

The Voice of Providence

PUBLICATION OF THE SERVANTS OF CHARITY

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Featured Story: *Jesus Appears to Children of Jackson, Michigan* – page 24

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The Pious Union of St. Joseph

Patron of the Suffering and Dying

953 East Michigan Avenue

Grass Lake, Michigan 49240-9210

517-522-8017 voice 517-522-8387 fax

PiousUnion@pusj.org

www.servantsofcharity.org

www.pusj.org

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Fr. Joseph Rinaldo SdC

EDITING TEAM: Joe Yekulis, Lauren Hill, Kelly Flaherty, Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler DSMP

CONTRIBUTORS: Fr. Enzo Addari SdC,

Fr. Dennis Weber SdC, Fr. Charlton Viray

SdC, Fr. Rajesh Selvaraj SdC, Fr. Paul

Oggioni SdC, Fr. Silvio DeNard SdC,

Fr. Satheesh Caniton Alphonse SdC,

Fr. Nino Minetti SdC , Fr. Dominic

Saginario SdC

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Joseph Yekulis, Kelly Flaherty

The Voice of Providence:

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Mission

The divine call places the Servants of Charity in the heart of the Church, making us share more deeply in her mission in the world and especially in her care for the poor. In the Church, we are witnesses of God's fatherly love and of the sacred value of each person, even of the least gifted.

In collaboration with the people of goodwill, we endeavor to safeguard the least ones so that we work toward building a better world, open to Christ and His Gospel.

Mother's Day

REFLECTION BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

As a member of the Pious Union of St Joseph, I visit shut-ins and nursing homes. It's a rewarding experience for the love and gratitude that I receive.

One day as I moved from bed-to-bed, a woman stood out. Whenever I approached her, she smiled and started to cry. Eventually, trying to be humorous, I said, "Mom, I like your smiles better than your tears!" She gave me back her best smile and added, "Father, my son brought me here three years ago and I haven't seen him since." More tears flowed. For the next hour, a flood of painful stories came out. I held her hands and suggested making peace in her heart with her son; and reconciling with her son and God so that the Father would forgive them both. She fell asleep and was at peace. I returned the following week, and she left to be with God's family. I thought of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Humanly speaking, how did they become the Holy Family? The key is in Luke 2, 51-52. "He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man." The Holy Family remained in prayerful contemplation of God's mystery within themselves. They prayed to discover this mystery in each other and fulfill the Will of God. Who is this simple woman to become the Mother of God? Who is this ordinary carpenter to become the custodian of the Son of God? Who is this child, so loved by God, to become the Redeemer of the World?

We pray that our relationships seek to discover the mystery of God in each person we meet and what God's will is for each one of us.



Remember Your Loved Ones...

...by Making a Dedication or Memorial in their name.

- Dedicate a step of the Holy Stair \$5000
- Dedicate a Bench \$1000
- “I am the Resurrection and the Life” Memorial Wall \$500
- Dedicate a tile near the Calvary \$250
- Become a Shrine Forester, Plant a tree \$150
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For more information or to make a pledge, please call the Pious Union of St. Joseph Office Monday–Friday at 517-522-8017.

Send email to piousunion@pusj.org.



Shrine News

SR. MARGARET MARY SCHISLER, DSMP

As we celebrate the great Feast of Easter we are reminded that this celebration is one of Hope and Renewed Life. All of you who are members and friends of the Pious Union of St. Joseph are very close in spirit to this Feast because we pray each and every day for hope that overcomes death and redeems suffering.

