery by Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

I met Cruz on a sidewalk in Detroit begging for money: she was addicted, hungry and homeless. I convinced her to enter a residential program where she would be treated with dignity and love. She accepted. I drove her with the promise of visiting her as often as I could. Cruz spent three years trying to get around that mandate as she stayed stuck in the disease of addiction. Not until she finally gave up faking it, got honest with herself and got into recovery did she make any progress. The two-word requirement fundamental to sobriety is rigorous honesty.

Cruz grew up in a rough part of East Detroit, MI, where her drug addiction was almost inevitable. She lived in the drug world and she inherited the genetic brain disease. At age 13, her drug was marijuana and she got hooked on cocaine at age 18. By the time she was in her forties she lost everything, including her four children. Cruz moved away to get a new start, but she found out that her disease came with her. Between 2001 and 2007, she spent three years in jail for committing crimes to buy drugs. She wasn't a good criminal, because she always got caught.

In jail, for the first time, she wanted to be sober. In 2014, she entered Our Hope, the women's recovery home in the Heritage Hill district of Grand Rapids. That's when she first tried to get honest. She told her therapist, "I was afraid of my feelings, so I buried

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(The Road to Recovery continued from page 3)

them with anger and drugs." Cruz stayed sober in a Recovery Roadhouse for six months before disaster struck. The father of her children went to prison for dealing drugs, and since she didn't have custody of them, her four children were given up for adoption. She lost all hope and went on a two year binge. Then her children's father got out of jail, and Cruz got pregnant. In November 2016, she delivered a healthy baby girl who was taken away from her in the hospital.

When Cruz was discharged, she went straight to a drug clinic, where they gave her a second chance at Our Hope. She said God, too, gave her another chance to be the good mother she always wanted to be. This time at Our Hope the counselors insisted Cruz had to get rigorously honest with her feelings if she wanted to stay sober. Finally Cruz understood that she was the problem. "Before when I was hurt, I used. When I was angry, I used. When I was sad, I used. When I was happy, I used." Our Hope taught her how to be emotionally honest, the *sine qua non* of recovery. Our Hope's program also led her out of the chaotic life her brain disease created into the structured, orderly days she leads now. Cruz has a job, lives in the Catholic Community's first Step House, has a sponsor, a recovery coach, and best of all, sees her seven month old daughter whose foster mother has cared for her as her own child.

Cruz dreams of having her older children back in her life one day. She prays, "They will want to find me and see me as the good mother I always wanted to be for them. I never thought God would let me be a mother again. Now by God's grace, I have another chance." †



Easter Egg Hunt

The staff at St. Louis Center has begun a tradition of hiding multicolored small plastic eggs filled with treats outside for the residents to find on Easter. Last year the residents enjoyed hunting for some 300 eggs and the small treasures they held such as candy, small hot-wheel cars, stress balls, stretchy toys or a \$1 bill.

Staff already has the small plastic eggs so all they need are the goodies to fill them with. This is an easy way for the Cooperators to support the needs of the residents at St. Louis Center. So if you are inclined, **just drop off your donations at the Center at 16195 Old US 12, Chelsea by Wednesday, March 28.** This will give the staff time enough to fill the eggs and hide them. Your reward will be the smiles you bring to all those sweet faces!

Mary Gives Jesus to Us by St. Louis Guanella

Let us rejoice once again, let us rejoice always with Mary. On this very day she earns being able to give to earth a gift of infinite value, Jesus Christ, the author of grace and all good. Listen to how it happened. The Blessed Virgin was praying with the piety of all heavenly angels so that men on earth may be saved. Suddenly the angel Gabriel appeared to her in human features and said, "Blessed are you among women, because from you the Savior will be born."

Since Mary became troubled by the angel's words, the angel continued, "Do not fear, because the offspring to be born will be the result of the work of the Holy Spirit." The Virgin bowed to the heavenly will. She praised the power and mercy to God and said, "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me as you say." At this moment the eternal Word descended from heaven and, without ceasing to be true God, began to live as a true man, in the most pure womb of the Virgin.

