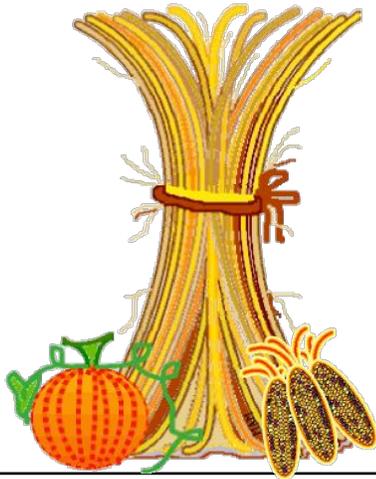


THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS' NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 4

September - November 2018

WHAT'S COMING ...



SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 9/8 - Feast Day of Fr. Franklin
- 9/14 - **Birthday** of Fr. Dave
- 9/14 - Anniversary of the Confirmation of Blessed Clare Bosatta, 1868
- 9/28 - **Birthday** of Fr. Leo Joseph
- 10/4 - Feast Day of Fr. Satheesh
- 10/8 - **Birthday** of Fr. Satheesh
- 10/23 - Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Louis Guanella, 2011
- 10/24 - Feast Day and Anniversary of the Death of St. Louis Guanella, 1915
- 10/25 - Anniversary of the Beatification of St. Louis Guanella, 1964
- 11/1 - All Saints' Day
- 11/2 - All Souls' Day
- 11/10 - Feast Day of Fr. Leo Joseph
- 11/12 - Feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence
- 11/17 - **Birthday** of Fr. Enzo

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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

The Church and Homosexuals by *Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*

A gentleman who calls me his friend, among other questions about the Church asked me: "Isn't the Church's teaching discriminatory against homosexuals?" Not at all.

The Church does not discriminate against homosexuals. It revolves around the distinction between homosexual activity and homosexual persons. First is the Church's belief that Homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. Under no circumstances can they be approved (Catechism, # 2357). The Church also insists, however, that men and women with same sex attractions are valued members of the human family and must be treated with the same respect and love as every other child of God. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. Hatred, persecution, prejudices and ridicule of homosexuals is a grave sin and must always be treated as such.

The teaching of the Church does not intend to offend our homosexual brothers and sisters, and we recognize that for some individuals and their families, especially parents, questions of sexual identity and behavior can be very difficult and emotionally charged. To those individuals and their families we offer our sincere concern and prayerful support. As a society, however, we have to understand the possibility, sometimes the necessity, of loving and respecting their inappropriate or immoral behavior. Parents have to do that with their children once in a while.

What harm is done if the activity is between consenting adults? The fact that two adults consent to an action doesn't make it morally right or socially acceptable. The "harm" is that such reasoning leads us down a very dangerous and permissive slope to the detriment of the common good and the spiritual impoverishment of the individuals involved. After all, two consenting adults can engage in drug use, prostitution, polygamy or other immoral activity. In other words, the determination of the morality of an action is found in the act itself and not in the consent of the people involved.

Same sex unions affect the family. We should recognize that in every culture and society throughout the ages traditionally defined marriage, as a stable union of one man and one woman, has been normative and has been given protection and respect. The definition of the family's identity is a priority. Such marital and family stability does not only depend on the good will of concrete persons; it takes on an institutional character of public recognition by the State. The recognition, protection and promotion of this stability contribute to the general interest, especially of the weakest, that is the children.

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(The Church and Homosexuals continued from page 2)

It undermines the special status afforded to marriage in every society and culture. In other simple terms, marriage as traditionally defined has always been a privileged institution, and that distinction should be recognized, preserved and applauded. Accepting other personal unions as equivalent to marriage undermines the special status afforded to marriage in every society and culture.