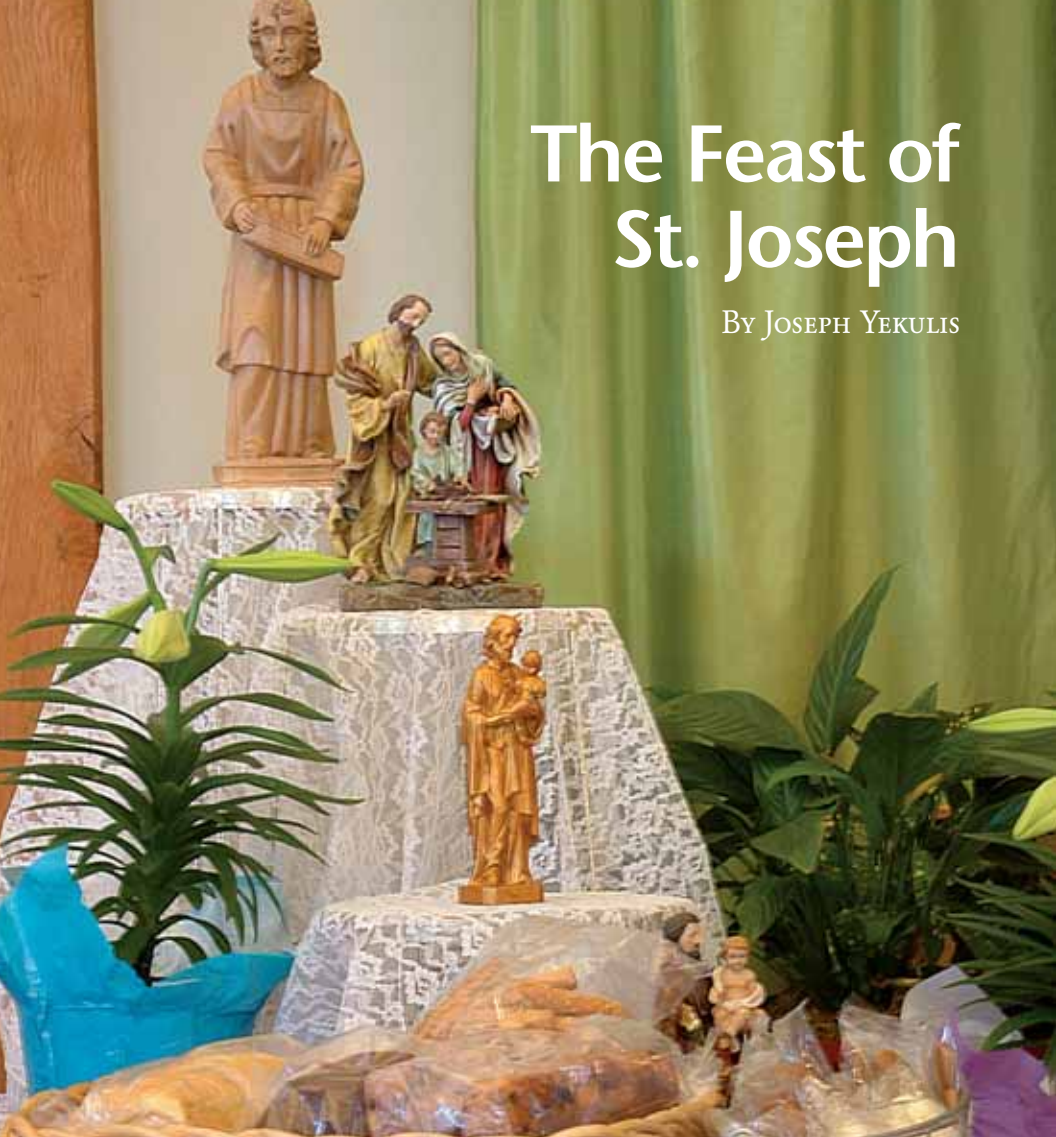
As we try to follow in St. Joseph's footsteps in bringing hope to all, we bring joy that shatters despair, we listen to others and affirm them in their lives, we speak the truth in public and we confront injustice. By doing this we are a people of Easter who reflect the light and life of Christ to our neighbors.

Today you are called to be "life-giving" people, Easter People. Take a moment and think of different ways that you are called to live the Resurrection in your day-to-day activities. Here are a few suggestions: be open to the grace of the Eucharistic Presence, allow Jesus to renew your life, listen attentively to those who need you, share your faith with those around you, forgive anyone who has offended you, be hospitable to all who cross your path, share your joy of life with others, emanate peace in all situations, rejuvenate your soul with a bit of silence, work "together" in a spirit of unity, and allow God to transform every aspect of your life.

