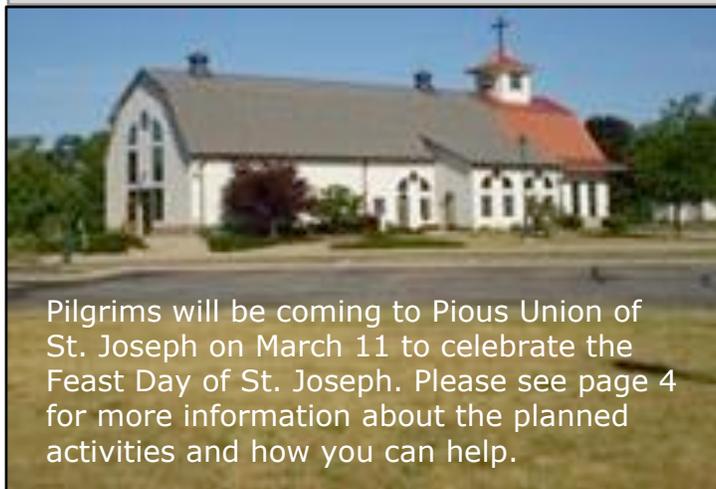


# THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS' NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 1

March - May 2019

## WHAT'S COMING ...



Pilgrims will be coming to Pious Union of St. Joseph on March 11 to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Joseph. Please see page 4 for more information about the planned activities and how you can help.

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## MARCH - MAY EVENTS

- 3/1 - Feast Day of Fr. David
- 3/6 - Ash Wednesday
- 3/11 - Pilgrim Visits to Pious Union of St. Joseph
- 3/19 - Feast Day of St. Joseph and Fr. Joe
- 3/24 - Founding of the Servants of Charity in 1908
- 3/28 - Death of Fr. Leonardo Mazzucchi in 1964
- 4/8 - Anniversary of St. Louis Guanella's First Holy Communion
- 4/14 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
- 4/19 - Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)
- 4/20 - Feast Day of Blessed Clare
- 4/21 - Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Clare in 1991
- 4/21 - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
- 4/28 - Divine Mercy Sunday
- 5/8 - Anniversary of Fr. Enzo's Ordination in 1976
- 5/15 - Anniversary of Fr. Dave's Ordination in 2004
- 5/26 - Anniversary of St. Louis Guanella's Ordination in 1866
- 5/27 - Anniversary of the Birth of Blessed Clare Bosatta in 1858
- 5/28 - Anniversary of the Baptism of Blessed Clare Bosatta
- 5/31 - Anniversary of Fr. Louis Guanella's First Mass in 1866



### 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

**What Makes You Catholic?** *by Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*

Don't confuse being a child of the Church with a false opinion that to remain a child of the Church you must obey every command that a priest, bishop, cardinal or Pope gives you when you know the command is sinful or outside of the God given limits of authority of the person who commands you. First of all, what makes you a Catholic is your belief in the Catholic faith and holding on to it. Second is your Baptism into the Church, and third, your recognition of legitimate authority makes you a Catholic. But if a priest; including me, a bishop, a cardinal or a Pope were to tell you to do something contrary to the law of God, you are not being disobedient if you don't obey him. Your first obedience is given to God. "We must obey God, rather than men," said St. Peter. This is the distinction that many theologians stumble on in practice, and I am sure they would all agree with me in principle.

Some people told me recently: "We are not subject to the Church or the bishop. We have a traditional chapel." I said, "Having a chapel doesn't make you disobedient. The bishop does not have the right to forbid you to have a Tridentine Mass. That is established in Law." All authority is limited. Even God Himself limits His authority. He does that because He is reasonable. But certainly, if God's authority is limited, certainly everyone else underneath Him is also limited. And that is the whole purpose of the law of the Church; to define who has authority in what matters, and how far. This is something that needs to be clarified; because it is not someone who says you are not Catholic that makes you not Catholic. It is because you were not baptized, are not following the teachings of the Catholic faith, or do not recognize legitimate authority. It is not disobeying this or that command that is beyond the authority of the person giving it. You are Catholic when you obey God, even if you are not obeying men.

The first English martyrs were several Carthusian monks who were martyred under the clouds of "disobedience". The superiors in France of the London Charterhouse told them to submit to Henry VIII. I am sure the intention of the superiors was very good, but they were not informed. The Carthusians that went to the gallows on May 4, 1535 were disobedient to their immediate superiors. However they died martyrs and are canonized today for it. It is important to make proper distinctions. Certainly they died as obedient sons of their founder and obedient sons of the Church, but not to human appearances for those who did not study the matter.