Examples of this point: in the classroom if all the students routinely get an "A" on their report card, the work of the real "A" student is devalued. In the Olympics, if everyone receives a gold medal, why bother competing? And if every intimate relationship between consenting adults is marriage, then marriage is nothing. †

UNDER THE WINGS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

from the book entitled "Father Louis Guanella, A Priest from the Mountain, Father of the Poor, Portrait of a Saint"

Louis Guanella was born on December 19, 1842, in Fraciscio di Campdolcino, surrounded by beautiful and rugged mountains that were to accompany him from childhood to the hardships of life. His parents were Lorenzo Guanella and Maria Bianchi, a rural family of which Louis was the ninth of thirteen children. Among his childhood companions a special place was reserved for the Rabbiosa torrent that flowed at the foot of the village; with Caterina, his favorite sister, he would go out not far from the house and make mud pies in bowls, playing at "*making soup for the poor.*"

When he was seven years old, Louis had a vision which was almost a prediction of the path he was to follow throughout his life; near the parish church of Campdolcino, an old man appeared to him and asked him for the sweets he had in his hand, then disappeared. This vision made him panic and filled him with regret. It was to remain a secret which he only spoke of many years later, toward the end of his life on earth.

In the spring of 1852, on the day of his first Communion, in the solitude of the heights of Gualdera, he had another vision. This time it was of the beautiful Lady, Our Lady, who spoke to him and recommended that he devote his life to the needy.

In 1854, at the age of twelve, he left Fraciscio and went to the Collegio Gallio in Como where he studied for six years. Although he was later to speak with gratitude of his teachers and professors, he spent his first period at the college nostalgic for the mountains and his birthplace. At the end of his secondary education, he entered the diocesan seminary at St. Abondio to study philosophy. This was followed by theological studies at the Major Seminary.

On May 26, 1866 Bishop Bernardino Maria Frascolla of Foggia, condemned by the Italian Government to compulsory residence in Como, ordained him a priest and exhorted him "with words of fire" to be courageous and enterprising. Years later in his booklet "*Il Montanaro,*" referring to himself, he wrote that his plan on that solemn day was to "*be a sword of fire in the holy ministry.*"

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(Under the Wings of Divine Providence continued from page 3)

A few days later he celebrated his first Mass in the Church of S. Maria Assunta in Prosto, in the presence of his parents, brothers and sisters; the following year (1867) he was sent to carry out his priestly duties in Savogno, a small village at an altitude of about one thousand meters in the mountains of the Valle Bregaglia.

In 1875, he asked the bishop, and obtained permission to join Fr. John Bosco in Turin from which he acquired "an experience useful to his own projects." Don Bosco entrusted him with various responsible tasks and would even have liked to send him on a mission to Latin America but Fr. Louis was too focused on his desire to work for the people of his valley, to found his own institute, and he regretfully declined the offer from the Turin saint.

When he left the Salesians he returned to his diocese and was sent by the bishop to Traona, a village in the lower Valtellina; there he was parish vicar for three years and, in 1880, opened a college for the poor children of the valley. Unfortunately, his project was opposed by both the archpriest and the Prefect of Sondrio and the following year he was forced to close it.

After this experience, which must certainly have been traumatic, in August 1881 the bishop asked Fr. Louis to go for a while to the parish of Olmo, a tiny village in the Valle S. Giacomo. Here Fr. Louis spent months in loneliness and suffering, in interior purification and in prayer while waiting for Providence to show him which path to take in order to create some kind of institution, for which he felt soundly called by God.

In fact, in the autumn the bishop appointed him administrator of the Parish of Pianello Lario, where he remained for nine years and initiated his charitable works. The early days, however, were not the easiest; he found himself up against a wall of diffidence, "*A worry kept on bothering me: are you on the right path or off it? (...) I was not believed.*" A group of young consecrated women had founded a home in the village for the elderly and for abandoned children, with the support of the parish priest Fr. Carlo Coppini, who died earlier that year. Fr. Guanella wanted to take it over but the consecrated women were prisoners of prejudice, "He is a hot-head! Be careful!" With time, their initial diffidence changed into an ever more decisive and confident collaboration. This group also included two sisters, Clare and Marcellina Bosatta, the foundation stones of his charitable institutions. With them, Fr. Louis was to begin his mission to help the poor, the sick elderly and poor children. "*The hour of mercy*" had struck at last.