I invite you to let this Easter be the beginning of the rest of your life. Practicing "resurrection" in our daily lives will make the whole world a better place. Let us be challenged to become "Easter People" and to promote "resurrection" each and every day in all that life brings us!

The Feast of St. Joseph

By JOSEPH YEKULIS



The Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated this year on March 19, 2011, and was a day of honor at the Shrine of St. Joseph in Grass Lake, MI.

Traditionally a very special day for Italians, it is said that during the Middle Ages, God saved the people of Sicily from a very serious drought through the intercessions of St. Joseph. Pope Sixtus IV (1471–84) was responsible for adding this feast to the Roman calendar.

At the Shrine of St. Joseph, this important Feast Day began this year with worshippers filling St. Joseph's Altar with gifts of meatless foods; including bread baskets, bread loaves in the shape of a fish, fruit, and wine. Fr. Fortunato Turati then began worship services with a period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Holy Mass, the Litany of St. Joseph, the Repose of the Blessed Sacrament, and the blessing of the gifts.

Traditionally, the Altar of St. Joseph is built in three tiers, symbolizing the Most Holy Trinity. The top tier holds a statue of St. Joseph surrounded by greenery and flowers, while the others might hold the food, flowers, and sacramental objects. The bread and wine symbolize the Last Supper, and a basket is present to hold the prayerful petitions of the faithful. This year, the community returned in the evening to share a meal together, and joyfully shouted, "Viva la tavola di San Guiseppe!"



St. Joseph, Model of Workers

By FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SDC

Joseph of Nazareth passed on to Jesus, born from Mary, not only the title “Son of David”, but also his social status, his professional experience, his family values, and human formation. Jesus had inherited from Joseph the membership to a royal family and, at the same time, the qualification of being the “son of the carpenter” (Mt 13, 55). Jesus was not ashamed to assume for himself, the Son of God, the humble status of a worker. Purposely, he took upon himself the most common status among humanity, the status of worker.

It happened that the same material things, that at creation appeared out of nothing from a command of the Divine Word (Gn 1), had met in the shop of Nazareth with the same Word made flesh (Jn 1, 18), who submitted Himself to the laws of nature and to the commands of a worker, Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth.

The Maker of heaven and earth truly worked with his hands, and by consequence He truly sanctified human work.

Joseph was, through the intercession of Divine Providence, the necessary instrument of his own redemption. And that happened right there in his own shop, through a mission that he exercised not only close to Jesus but above Jesus who “was obedient to them”, as the gospel of Matthew tells us (2, 51).

The submission or obedience of Jesus in the House of Nazareth should be understood as a sharing in the work of Joseph. Having learned the trade of his foster father, Jesus was known as “the carpenter’s son.”



If the Holy Family is an example and model for human families, in the order of salvation and holiness, so too, as logic teaches, it is Jesus' work at the side of Joseph the carpenter. It is important here to underline the mission of St. Joseph as a "minister of salvation". If Jesus redeems any work, that redemption is done through Joseph.

The Apostolic Exhortation of John Paul II, *"Guardian of the Redeemer,"* states: "Human work and especially manual labor receive special prominence in the gospel. Along with the humanity of the Son of God, work too has been taken up in the mystery of the Incarnation, and has been redeemed in a special way. At the workbench where he plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption (22).

We should keep in mind that Jesus Christ not only redeemed spiritual souls; He redeemed man in his totality, soul and body. Human activity was not excluded from salvation, because Jesus' solidarity with man had been in fullness. He was like us in everything, except sin.


No one among men, besides Mary, had been so close to the hands, mind, will and heart of Jesus than Joseph.

Pope Pius XII, the Pope that conceived the feast of St. Joseph the Worker (May 1st), held many audiences for workers, and he was not ashamed to tell them to go to Joseph. "Ite ad Ioseph! Go to Joseph! The humble worker of Nazareth not only embodies the dignity of manual workers in front of God and Church, but also becomes the protector of each worker and their family."