May the Carthusian prior of London, John Houghton, and his two brothers, Robert Lawrence and Augustine Webster, who died that day, be our constant guide in times when we are tempted to obey men over the authority of God. †

## THIRTY DAY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

IN HONOR OF THE 30 YEARS HE SPENT WITH JESUS AND MARY

**Ever blessed and glorious Joseph, kind and loving father, and helpful friend of all in sorrow!** You are the good father and protector of orphans, the defender of the defenseless, the patron of those in need and sorrow.

**Look kindly on my request.** My sins have drawn down on me the just displeasure of my God, and so I am surrounded with unhappiness. To you, loving guardian of the Family of Nazareth, do I go for help and protection. Listen, then, I beg you, with fatherly concern, to my earnest prayers, and obtain for me the favors I ask.

**I ask it by** the infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God, which moved Him to take our nature and to be born into this world of sorrow.

**I ask it by** the weariness and suffering you endured when you found no shelter at the inn of Bethlehem for the Holy Virgin, nor a house where the Son of God could be born. Then, being everywhere refused, you had to allow the Queen of Heaven to give birth to the world's Redeemer in a cave.

**I ask it by** the loveliness and power of that sacred Name, Jesus, which you conferred on the adorable Infant.

**I ask it by** the painful torture you felt at the prophecy of holy Simeon, which declared the Child Jesus and His holy Mother future victims of our sins and of their great love for us.

**I ask it through** your sorrow and pain of soul when the angel declared to you that the life of the Child Jesus was sought by His enemies. From their evil plan, you had to flee with Him and His Blessed Mother to Egypt.

**I ask it by** all the suffering, weariness, and labors of that long and dangerous journey.

**I ask it by all** your care to protect the Sacred Child and His Immaculate Mother during your second journey, when you were ordered to return to your own country.

**I ask it by** your peaceful life in Nazareth where you met with so many joys and sorrows. I ask it by your great distress when the adorable Child was lost to you and His mother for three days.

**I ask it by** your joy at finding Him in the temple, and by the comfort you found at Nazareth, while living in the company of the Child Jesus.

**I ask it by** the wonderful submission He showed in His obedience to you.

**I ask it by** the perfect love and conformity you showed in accepting the Divine order to depart from this life, and from the company of Jesus and Mary.

**I ask it by** the joy which filled your soul, when the Redeemer of the world, triumphant over death and hell, entered into the possession of His kingdom and led you into it with special honors.

**I ask it through** Mary's glorious Assumption, and through that endless happiness you have with her in the presence of God. O good father! I beg you, by all your sufferings, sorrows, and joys, to hear me and obtain for me what I ask.

(Here name your petitions or think of them.)

Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers everything that is useful to them in the plan of God. Finally, my dear patron and father, be with me and all who are dear to me in our last moments, that we may eternally sing the praises of: JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH. "A blameless life, St. Joseph, may we lead, by your kind patronage from danger freed." ✚

**We Have a Purpose!** by Dr. James N. Phillips, Jr., Guanellian Cooperator

Think about it, you and I were known before we were physically made! God thought us into existence, no matter what society thinks or says, we were made to exist! Scripture says that God said,

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I dedicated you,  
a prophet to the nations I appointed you. *Jeremiah 1:4*

God has a plan for you and me, we were not a result of happenstance, but made by design! "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." we know as a creator that we create in our minds before we create with our hands. The same is true with designing, we designed in our minds before it is actualized.

So if this is true, then we ARE made to exist, exist as creations of God! But why?

Jeremiah 1 continues with God saying, "...before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." This suggests purpose! God has a plan for us, all of us, and so we have a God given purpose.

Yet even with His Divine plan, we despair, not trusting in His Divine Providence. God made our existence possible and our faith tells us that he has a plan and purpose for us. Remember, you were created because in God's plan He wanted YOU to exist! We just have to trust and follow. So how will you respond to His call? †

**Pious Union Activities in Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph**

Calling all volunteers! – there will be many pilgrims coming to the Shrine during March, for the Feast of St. Joseph. The shrine, Pious Union of St. Joseph, is located at 953 E. Michigan Ave, Grass Lake, MI.



Help will be needed to greet, host and help with the arrival of the pilgrims.

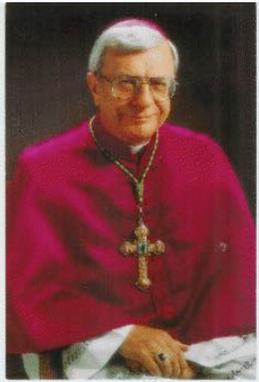
Several buses are scheduled to arrive on March 11th. Last year we had 13 buses of pilgrims, so, as in the past many volunteers will be needed.