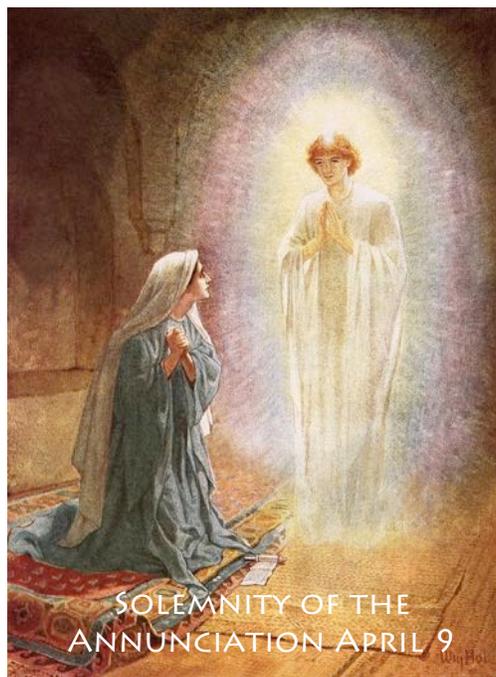
What a wonder! It is the loftiest miracle seen by heaven and earth. Let us take a look with our feeble mind and let us find out how grateful we should be to Mary for giving Jesus Christ to us.

Imagine a land with no sun, with no light and covered with ice for six months of the year, as is the land of Greenland. Look at the unfortunate inhabitants: how they move around like shadows of death! Ah, if only a vibrant sun would rise over the land as happens in the most beautiful part of our country!

Imagine now that human beings with Adam's sin in their heart were even worse than the unfortunate land of Greenland. Everlasting night in their mind, cold from six glacial centuries in their heart. Worse still, absolute inability to do any work of good! Miserable, miserable, without God humankind was the slave of Satan, a cruel tyrant and a liar as well!

But now we are free. Blessed Mary has saved us. Blessed be the Virgin who has given us Jesus. The divine Savior drove the kingdom of Satan out of this world. He welcomed us as His subjects into His sweet kingdom, as children of His chosen family and we are saved!

Imagine that Moses' mother knew that her child would grow and become the savior of the entire nation, that he would lead it through the desert by so many wonders to the conquest of the beautiful land of Canaan. Surely the good mother would have employed all attentions possible in rearing him well, and how much gratitude would all peoples have shown to such a mother!



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(Mary Gives Jesus to Us continued from page 5)

Yet Mary knew that she was the other of the Savior. She consented to be so on this day so dear to us. How grateful should we be to her? We should show her a love proportionate to the great love with which she was willing to give Jesus, that is Savior, to the world!

See here with how much love she gives Him to us. Mary concurs in giving Jesus a heart that is most apt to become sad and sympathize with the misery of poor sinners. In return she receives from Jesus, along with a great heart, an ineffable power to care for us. As Mary gives Jesus to us now, one day she will give Him to us on Mt. Calvary. As Jesus is the true Son of God, so He is the true Son of Mary. Thus she too, had to consent to the fact that Jesus was going to be sacrificed. As a matter of fact, she consented and even witnessed it, as you well know. What do we draw from this? With no doubt, that since Mary gave Jesus with immense love reason demands that we show our gratefulness to her with the greatest affection.

One more consequence most dear to us is the following: Mary gives Jesus to us with her most passionate love. How much more with equal love will she give to us the graces deemed necessary for us, which she obtains for us from the Almighty with one word of hers? Besides, if we consider it, many are the graces which we have already received from Mary.

Many are the apparent benefits and in larger number are the favors which we are not even aware of. Is a child able to know and appreciate the continuous benefits showered upon him by his mother? He knows very little of them, indeed. At times, he is not even aware of being benefitted. Not with equal love, but with a more intense one by far Mary showers her graces upon us, and we barely realize that we are being favored.

Let us think of that, my brothers and sisters, so that we may be grateful to such a great mother. Blessed Mary gives the Savior to us. Now how can she not obtain from Him the other graces necessary for us to be forever saved? Isn't Mary pious? She, indeed, is the mother of mercy. Isn't she powerful? Very powerful, for she is the mother of Jesus. Blessed be forever the day on which we find Mary. Blessed be forever the Virgin, who gives Jesus the Savior to the world for its salvation. †

This was a homily given by St. Louis Guanella on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and can be found in Oh Father! Oh Mother!

AVE REGINA CAELORUM

This prayer to Our Lady is traditionally associated with the season of Lent.