Among the many activities that he created, God the Almighty chose manual work. He entrusted the human formation of His Divine Son not to the wise and learned of Jerusalem but to a humble artisan in Nazareth, a town with a bad reputation. In the gospel of John (1, 46) Nathanael replied to Philip, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

God willed that Jesus might grow right in that town, at the school of St. Joseph, in the family of Nazareth where working was not considered simply a way to put some food on the table or a source of riches, but a daily expression of love.

In the human growth of Jesus in wisdom, age and grace, the virtue of industriousness played a notable role, since work is a human good that transforms nature and, in a sense, makes man more human.



Prayer to St. Joseph the Worker

BY POPE PAUL VI

O Saint Joseph, patron of the Church,
who at the side of the Incarnate Word
had worked day after day to earn your daily bread,
and had drawn from Him the strength to live and to work.
You who had known the anxiety for your tomorrow,
the bitterness of poverty,
the uncertainty of work,
watch over the human family
that the Lord entrusted to you.

Bless the Church.

Lead her to a more evangelical faithfulness.
Protect the workers in their daily hardships.
Defend them from discouragement
and from any spiritual and material danger.

Pray for the poor and the needy
who are still carrying on earth the poverty of Christ.
Arouse for them the providence of their
brothers and sisters who are more fortunate.

Preserve peace in the world,
the peace that helps people and peoples
to reach a better future and a better life.

Give us peace
for the progress of the world,
for the mission of the Church,
for the glory of the Blessed Trinity.

Amen.

(St. Peter's Basilica, May 1st, 1969)



Honor Your Father and Your Mother

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

I read a story once of an old man who was not able to live alone and was forced to move in with his son, daughter-in-law and a little grandson. It was a good decision because grandpa was watching the child while his parents were at work. The two of them developed a strong relationship based on love, trust and reciprocal support. The time came when grandpa's vision and hearing declined considerably and his hands lost a sufficient grip. At meals the poor man was drooling, spilling his food, and messing up his clothes. The daughter-in-law, and soon his son, found that revolting and decided to move their father into another room to eat his meals by himself. One day the poor man dropped his bowl and made a mess on the floor. On top of that, he had to suffer the humiliation of a reprimand with harsh language. For punishment he was given a wooden bowl for his future meals. The little boy got up and started to collect the pieces of the broken bowl. "What are you doing," asked the annoyed mother. Calm and serious the little boy answered, "I am putting together the bowl and saving it for you and dad when you get older." The parents got the message and grandpa was brought back to the dinner table.

We have selected a special day to honor our mothers and a special day to honor our fathers. Mother's day is more significant because of the natural relationship with our mother from birth, to feeding, cuddling, learning to talk and to walk. A high percentage of who we are comes from our mother. Unfortunately, the number of fathers who are engaged in the lives of their children is constantly declining in our society, but still many of us remember our father with love and gratitude. The fourth commandment tells us to honor our father and our mother. We learned that since we began attending catechism classes or someone in the family read the Bible to us.

However, what does it really mean, *Honor your Father and your Mother*? The most common understanding is obeying your parents. But the original Hebrew word that we translate into "honor," means something deeper and more complex. A better translation would be, "acknowledge the weight," the importance, the role of your mother

and father in your life; “carry the being of your father and mother in your life.”

To acknowledge the weight of our parents in our lives means to accept our own history. This history also includes our parents, whom we did not choose, with their limits, their problems and all the gifts they gave us like life, education, food and clothes, to name the most significant. It means to reconcile ourselves with them, that is, with our own past, and shape up our future the best we can with what we have.

Many parents have a tendency to control the lives of their children even when they are married. Sometimes this interference creates hostility and it can even break families apart. This type of over-protection does not allow the free development of the children’s growth and maturity. The children “honor their mother and father” when they cut the umbilical cord with their family and follow their own destiny. On the other hand, there are children who, through their adulthood, continue to depend on their parents. In this case, the “weight” of the parents on their life does not allow the children to grow, mature and strive for independence.