Please contact Patrice at the Shrine office at 517-522-8017 or Lori Galicki at 517-522-3623 or [chrislorand@yahoo.com](mailto:chrislorand@yahoo.com) for details on duties, days and times and where help is needed.

## **Patron of the Dying** by Bishop Kenneth Povish

The name of the periodical, NOW AND AT THE HOUR, was carefully chosen. Taken from the Hail Mary prayer, the hour referred to is "the hour of our death," which for everyone alive is well conceived as the most important time of one's life. It is the bridge, so to speak, between life and death, between time and eternity, between here and the hereafter.



In the Hail Mary, one of the first prayers we learned as Catholics, we ask the Blessed Mother of our Lord, given to us from the Cross as our own mother, to pray for us to her Son at that final sacred hour. As members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph, we pray that the Foster Father of our Lord also intercede for us with his Son at that most important hour.

The recollection of what the death of Joseph of Nazareth must have been like gave rise to the devotion to St. Joseph as the Patron of the Dying, and hence to the Pious Union of St. Joseph. The scriptures are silent about the death of St. Joseph because his role in the history of salvation is auxiliary and secondary. We read of his being in Jerusalem with Jesus when the Boy was twelve years old. After the incident of the finding of Jesus in the temple, the Gospel tells us that Jesus returned to Nazareth with his earthly parents "and was obedient to them." Two verses later, Jesus is about thirty years old and beginning His public ministry.

Sometime between Jesus' twelfth and thirtieth year, Joseph died. The Christian imagination about this event has found expression in the depictions of artists of modern times - Joseph ill in bed, Mary ministering to her husband: Jesus holding Joseph's hand or standing beside the bed. The scene represents the happiest and most hope-filled death possible - passing into eternity with Jesus and Mary at one's side. As the kids would say, "What a way to go!"

I became acquainted with the Pious Union during my first year in seminary (1942), when a new pastor came to our parish and passed out membership cards with printed prayers on them for the dying and for one's own happy death. This priest was very dedicated to the pastoral care of the sick and ministry to the bereaved making a great impression upon me. At age eighteen I didn't think much about death, but when I did think about it the Pious Union made a lot of sense. When the hour of death does come, what better support can one have than Holy Mary and Good St. Joseph recommending my spirit to Jesus, God's Son and theirs?

As a priest for 50 years I have been bound to offering the official prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours. But after the Morning Prayer and the Evening Prayer each day I have added some private prayers that go way back to my childhood like the morning offering, the prayer to the guardian angel, etc. Among these "trimmings" every day I also say "St. Joseph, patron of the dying, pray for all those who will die this day (this night), and for me at the hour of my death." I recommend it. †

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Bishop Kenneth J. Povish was born in Alpena, MI on April 19, 1924. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1950. As Msgr. Povish, he was appointed as the Bishop of Crookston, MN on July 28, 1970. On October 8, 1975 he was asked to fill the See of Lansing left vacant by the death of Bishop Alexander M. Zaleski in May, 1975 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1995. He was born into eternal life on September 5, 2003.

## **Blessed are the Merciful** by St. Louis Guanella

'Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.' (Mt 5,7)

A drop of compassion has fallen from heaven into the heart of all men. Who can doubt it, when we can see how the Creator gave the instinct of compassion even to the animals? Everything on earth preaches of mercy. But the greatest mercy seen here on earth is the infinite mercy of God made Man who, not content with being born in Bethlehem, wanted to live in the midst of human miseries until He ascended Calvary. Blessed Vincent went to Barberia to free his enslaved brethren and gave himself as a pledge for one of the slaves. To a person who was offering him a sum of money for ransom, he said, "I feel so **fed** in crying with my brethren in sorrow! Leave me, because I cannot abandon the chains of these poor ones!" Jesus Christ not only dwelt in the prison of this life, but made human infirmities **his** own and personally atoned on the Cross for the sins of men. What a mercy! Reflecting on this excess of mercy, the Apostle of the nations exclaimed, "The love of Jesus Christ impels us!" By this St. Paul meant that he believed he had done little, even though he had consumed himself in doing works of mercy for God's sake. What about you? Did you show in action at least part of St. Paul's care on behalf of your brothers? There are, in fact, individuals on earth whose heart is touched by the calamities of their fellow men and hasten to their assistance, but they do so without thinking of Jesus Christ or of paradise. By doing good in **human way**, how can they merit a supernatural blessedness? There are, also, Christians who, in assisting and caring for others, are partly urged by the love of Jesus Christ and partly urged by their own self-interest. Do you not notice how St. Paul regrets giving to Jesus Christ a heart which is so small? And you, what kind of heart do you have within, since you still try to reserve some affections for vile interests?