From Pianello Lario in April 1886 a small group of sisters and patients left for Como to open the House of Divine Providence on Via Tommaso Grossi, which is still the pulsating heart of the Guanellian Institute. And from Como the Institute branched out in many other institutions: in Lian, in the Veneto region, in Romagna, in Switzerland, in Pian di Spagna at the northern-most tip of Lake Como. There, in a center he called Olonio S. Salvatore, he established a home and an agricultural workshop for the "buoni figli," good sons, as he affectionately called the mentally disabled.

In 1902, he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and, while traveling between Lebanon and Galilee, he prayed that one day his works could put down roots there too, in the land that had been the theater of Our Lord's life.

When he returned to Italy, he set about obtaining approval from the Holy See for his Congregations and for the extension of his institutions. It was his dearest wish to

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reach Rome and, thanks to favorable coincidences disposed by Divine Providence to which he trustfully abandoned himself, his dream came true. In 1903 he entered the agricultural colony of Monte Mario. A few years later, in 1907, he acquired a part of the former convent attached to the Church of S Pancrazio on the Janiculum Hill and opened an institute for elderly women and "buone figlie," good daughters, which he dedicated to his great friend and protector, Pope St. Pius X. Also supported financially by the Pope, he settled in the crowded district of the Trionfale in 1909, where he built a church in honor of St. Joseph and began educational works.

1908 was an important year because with other confreres he made his first religious profession, thus founded the Congregation of the Servants of Charity, although the official approval from the Holy See didn't come until a few years later, in 1912. In that same year (1908) he obtained the approval he hoped for the women's Congregation of the Daughter of St. Mary of Providence from Rome.

Welcoming the calls of Providence, he opened institutions in southern Italy, at Ferentino, near Frosinone, at Laureana di Borello in Calabria and in Valtellina.

In the winter of 1912 he undertook a difficult voyage to the United States to prepare several institutions for the care of Italian immigrants and the following year he sent the first group of his Sisters there. Three years later he rushed to the rescue of earthquake victims of Marsica, in the Abruzzo mountains. In the Church-Shrine of S. Giuseppe al Trionfale, with the approval of St. Pius X, he founded the Pia Unione del Transito di S. Giuseppe, an association of believers who were given the task of praying that the dying might encounter death serenely. It was *"the crown of his Works."*

In September 1915 he was unexpectedly struck by paralysis from which he would not recover; these were his last days but his mountaineer's spirit gave him the strength to encourage his confreres and his Sisters to work unsparingly, *"Charity in all things...It cannot finish as long as there are poor people to save and needs to be cared for...The whole world is your homeland!"*

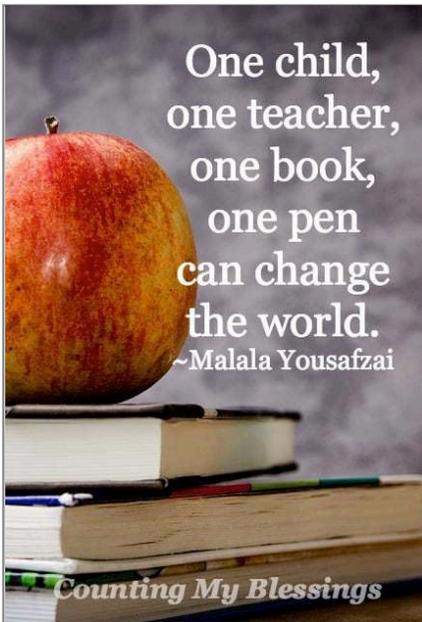
On October 24, 1915 at Como, Fr. Louis Guanella ended his days on earth and returned to God, under the wings of whose Providence he had compliantly and with firmness of intent, walked step-by-step as a true son of the mountains.