We “honor” our father and mother when we recognize their proper role in our life, without diminishing it or even without excessively increasing it, running the risk of being crushed by it.

To help a child to honor his father and his mother means to help him recognize the good he has received, but also what he missed. Our life does not stop with our parents. It continues and it is up to us to shape it the best we can. We can unfortunately choose to continue complaining about what we got and what we didn’t, blaming our parents for our failures.

We “honor” our parents especially when we recognize the treasures we received from them. Faith, Hope and Love are the most important gifts. Our parents are the ones who took care of us when we were sick. Gave us food when we were hungry. Wiped our tears and laughed at our jokes. Encouraged us to do better, more and be smarter.

I did not choose my parents. God chose them for me and He gave me what was right for me. For this I am eternally grateful.

Divine Providence in the Charism of Father Guanella

By FR. NINO MINETTI, SDC

“Exalt in your midst on a high throne, Queen and Sovereign, the Divine Providence,” wrote Father Guanella to his religious family not long before his death. “Do not ever displease her,” he added, “rather through your deeds show to the world that God is the One who provides with earnest care for his children.”

Before he died, Father Guanella desired to endow his spiritual family with the greatest gift he ever received: Divine Providence. With Her, he had developed a personal, extraordinary and inseparable relationship since his youth. The concept of Divine Providence itself moved him to strong emotional feelings. Providence was for him *that movement and the passage of compassion, grace, tenderness and love, with which God continuously reaches man*. He wanted his followers to experience the same realization that would become their identification mark.

This relationship was expected by anyone who asked to join his community. “Trust in the Lord is the soul and the secret of our Institute. On the doors of our Houses is written, *Institute of Divine Providence*, because we credit to Her their origin as well as their consolidation and multiplication.”

Therefore, he solicited from anyone who came to work with him something like a “profession of Faith,” that is, the belief that the existence and the development of the Guanellian Institute in the Church and the world was an extraordinary gift of God. The Founder’s toil and suffering for the organization and development of the Institute was almost an afterthought. Father Guanella expressed first his profession of Faith,



“DIVINE PROVIDENCE CHOSE US. SHE SELECTED US TO BECOME LIVING STONES OF A BUILDING FOR THE SHELTER OF ANYONE WHO LACKS HUMAN SUPPORT, SO THAT NO ONE WILL BE LEFT BEHIND IN LIFE.”

“Divine Providence chose us. She selected us to become living stones of a building for the shelter of anyone who lacks human support, so that no one will be left behind in life.”

On October 25, 1964, at Father Guanella’s beatification Mass, Pope Paul VI remarked upon Father Guanella’s convictions. He said, “For Father Guanella everything is from God. The thoughts, the vocation, the ability to act, success, reward, glory belong to God not to man.”

It’s rewarding to analyze the ways Father Guanella manifests this consciousness-experience, this relationship-dialog with Divine Providence. First of all he lived with a great *interior certitude and assurance*, feeling at all times and in all situations loved, assisted and protected by God.

In his relationship with God, he expressed himself with *uncontainable affection* allowing the heart to prevail over reason. “I am overwhelmed by the depth of my misery, but I lift my eyes to you and mutter, I love you Lord, I love you my Father.” This spiritual journey leads inevitably to *contemplation*, which in Father Guanella has unique characteristics: Total abandonment to God and intimacy with Him, he constantly enriched these qualities by prayer and earnest service to the poor while often caught by the stupendous beauty of nature, which he learned to appreciate in the mountains where he grew up.

If we wanted to convey the relationship between Father Guanella and Divine Providence on a billboard using a gigantic and expressive image, we must think of a child comfortably resting in his mother’s arms and entertained by his surroundings. This image is beautifully described by Psalm 131, which is a Guanellian psalm, because it should be meditated and prayed by all who follow Father Guanella.

“O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty; I busy not myself with great things, nor with things too sublime for me. Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted my soul like a weaned child. Like a weaned child on his mother’s lap. So is my soul within me.”