Remember, at least, what the Lord said: "As often as you did it to one of **my** least brothers, you did it to me!" **Of** you saw the baby Jesus shivering with cold, would you assist Him? Would you? If you saw Jesus sweating and exhausted, would you welcome Him into your home with joy? And seeing Him all covered with blood ascending to Calvary, how happy would you be in spirit if you could uplift Him! Pay attention to the following examples and then make up your mind.

Abraham used to welcome exhausted travelers into his home to refresh them. Thus he was blessed by having three angels thank him. Tobit cherished his merciful love in burying the dead. He deserved that Raphael the Archangel would come to bring God's blessing into his house. Tabitha, who was called the mother of the poor because of her alms, deserved to be raised from the dead by Peter the Apostle.

Still more amazing is what happened to Martin, to John Colombini and to others. Martin gave a piece of his mantle to a poor man who was freezing on the public square, and thus deserved to see Jesus appearing to him that night showing that gift and saying, "Still a catechumen, Martin has clothed Me with his mantle!" And John Colombini, for taking a poor leper from the town square to his bed, was given to see in him the Divine Savior in person.

Would you believe that the mercy shown to the children is the mercy **show** to the Father? If this is so, what recompense will God give you? The most abundant one will certainly be that of declaring you eligible for paradise. This is so true that at the last judgment, when all men will await their final sentence, Jesus will turn His benevolent gaze on those who were merciful and will say to them, "Come, you have my Father's blessing! Because ... you have clothed ... and fed **my** body ..., you have consoled **my** spirit ... !" In saying this, He will lead them into heaven.

However, the Lord, so generous in rewarding, does not wait to give **his** reward fully in paradise, but He begins by letting His children enjoy it here on earth. As in this world the worst torment is to hate your

*(continued on page 7)*

*(Blessed Are the Merciful continued from page 6)*

brother, likewise the best consolation is to alleviate him of his needs. Believe me! The highest satisfaction here on earth is to do good to those in need both in body and in spirit.

Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, a canon in Turin, asked God for the grace of being very merciful. It was granted to him. He established a House called the Little House of Divine Providence, where he personally, with the help of his followers, did the most chosen works of mercy. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo died in 1842 and ~~has already been~~ declared Blessed by Pope Pius IX. This same Pope, looking at the Little House of Divine Providence said, "Behold a little city of saints, behold the men of mercy!" The highest mercy shown in that House is for Jesus covered with blood walking to Calvary, and for Jesus sacrificing Himself on the altar of humiliation and love in the Blessed Sacrament. Individuals who are innocent in their customs, imitate the love of Seraphim in sharing the suffering of Jesus and in adoring His infinite love. Another type of mercy is that shown to the souls of our brethren in Purgatory as well as to those brethren who, still on earth, are departing from it. The latter ones find themselves at that most dreadful moment upon which all eternity depends, while the former ones are surrounded by the expiating fires and flames of thirst for God. Who can witness this and remain untouched by it? Behold legions of holy, virgin men and women of the Lord who day and night ~~meditate~~ with their sighs and petitions. This is followed by corporal works of mercy, which are abundantly given. There is not a wounding infirmity nor a distressing poverty which is not cared for in that place. The House is large because it shelters at least 3,000 people. Yet, it is so well organized that it looks like the antechamber of paradise. Abandoned babies, abandoned children, deaf-mutes, epileptics, chronics, and mentally ill patients are assisted in separate quarters. On the walls of the House it is written, "The love of Christ impels us!", and you seem to see clearly in the heart of the followers of Joseph B. Cottolengo a flame of love and compassion saying to you, "Behold a flame of the love of Jesus Christ which has been transmitted in to the heart of His faithful servants!" The Little House of Divine Providence is a living monument to Christian mercy. No one can enter it and then depart from it without being improved. It is impossible to see inside without feeling that mercy will be shown to oneself and for the entire Christian family.