Queen of the heavens we greet you.
Queen of the angels now we entreat you.
You are the flower and the portal,
From which came the light immortal.
Matchless maiden God did raise you,
For the universe to praise you.
Hear us, O hear us, our Mother;
Show your children Jesus, our brother. Amen

The Jesus Prayer by Sharon Pignanelli, Guanellian Cooperator

Recently, I was reading the book "The Strangest Way" by Bishop Robert Barron. Fr. Barron is an author, theologian and evangelist and currently serves the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as an auxiliary bishop. In his book he describes just how unusual the path to Christianity is and gives his advice on how best to walk it.

When talking about Christian prayer, he describes a prayer emanating from the Hesychast movement in Eastern Christianity where gesture, posture and movement are employed. I found this to be an appropriate addition to my prayer life during Lent and offer it to you here. It is very easy to work into your routine and can be recited once or multiple times in a group, the size of your choosing.

The Jesus Prayer

Breathe in deeply, filling your lungs to capacity while praying
"Jesus Christ, Son of God"

Hold your breath for a second and then exhale completely while praying
"have mercy on me a sinner."

As Fr. Barron explains "The double movement - breathing in and breathing out is thus a sort of cleansing process, a taking in of the Holy Spirit and a letting-go of the unclean spirits."

I hope you will derive as much benefit from using this as I have! ✚

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY IS APRIL 8

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Using Rosary beads, begin with Our Father..., Hail Mary..., the Apostles Creed.

On the large bead before each decade say:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

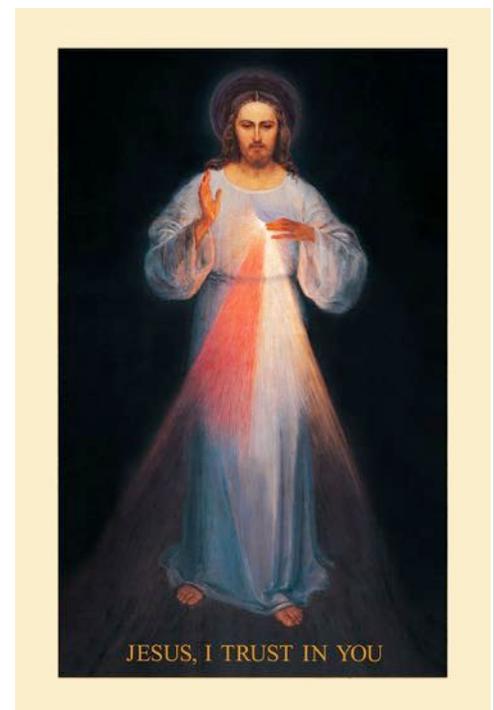
On the ten small beads of each decade say:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

After the last decade, recite the following prayer three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

(From Divine Mercy in My Soul, the Diary of Sister Faustina, Note Book I, page 197.)





BLESSED CLARE BOSATTA
1858-1887
FEAST DAY APRIL 20

Blessed Clare Bosatta by *Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*

At 6:00 pm Wednesday, April 20, 1887, in the parish rectory of Pianello, next to St. Martin Church, Sr. Clare Bosatta died. She was the first of Fr. Guanella's spiritual daughters. She was twenty-eight years old and had expressed only one desire: to die receiving the Eucharist frequently. She was the first and the last Guanellian who unusually died in the house of the pastor. Who would have guessed that the old walls of that rectory, perhaps more than one thousand years old, had given hospitality to two saints in the same season? She was a commoner, pretty much ignored; a life lived far from fame, important people and extraordinary events of history: life and death without particular commotions.

But why then, one hundred-fifty years later, do we still remember the figure of a girl, all but extraordinary, unhealthy and also a little complicated by her timid personality? If her world considered her a person without interest and fame why try to discover hidden qualities? Because the light of God delights in doing great things in small creatures, insisting on lifting up the humble. We also trust Father Guanella's eyes that, when he wrote about Clare in her biography, left an expression that leaves us astonished: "she never stained her baptismal garment." He did not use rhetoric or exaggerations: he was her confessor.

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(Blessed Clare Bosatta continued from page 8)

At the end, the Church assures us that 25 years ago, under the veils of that commoner a princess of the Kingdom of heaven was discovered. In the few words coming from her mouth or from her pen, in the short space of her earthly journey she had assembled an exceptional school to train others in the love of God.