As Righteous as a Saint

By JUAN BAUTISTA AGUADO

The wind of the Holy Spirit blows where and when it wishes. The other canonization, the one that wears the infallible seal of the Catholic Church and the signature of the Pope, the one that testifies and proclaims that the virtues lived heroically by Father Louis Guanella have universal value and should be proposed to the faithful of the four corners of the world as a perennial and perpetual model... the canonization, we say, is in 2011. And it is the result of a long process that began the day immediately following the beatification.

The canonization, aside from many other steps and formalities, requires the proof of a miracle performed through the intercession of the future saint. On March 15, 2002, a young 21-year old man, William Glisson, is skating in a park in Springfield, PA, USA. At the moment in which he is gliding at top speed, he hits a hole in the pavement, loses his balance, and falls, causing a serious skull fracture. At Crozer Keystone Hospital, the clinical staff believe that saving him is hopeless and tell the family that he will not make it through the night. A friend of William's mother gives her a relic of the Beatified Louis Guanella, which the grieving woman places on the forehead of her son, who is lying in a coma. At the same time, the surrounding Guanellian community begins to pray for the young accident victim.

In the following hours, two desperate surgeries worsen the picture. But, against all prognosis and expectations, the young man starts to slowly recover all of his faculties. Relatives and doctors believe that a miracle has occurred.





The long and exhaustive process begins. Testimonies, documents, tests, and thousands of files. A scientific commission, a theological commission, a commission of Cardinals, and a Papal Decree. Eight years later, Pope Benedict XVI signs the paperwork and orders the inclusion of Louis Guanella in the endless list of Catholic saints and establishes that his liturgical feast day will be celebrated the 24th of every October.

Canonization is not merely a goal, however. It is not a medal of gold to adorn the illustrious habit of a religious order. Nor is it this bit of vanity that

fell by chance one Sunday morning on the small congregations of the Servants of Charity and of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and on the many who are part of the large Guanellian Family (cooperators, benefactors, and friends.) The solemn pontifical celebration in the Vatican, the litany of the saints, the discovery of the tapestry of the image of St. Louis Guanella...all of this should not become just a collection of photographs remembering a day of 'Guanellian' glory.

Aside from the applause, congratulations, embraces, discussions, and ceremonies; the canonization is a responsibility and an obligation. It would be an unforgivable distraction to claim this man a saint, to feel proud of his sanctity, and not wish to imitate him, to follow his footsteps. To be heralds, in the midst of an inhumane world, of the good news that this priest evidenced with all of his might: That God is Father to all men and women; that each one of us can be father and mother to the neediest in our society, in our time, and in our culture; that we can be "bread and the Lord."

Louis Guanella, the swift mountaineer, the crazy and dangerous priest, the father of the 'Buonifigli,' the 'Good Children,' the one who experienced during his own dark night that God is a true Father, the seamless and faithful defender of the Pope and of the Church, the devoted and provident pedagogue, the ardent writer, the untiring fighter who, in the face of the many social ills of his time and with admirable creative charity, was the founder of homes for the poor of his land and of the world. He was

right, as he was righteous; as righteous as a saint. He lived a simple existence with apostolic passion and the dedication of a faithful servant. And this same thing could be lived out by many others, in many centuries to come, in many other languages and latitudes.

The mystic who ascends to God and the Samaritan who bends down in order to pick-up the wounded are one and the same man. The one who is devoured by the hunger of God is the same one who feeds his hungry brothers. Maybe this is sanctity: a beautiful melody balanced between the love of God and the love of his children.



2011 Canonizzazione di Don Luigi Guanella 1842-1915

“Holiness Will Save The World”

Blessed Louis Guanella, the founder of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Servants of Charity and the Pious Union of St. Joseph, will be proclaimed a “SAINT” officially by Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday October 23, 2011. This Saint of charity who lived an exemplary life of Providence believed that each person has a God-given right of “dignity and love.”

Fr. Guanella was known to have a Big Heart and was able to conquer all adversity. His life was filled with many obstacles but with his Trust in Divine Providence he was able to reach out to all God put on his path. According to Fr. Guanella, “Vivete santamente e sarete” which translates to, “If you live holily you will be happy.”