He was raised to the honors of the altar and beatified by Pope Paul VI on October 25, 1964 and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 23, 2011. †

Feast of Our Lady of Divine Providence

November 12, 2018





As you organize, prep, and purchase for the new school year nothing you do is more important than adding a covering of prayer. For many praying for their children and grandchildren is second nature, but praying for teachers and friends is equally important. As is praying for God-given wisdom for ourselves as we guide our kiddos through the educational obstacle course.

PRAY FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS TO HAVE THE BLESSING OF:

1. Friendship – Relationships are a big part of school. Pray that teachers will have a supportive and encouraging group of friends. That your children will make friends who make good choices and encourage them to be themselves. And that you will make friendships with some of the parents of your children's friends who value relationships over comparisons.

*Those with wild friends bring shame to their parents.
Proverbs 28:7*

Father, it's that time of year again. We're going back to school. Please prepare the minds of everyone involved in the learning process. Please bless my children, their teachers, and our families with friends who will encourage us to walk with You.

2. Work – School is a job, and not just for teachers. Pray that a healthy importance will be placed on using gifts and abilities to glorify God by working hard and doing their best.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Colossians 3:23

Father, May we each value the importance of hard work and doing our best as an offering to You of the gifts and blessings You've given us.

3. Gratitude – Education is a gift. In much of the world, illiteracy is all too common. Pray to help your children appreciate the gift of school and learning.

Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17

Father, Help us to be thankful and quickly express our gratitude to You, Lord, and to everyone who helps us in the education process. May we each learn to be appreciative of the efforts we're making on behalf of our children.

4. Balance – Work, play, rest, and diet . . . balance is important. Pray to set a good example of the value of eating healthy, getting adequate rest, playing with joy and enthusiasm, and working well.

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Father, please help us to remember the importance of rest and play as we go into this season. It's so easy to focus on what must be done in order to succeed but part of preparing for each day is getting enough rest and taking time to refresh and have fun.

5. Faith – Learning, maturing, and growing are part of life. Pray that your child and your family will be blessed to grow in your love for God through faith in Jesus.

*Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:7*

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(Counting My Blessings continued from page 6)

Oh, Father, please help us all to grow more deeply in love with You each day. May we love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. May we know your loving presence and watch for the amazing ways you are working in our lives. Help us to faithfully remember to pray for teachers, students, and parents throughout the school year ahead.

6. Respect – Words and actions are influenced by respect. Pray, your children will have mentors who will respect others. How we talk about managers, teachers, coaches, etc. in the privacy of our homes influences how our children will treat those in authority in public.

For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority. 1 Peter 2:13

Father, respect is so very important. May we listen with compassion and speak with kindness. May we remember that You place people in positions of authority and that when we respect those over us we are showing our love and respect for You.

7. Self-Control – Emotions are important, learning to control emotions is more important. Pray that you and the adults who influence your child will be able to control emotions like anger, frustration, and infatuation.

*Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.
Proverbs 16:32*

Father, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, help each of us to resist temptations. Help us to trust and obey Your Word and follow Your will as You guide us each day!

8. Community – Many people are involved in the process of growing up a child. Pray that God will bless and protect your community and that many of your neighbors and friends will affirm the important values that you are teaching in your home.

You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:18

Father, forgive us. Competition has kept us from being the neighbors we should be to each other. Please help us to remember that we are blessed when we help each other. May we make You the center of our lives and work together to glorify You to the world around us.

9. Health – A healthy body, mind, and spirit does well. Pray for the blessing of all aspects of health and for the wisdom to do the things that help . . . diet, exercise, good relationships, faith, and hope.

*Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones. Proverbs 3:7-8*

Father, by Your grace, bless us with strong minds and bodies. May we do our best to eat a healthy diet and care for our health. Grant us wisdom to do what is best. Bless us with health professionals who will give us wise counsel and care.

10. Truth – Commit to honesty in everything. Pray for truth in every aspect of your

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth. Proverbs 12:22

Dear Father, may we live Your truth. You are the Truth! Please help us to seek the know the Truth, give us discernment that we might know the truth and give us Your strength that we might reject all that is false.

May God guide and bless you, your children and their teachers as you surrender your hopes and dreams for the school year ahead to Him. Family's life . . . truth taught, shared, and lived. †

Information in this article is from www.countingmyblessings.com.

THE DECEASED: FRIENDS OF THE LIVING

BY KELLY FLAHERTY, GUANELLIAN COOPERATOR

"In the month of November the leaves fall, nature despoils itself to enter the winter of sufferings. At this time we think of the winter of tribulations, we think of the coldness of death. We go to the graves of our loved ones for advice and comfort. The bones of those good people exult."(On the Tombs of the Deceased, p. 9, St. Louis Guanella)

The Guanellian Cooperators in Michigan, as spiritual children of St. Louis Guanella, strive to live according to the charism of the Founder, walk in his footsteps and draw closer to the Guanellian Family by reading about and growing deeper in the spirituality of the congregation. In the season of fall we look into Fr. Guanella's novena in preparation for the solemn feasts of All Saints and All Souls Day by contemplating meditations included in "On the Tombs of the Deceased." The eighth meditation opens with the words of scripture: "Friendship is a most dear gift. He who finds a true friend, says the Lord, finds real treasure," (Sir 6,14).

Fr. Guanella describes the beauty of a true friendship and how elusive they are amongst the living. He does say how easy it is to find friends among the deceased, how they embrace us, are loyal to us and how their souls speak intimately to our



Dedication of a bench with the names of the deceased Guanellian Cooperators at Pious Union on July 12, 2018.

hearts. He says they are like wise teachers, "Life in this world is like a vapor that quickly vanishes in the air ... Keep yourselves free from the burden of sins, wear clothes of virtue, choose heavenly guides, a guardian angel and then hasten your steps." (Tombs, p. 45, SLG) Our deceased friends want us to know that God loves us, that He will care and provide for us, that we should seek His glory and know His omnipotence and

mercy. Through habits of spiritual reading, prayer and contemplation intimate connections are made with our deceased friends as in the case of a patron saint.

Some of our deceased friends were also our friends here on earth; our love for them doesn't end when their earthly lives do but our connection is changed. Our love and prayers for them are beneficial to both, praying for one another and assisting each other on the pathway to holiness. Our deceased friends need to know that they are still remembered.

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(The Deceased: Friends of the Living continued from page 8)

To keep the memory of the deceased Cooperators alive, a bench was dedicated to those members who have passed away. On July 12, 2018 Thomas Herron, Larry Kranick, Doug Nadeau and Lana Senart had their names added to the Cooperators' bench that will be placed at the outdoor Calvary at Pious Union. Family, friends and Cooperators gathered for the simple ceremony that included Fr. Joseph Rinaldo blessing the bench with holy water.

"IT IS USEFUL TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD IN GENERAL SO THAT THEY MAY, IN TURN, HELP US." ST. LOUIS GUANELLA

Whenever a Cooperator visits the Shrine they will be able to sit on that bench and spend a few moments in the presence of their Guanellian Family members who have gone before them to their heavenly reward. They can converse with the faithful departed relieving some of their own suffering and assisting the deceased on their pathway to heaven.

In this month of All Saints and All Souls may we, the Church Militant, join with the Church Penitent and the Church Triumphant to proclaim that Christ is truly King of the living and the dead. †



Irene Kranick rests on the bench newly dedicated to her husband Larry and 3 other deceased Guanellian Cooperators.

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 Koepele, Secretary
(jckengr@hughes.net)

Fran Koepele (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)