If you cannot exercise excellent charity in action, at least exercise it by desire. Your compassion should be lively especially with the annoying individuals within your house; it should be ardent with those among your neighbors who oppose you. Keep in mind the divine promises, "Do not judge if you do not want to be judged; do not condemn if you do not want to be condemned." Rather, forgive, and you will be forgiven. The degree of compassion you have for your brother will be shown to you. Encouraged by such a discourse, Charles Borromeo invited for dinner the wretched assassin who attempted to take his life. Francis De Sales ~~showed~~ special signs of love to those who had openly insulted him. Other people employed varied ways to forgive, that a saying has become popular, according to which, the more you want to be loved by holy individuals, the more you must offend them. The mercy practiced in forgiving is so great that, in order to recommend it highly, God worked so many miracles, for example it happened to John Gualberto who embraced the murderer of his brother, and in other cases as well. Be encouraged, then, because you yourself can do likewise more than once during the course of your life!

Finally, admire the wisdom and bounty of God in accompanying you up to this degree of happiness. He has detached your heart from the earth through the love of poverty. He has cleansed your heart from the unruly affections through your desire for meekness. Through tears, He has purified your soul and through the love of good, He leads you to benefit others, as the water of the river does in irrigating the fields of the farmer. Thank the Lord, then, and as a sign of great gratitude long for being, at least, highly merciful. Take courage toward it, because you will receive in recompense all the blessedness promised to you by God. †

*(From Let us Go to the Mountain of Happiness)*

## **The Model of a Christian Mother** *By St. Louis Guanella*

Rosa Mazzucchi had a peaceful character, less educated, with deep goodness of heart. Truly, she wished to live a simple life of prayer and work. She behaved like a nun, but her expressions were strange and not acceptable in those days. Her parents advised and persuaded her to marry Mr. Alessandro Bosatta. In this way, Rosa was satisfied to be like the strong women of the Gospel, all for God and for the family. She prayed a lot and regularly received the Holy Sacraments.

[In] 1858 [there was] a definite contrast between the concerns of a Christian mother and the political motherland. On the one hand, we see the stormy sea of the anger of human passions and we hear among the patriotic cheers of loyalty to the motherland, the clash of weapons and armies.

Rosa, on the other hand, cared for her recently born child, Dina Bosatta. She watched her face which appeared to be like a little angel from paradise, a reflection of her upcoming baptism. She watched over her with simplicity and a generous heart often repeating: "My heart is all yours, as it is also for your brothers and sisters who were born before you; but you are my last born and because of this, you are my beloved." She signed the child on the forehead and then all over her body and soul. With all her heart, she offered her to God, as she would do when, as an adult, she went to the convent.

Mamma Rosa had only a few things at heart: her duty as a mother, the best for her children, her family, her Church, her house, and her domestic chores. She thought much and spoke little. One of her maxims was a sentence, "I am a simple woman taught patriarchal ways." She regulated her life with the following maxims: "Women don't need to get into politics... we must follow and love... what do we care about many things... our family is our duty." She is always composed... has a big heart but knows when to show it or hide it as the occasion demands. She has great tenderness for her children; she is like a plant that hides its precious core under the bark. Rosa Bosatta is a good model for Christian Mothers. They say like mother, like daughter... It is a great fortune to have a good mother. The little baby girl, while being nourished by her mother's milk, fed herself on her mother's virtues. This helped her to control her vivacious character, at times with a great effort.

Upon becoming a widow, she practiced devotions with fervor and led a monastic life in the family. Every morning she received Holy Communion and often repeated: "Let us do as much good as possible, because the world is fleeting away and death comes closer." She was dear to all because of her agreeable character, for the goodness of her life, and her practice of Christian virtues. She was quick to say: "When my Alessandro had time, it was all for books of piety and faith. During the winter evenings he invited Bonfiglio, nicknamed Monsu, and enjoyed hours of conversations about the lives of the Saints, the martyrs of Rome and the Holy Land. Sometimes he would ask him to sit by his bed when he was feeling ill and wanted to sleep. Why do I not follow his example?" Good mamma Rosa; about her we will say something more. She died at 87 years of age, leaving a precious heritage of love and virtue. †

Editor's Note: Blessed Clare Bosatta was born Dina Bosatta in 1858. These paragraphs were excerpted from her biography *A Gift of Youth*.

# Adult Day of Retreat

EVERYONE IS INVITED

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019  
9 AM - 2 PM

MASS  
ADORATION  
ROSARY  
CONFESSION  
LUNCH

SPIRITUAL TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED



To be held at Pious Union of St. Joseph  
953 E. Michigan Ave.  
Grass Lake, MI

Please contact Stephanie Kopf (sjkopf@frontier.com) or Kelly Flaherty (kellyf@stlouiscenter.org) for more information or to register.

## 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

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