Saint Louis Guanella, pray for us and make us saints.





Andiamo
81 padre

Blessed Clare Bosatta

A Lamb with the Strength of a Lion

BY FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SDC



Blessed Clare Bosatta, whose first name was Dina before entering religious life, was a mystic in action. Early on, her spiritual director and Founder, Blessed Louis Guanella, realized that he was guiding a soul that was extraordinary in her love for God and neighbor on the way of perfection.

At first he too was a little perplexed by her, apparently unreasonable, show of tears. Her sister Marcellina testified that Dina was by nature shy and reserved. She would weep so frequently and with no apparent reason that her siblings nicknamed her, “The weeping maiden.” As she grew up, her tears became more frequent and intense. When she was about twenty years old, she joined the Canossian Sisters and was admitted to the Novitiate. The Mistress of Novices soon became concerned about this young woman who was crying all

the time. Her first thought was that Dina was suffering from homesickness. Later, she attributed it to bashfulness and then to dissatisfaction with being a nun. In the end, Dina was dismissed from the Order.

Father Guanella, Dina’s pastor in Pianello, invited her to join the group of young women who were taking care of local orphans and abandoned elderly. She replied that she would rather run as far away as America than join them. However, she eventually joined the group that, under the direction of Blessed Guanella, would become the seed of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. Father Guanella understood and appreciated Dina’s vocation to a higher degree of perfection in her love of the Lord. Not knowing how to assist and lead her spiritual life, he resorted to reading and studying the Spanish mystics. He began with the writings of St. Teresa of Avila, the Spanish



Carmelite mystic who rejuvenated the Order in the late 1500's. In her writings he learned the meaning of the "Gift of tears." He testified that Sr. Clare was in a constant "crescendo" leading toward perfection and virtue.

Our notion of mysticism is quite often obscured by sensationalism and superficial knowledge. In our mind we picture visions, levitations and reading of hearts, ecstasies, stigmata and pierced hearts, mystical marriage, and the many extraordinary gifts given to Christians which are portrayed artistically. A good example is to be found in the sculpture of the Ecstasy of St. Teresa by Bernini in Rome.

What, perhaps, many do not know is that the "Gift of tears" is one of those extraordinary gifts from God. Some would reply that this is nonsense; that it is the fruit of hysteria or even of the devil. The Catholic Church, from its earliest days, has been very careful in assessing and discerning these gifts. In this way, she is able to present the faithful with true examples of men and women who are totally united with the Lord while still on earth.

The Church declared that Sr. Clare was particularly gifted by the Lord. It would be, however, historically incorrect to maintain that her "Gift of tears" was her only characteristic or the picture that best portrayed her. She is a Saint because she strived for all her virtues in a heroic way, especially faith and charity. Though immersed day and night in spiritual trials, a smile never left her lips; her love never left her heart; her trust in the Lord never left her life.

She exercised her ministry of charity gladly and in total dedication to all those entrusted to her care. She never complained, not because she was timid but because she was simply imitating her Spouse, the Lord Jesus, who on the cross offered Himself as an innocent Lamb to His Father for the salvation of all sinners. Sr. Clare firmly believed that Jesus died on the cross for her, for her sins, for her unworthy life, for her imperfect charity to others, for failing to abandon herself totally to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. She believed that she was the cause of the martyrdom of Christ on the cross. Was she the cause? Being as she was a creature of God and a child of Adam and Eve, she too caused the painful death of our Lord. Was she truly sinning? Blessed Guanella did not believe so. She fought temptations against the virtue of patience when dealing with the sick and persecutors. She fought the temptation of discouragement when dealing with people and events that had declared war on the new foundation. She fought the temptation of giving up when dealing with



the dark night of her soul, with spiritual aridity, with emptiness, with her alleged sins. The Crucified Jesus was her comfort and, at the same time, a reminder of her weakness and sinfulness before His holiness and love.