It is absurd to limit Clare to one page or a homily, behind some slogan. Probably it is wiser to look for fragments and start to show them without standardization. Clare did not have much. She was a young woman in a world where only adults made decisions. She was always in poor health, in a world where attention was given only to efficiency. She was confined to a small town on Lake Lario where there was no history. It was difficult to recognize more adverse conditions for anyone who wanted to introduce something special. A careful study of her human journey and her available letters reveal an articulated personality, often introverted, gifted with a strong and emotional dowry. Clare preferred to interact with reality mostly through intuition and empathy. She continually had an eminent sense of others growing up to self-sacrifice. Clare had the natural gift of feeling the souls which permitted her of feeling the inner souls of other people and living them in her own world.

Clare did not have much. Claire had faith. This faith gifted her with an incredible energy which explains her passion of a woman and religious sister in a weak body. It is a true miracle that this girl who grew up miserably along Lake Como, dismissed by the Canossian sisters who judged her unsuitable, had such a strong sense of God. The secret of her journey: God, her house, her friends. She died repeating like a litany the only word that counts for every Christian: "Paradise, Paradise." In Clare's soul lives a simple but complete and balanced theology, born not from books but from a loving intelligence of a believing heart. Paradise for her was the Eucharist, because this is Paradise, to be with Jesus. It doesn't matter if you are understood and appreciated, on the center or at the borders.

SHE DIED REPEATING LIKE A LITANY THE ONLY WORD THAT COUNTS FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN: "PARADISE, PARADISE."

What could have transformed a harsh place, very hard, poor, extremely complicated, like the Mother House in Como at the beginning, into a waiting room of Paradise? Life with Christ. What could have transformed the death bed of a tuberculosis patient, with dry and scorched lips, feeling excruciating pain, often experiencing vertiginous and delirious conversations, waiting for the kingdom? Frequent Communion.

This is the secret power, endless and decisive for all the miracles of a wonderful life that knew daring activities, above her energies. For this reason Clare's mission among her beloved sisters and the poor was love: It came from God, for Him and with Him she projected herself on others' lives. Where God is only an idea, there is the risk of a dry and impious life, where no one is truly loved, even when served. The strong sense of God saves our every action from a show and from functionality: things are done for love, not for success or for show or for necessity, or because someone must do it. †



Most of what we know about Mark comes directly from the New Testament. He is usually identified with the Mark of Acts 12:12. When St. Peter escaped from prison, he went to the home of Mark's mother.

Paul and Barnabas took him along on the first missionary journey, but for some reason Mark returned alone to Jerusalem. It is evident, from Paul's refusal to let Mark accompany him on the second journey despite Barnabas's insistence, that Mark had displeased Paul. Because Paul later asks Mark to visit him in prison, we may assume the trouble did not last long.

The oldest and the shortest of the four Gospels, the Gospel of Mark emphasizes Jesus's rejection by humanity while being God's triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70—Mark's Gospel is the gradual manifestation of a "scandal": a crucified Messiah.

Evidently a friend of Mark—calling him "my son"—Peter is only one of this Gospel's sources, others being the Church in Jerusalem (Jewish roots), and the Church at Antioch (largely gentile).

Like another Gospel writer Luke, Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. Some scholars feel that the evangelist is speaking of himself when describing the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane: "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked" (Mark 14:51-52).

Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains.

A winged lion is Mark's symbol. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists. †

(Information for this article came from www.catholic.org.)

Saint Joseph Benedict Cottolengo's Story

Joseph was the eldest of 12 children. Born in Piedmont, he was ordained for the Diocese of Turin in 1811. Frail health and difficulty in school were obstacles he overcame to reach ordination.

During Joseph's lifetime, Italy was torn by civil war while the poor and the sick suffered from neglect. Inspired by reading the life of Saint Vincent de Paul and moved by the human suffering all around him, Joseph rented some rooms to nurse the sick of his parish and recruited local young women to serve as staff.

In 1832, at Voldocco, Joseph founded the House of Providence which served many different groups (the sick, the elderly, students, the mentally ill, the blind). All of this was financed by contributions. Popularly called "the University of Charity," this testimonial to God's goodness was serving 8,000 people by the time of Joseph's beatification in 1917.



To carry on his work, Joseph organized two religious communities, the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul. Joseph, who had joined the Secular Franciscans as a young man, was canonized in 1934.

