

Daughters of St. Mary of Providence
and the Servants of Charity
called to share the poverty of the poor

WE ARE GOD'S FAMILY

Blessed Louis Guanella's discovery was his deep belief in the Fatherhood of God. This great principle of Christian theology was for him a personal revelation and a life experience. God is the good Father who loves and wills that every person be saved from moral, physical and material misery. Much more, the human being himself is allowed to share this fatherhood as a transmission of love, life and salvation, not as a mere gift or privilege, but as a joyous duty: to be father, brother and sister to all, as was Jesus Christ, the image of the Father among us, and first among brothers and sisters.

Placed between the Father and his brothers and sisters, Father Guanella was able to relate to God with an intense faith. In praying he was able to relate to the Father, by talking with Him at great length or by frequent and joyous invocations; and by living with confidence, he relied completely on Providence. The love of the Father must be reflected and a loving family must be built up, where no evil whatsoever may befall anyone and where all may happily reach their aim in life.

Thus Father Guanella, with concrete realism, taught his Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and his Servants of Charity that every good work comes to existence in the midst of difficulties and sacrifice: it is the sacrifice that will generate life and every good work requires a "V" or "victim of love". This was the alphabet Father Guanella taught his spiritual Daughters and Sons.

He recommended creating an environment of religious poverty. He lived poverty, understanding how this has to be seriously shared with the poor in order to walk along with them on the road to grow.

The poor join this family hoping to rebuild a life, but without false pretenses, or gratuitous changes of status or conditions. They remain poor, however the proper means to make up the social, economic and physic handicaps are made available to them. They enter an autonomous company, based on the work of the individual and on the solidarity of many friends. They learn how to construct a life, and they do if they are young. If they are old, they try to enjoy the happiness of being among friends who are willing to care for them. All of them look for a way of seeing themselves as the center of personal interests, and of forgetting for awhile the bitterness they feel for a society which attempted to discard them as outcasts.