Joseph was born at Bra, near Turin, Italy. He was ordained and engaged in pastoral work. When a woman he attended died from lack of medical facilities for the poor in Turin, he opened a small home for the sick poor. When it began to expand, he organized the volunteers who had been manning it into the Brothers of St. Vincent and the Daughters of St. Vincent (Vincentian Sisters). When cholera broke out in 1831, the hospital was closed, but he moved it just outside the city at Valdocco and continued ministering to the stricken. The hospital grew and he expanded his activities to helping the aged, the deaf, blind, crippled, insane, and wayward girls until his Piccola Casa became a great medical institution. To minister to these unfortunates, he founded the Daughters of Compassion, the Daughters of the Good Shepherd, the Hermits of the Holy Rosary, and the Priests of the Holy Trinity. Weakened by typhoid he had contracted, he died at Chieri, Italy, and was canonized in 1934. His feast day is April 30th.✚

(Information for the above article is from www.franciscanmedia.org.)

Editor's Note: In *The Life, the Spirit and the Works of Fr. Louis Guanella* by Fr. Leonardo Mazzucchi, there are many references to the impact that St. Cottolengo had on Fr. Guanella. It is noteworthy that St. Guanella was born the year that St. Cottolengo died, leaving a continuous string of saints to guide their work. Fr. Louis was a great admirer of St. Cottolengo, often imitating his works, and was sometimes called "The Little Cottolengo". He followed the example of St. Cottolengo and St. John Bosco and became a promoter of frequent communion for all despite the general practice of the time. He visited the Institutes of both these men and replicated their models.

The beautiful prayer of St. Patrick, popularly known as "St. Patrick's Breast-Plate", is supposed to have been composed by him in preparation for the victory over Paganism. The following is a literal translation from the old Irish text:

I bind to myself today
 The strong virtue of the Invocation of the Trinity:
 I believe the Trinity in the Unity
 The Creator of the Universe.

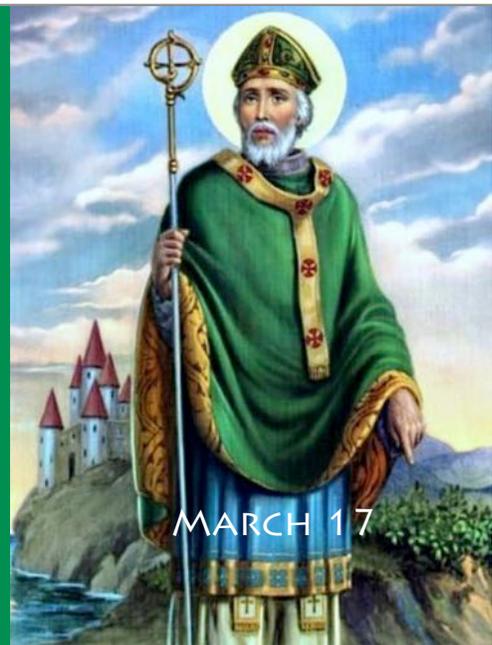
I bind to myself today
 The virtue of the Incarnation of Christ with His Baptism,
 The virtue of His crucifixion with His burial,
 The virtue of His Resurrection with His Ascension,
 The virtue of His coming on the Judgement Day.

I bind to myself today
 The virtue of the love of seraphim,
 In the obedience of angels,
 In the hope of resurrection unto reward,
 In prayers of Patriarchs,
 In predictions of Prophets,
 In preaching of Apostles,
 In faith of Confessors,
 In purity of holy Virgins,
 In deeds of righteous men.

I bind to myself today
 The power of Heaven,
 The light of the sun,
 The brightness of the moon,
 The splendour of fire,
 The flashing of lightning,
 The swiftness of wind,
 The depth of sea,
 The stability of earth,
 The compactness of rocks.

I bind to myself today
 God's Power to guide me,
 God's Might to uphold me,
 God's Wisdom to teach me,
 God's Eye to watch over me,
 God's Ear to hear me,
 God's Word to give me speech,
 God's Hand to guide me,
 God's Way to lie before me,
 God's Shield to shelter me,
 God's Host to secure me,
 Against the snares of demons,
 Against the seductions of vices,
 Against the lusts of nature,
 Against everyone who meditates injury to me,
 Whether far or near,
 Whether few or with many.

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I invoke today all these virtues
 Against every hostile merciless power
 Which may assail my body and my soul,
 Against the incantations of false prophets,
 Against the black laws of heathenism,
 Against the false laws of heresy,
 Against the deceits of idolatry,
 Against the spells of women, and smiths, and druids,
 Against every knowledge that binds the soul of man.

Christ, protect me today
 Against every poison, against burning,
 Against drowning, against death-wound,
 That I may receive abundant reward.

Christ with me, Christ before me,
 Christ behind me, Christ within me,
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
 Christ at my right, Christ at my left,
 Christ in the fort,
 Christ in the chariot seat,
 Christ in the poop [deck],
 Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me.

I bind to myself today
 The strong virtue of an invocation of the Trinity,
 I believe the Trinity in the Unity
 The Creator of the Universe. †

(This information came from www.en.wikipedia.org.)



Joseph, Mirror of Patience by Bishop Povish

Patience is not a favored trait in today's American society, where instant gratification is featured in the media, promised by advertisers, and sought by the young. Children are born without much patience. Traditionally their growth in it is a sign of increasing maturity. "Daddy, are we there yet?" is the typical question of children ten minutes after the family starts out on a journey. The lack of patience in adults on the highways has led to road rage in our times; its lack in front of the medicine cabinet has led to the constant warning, "Use only as directed."

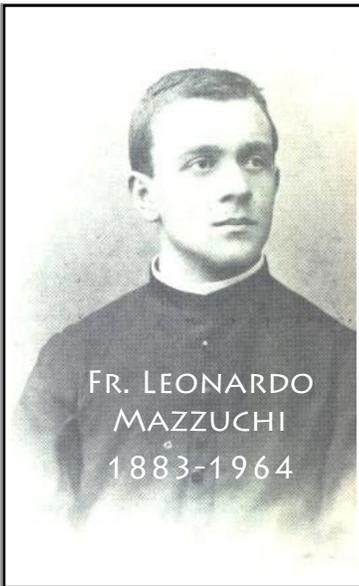
The patience of Job in the Old Testament book by that name has become proverbial in our language. Job is one of the wisdom books; i.e., it is not historical but rather a story that examines the question of why good people sometimes suffer. Job is presented as a very just and holy man who had all the earthly blessings a Jew could imagine and lost them all in a matter of days. His fidelity to God is steadfast and, in the end, all his former blessings are restored many times over.

Patience is a word derived from the Latin verb "patior," meaning to endure or to suffer. It is thus seen as the virtue that enables one to bear suffering, inconvenience, absence, sickness or waiting, even over a long period of time, without rancor and with courage. In his epistle to the Galatians (5,22-23) St. Paul says that patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our Christian lives. In contrast to the works of the flesh, Paul wrote, "the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness and chastity."

In the fourteenth invocation of his litany; we are told that Joseph of Nazareth "mirrored" patient endurance in his life. In other words, look at the life of St. Joseph and you will see the reflection of patience in it. Like Job, Joseph is described in the Gospel as a "just man." Joseph had an earthly blessing greater than anything Job could ever have imagined; the "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God" had been entrusted to his care, grew up under his roof, worked at his side as a youth. Joseph, like Mary, knew that their Boy was destined "to save His people from their sins." But he certainly did not understand much of what this meant. He was faced with one crisis after another in the first years of the Boy's life. And then Joseph disappears from the Gospel account, evidently dying before Jesus began His saving work.

But later, when Joseph's Foster Son was completing His teaching ministry in Jerusalem, He would tell His followers (Lk 21,19) to have confidence because "by patient endurance you will save your lives." That promise had already been fulfilled in Joseph of Nazareth. †

(This article is from the "Litany of St. Joseph" by Bishop Kenneth Povish)



In 1881 Father Guanella was appointed pastor of Pianello. Father Guanella felt obliged to stay close to the Mazzucchi family that experienced so many deaths of their young children, but were also rich in the gifts of nature and grace. In 1883, he baptized their youngest son, Leonardo, somehow becoming his spiritual father.

Leonardo, perhaps under the influence of his older brother Alessandrino, began to show some interest for the seminary. In 1892, though only 9 years old, he applied to the seminary of the diocese of Como where he received First Communion and Confirmation. Father Guanella was his sponsor. From then on, Father Guanella took under his wings the boy who later on became a young seminarian. Leonardo grew up good of heart and quick in intelligence, but unfortunately not so strong in health, an issue that made him hesitant in pursuing a priestly vocation.

Leonardo had a question mark that tormented him for years while in the seminary: should I join Father Guanella in his apostolate of charity that is increasing more and more, or should I choose the more independent diocesan priesthood? Of course Father Guanella, in his heart, wished to have Leonardo at his side; however, he never pressed the matter too far. Leonardo was aware that he had to make a choice sooner or later.

The Spiritual Paternity of Fr. Guanella

Yet, Father Guanella was convinced that the true vocation of his "son" was the Guanellian religious life at his side and at the service of the poor. He saw it from external signs and interior dispositions in Leonardo or that Leonardo himself disclosed to him. However, he never mentioned anything of the kind to him. Only when Leonardo became a priest, Father Guanella openly told him so. In the meantime, the spiritual paternity of Father Guanella was filling in for the paternity of his natural father - who had died when he was 7 - and became a more significant leading presence in his life.

It is clearly expressed in the several letters that Father Guanella wrote to Father Leonardo, who always treasured them with great affection. Father Leonardo, from 1906 through 1915, was to Father Guanella the closest collaborator and confidant, the confrere with whom he shared many vicissitudes, but also the confrere who understood better and more deeply his mind and soul. Father Mazzucchi preserved forever in his heart the memory of the Founder, and the filial relationship of a beloved disciple. When he became his successor in leading the Congregation, Father Mazzucchi never ceased reminding the confreres that Father Louis is a father to whom they should turn and pray.

Finding in him the necessary patience and the right ability, Father Guanella entrusted to him the formation of novices, the editing of the magazine "La Divina Provvidenza", the role of personal secretary and councillor, plus the task to follow the process of beatification of Sr. Clare Bosatta and Catherine Guanella, with an opening to a third one, Alessandrino Mazzucchi, his older brother.

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(Fr. Leonard Mazzuchi continued from page 14)

In 1910, Father Guanella summoned him to be a member of the General Council together with Father Aurelio Bacciarini. Father Mazzucchi took advantage of it for searching the heart of the father to understand his intentions, memories, and projects. He stored in his memory everything, and everything he wrote down. Today, those memories are collected under the Latin title "Fragmenta Vitae" or "crumbs of life" as he loved to call them.

Father Mazzucchi even convinced Father Guanella to write his autobiography whose purpose was to make known to the general public the wonders of the Ways of Providence.

The last years of Father Guanella were marked by trials, not only because of endless difficulties from outside, but also because of difficulties within the Congregation itself. To be approved by the Holy See, the Institute was in need of a certain regular life and unity. That unity had a hard time showing up, however. There was, unfortunately, a minority of influential confreres who were refusing to follow the Founder in his plan to organize the confreres into a religious Congregation with vows recognized by the Church.

Father Mazzucchi inherited the situation. With filial love toward the Founder, he employed all his meekness and firmness in carrying out the necessary religious formation, and in reminding everyone in season and out of season of the figure and the authentic spirit of Father Guanella. He strengthened the Congregation in its religious life and organization until the Institute received its approval from the Holy See. He collected the spiritual and biographical memories of Father Guanella: writings, pamphlets, and correspondence. He wrote the first biography of the Founder, his personal vicissitudes and foundations. He authentically interpreted the Founder, his spirit and charism.

He organized the charitable ministry of the Institute into three major fields: abandoned youth, handicapped, and elderly. He opened the first Houses in South America, just before War World II. He organized the diocesan and apostolic processes for the beatification of the Founder until they were concluded. Those are just a short list of the many undertakings that Father Leonardo had carried out. It is impossible to separate his person and his work from the Founder. We may even identify him as a co-founder.

Toward the end of his life, Father Guanella foresaw that his "son", already grown up and mature, would be called one day to lead the Institute. In fact, the Founder held informal inquiries with other confreres like the general councillor Father Silvio Vannoni who, later on, would become vicar-general of Father Mazzucchi. It was clearly a way to pass on his mission and spirit to him.

In 1946, when the Congregation gathered together to elect a new Superior General, Father Mazzucchi had exceeded any limit permitted by the Rule: 22 years. The new Superior General was Father Luigi Alippi. But Father Leonardo was elected his vicar general, and for many years he continued to work tirelessly for his confreres. The year 1964 had been a year of great joy for the Beatification of Father Guanella proclaimed by Pope Paul VI. It was October. Forty-nine years from his death. It was the day that Father Leonardo longed to see, but he did not see it. Seven months before March 28, 1964 death brought him into eternal life to anticipate the earthly glorification of his old pastor of Pianello, the one who had baptized him, and had become his father for the sole purpose to spread in the world the kingdom of Christ's charity. †

*(Information for this article has been excerpted from **Charitas Volume 226** published by the Servants of Charity.)*

Happy Resurrection Day



This is how we know what love is:
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. 1 JOHN 3:16

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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