The “Gift of tears” comes from horror of sin, hers and her neighbors’, of her being a nothing in the presence of God the Almighty, of her knowing that Jesus suffered so much for her and because of her. Her mystical experience—a gift that she received from the Lord and not from her personal effort—united her more strictly to Jesus in a

visible way through her loving service to the sick and the poor until her death. Clare died as a result of a disease she contracted from a girl she was caring for regardless of the risk of contagion. She never said no to Jesus when He asked her to serve Him heroically in those who were suffering.

Pope John Paul II at her Beatification called Clare, “Martyr of Charity.” No wonder! In silence and with a big smile she was nailed to the cross with Jesus, the true “Martyr of Charity,” the Lord Jesus Himself: Lamb of God, Lion of Judah that brought solace to the sinner, the marginalized, the sick, disabled and abandoned and all those in need of consolation and love.

Blessed Clare was captured by the urgency of Jesus to save souls. Jesus called her to spend her short life with Him on the cross, the tree that produced life over death, forgiveness over sin, hope over despair and love over violence.

Clare was not a shy girl. Rather she was a lamb with the strength of a lion.

Making Charity the Heart of the World

Welcoming the Document of the Guanellian Lay Movement to the United States

BY LAUREN HILL, GUANELLIAN COOPERATOR

The history of Blessed Louis Guanella's Congregations has been characterized by a significant presence of lay collaborators. We have been generously welcomed as valued gifts of God's Divine Providence, and seen as necessary in carrying out His works of charity in obedience to His inspiration.

Blessed Guanella's Religious Congregations recognize a growing number of lay people who embody the spirit of God's love for the poor. They see an increase in the number of individuals and groups inspired by their Founder. In the U.S. these groups include: the Pious Union of St. Joseph, Guanellian Cooperators, Guanellian youth formation groups and the staff, families, volunteers and benefactors contributing to the life of the residences, hospitals, and schools which they direct.

Recognizing this Guanellian spirit, Blessed Guanella's Congregations coined the name, *Guanellian Lay Movement* as a way of describing and connecting various individuals and groups, who are vitally involved in works of charity.

After reflection, discussion and work sessions, the Guanellian leadership has written a document which includes their guidance and the guidance of Blessed Guanella and the Magisterium, with some passages translated into English for the first time. In the Document of the Guanellian Lay Movement they make it very clear that: *"The Movement is not an official organism superimposed on other Guanellian groups which are already in existence or in the making... The Movement lives when formation, involvement in cultural issues, fraternity and service among the laity, are taking place."*

Their cooperation in forming the document provides an official point of reference for all of us who desire to actively participate. As the document states: theirs are not the last words but rather the suggested guidelines, contents and essential references which we may incorporate. The "inexhaustible newness of the Spirit, will give life and substance to the concepts" which they have carefully laid out for us.

“The Word of God, the writings of the Founder, and the Documents of the Guanellian Congregations, especially the *Basic Document for the Guanellian Mission* (GEP), constitute the foundation on which the Guanellian Lay Movement intends to build a common dwelling...,” they write.

In Blessed Guanella’s own words, spoken a generation ago, he informs our hearts rather than our heads, and inspires us to love rather than to know. He was no stranger to the truth of any human situation however he was not content just to speak or write; his faith required him to love (act in charity) as God loves us.

“Spread the Catholic message,” spread it and make sure that it penetrates the minds and hearts of all. Oh, yes! May the Catholic doctrine be spread” he advised us, “but above all let us spread the holy and fervent act of charity that is the sweetest and most intimate essence of our divine faith.”

Father Guanella is generously quoted throughout the document. Writers of the document believe that the power and sharpness of his *word* will unite the Guanellian laity and religious, everywhere in the world, with one solid bond.

We experience closeness to the Guanellian life and history in different ways: love of the Founder, participation in events celebrated by the Guanellian family, collaboration in charitable activities, formation, prayer, or friendship with Guanellian religious. In these ways we are invited to participate in the richness of the charism. We are all members of the Guanellian family and witnesses of Guanellian spirituality. All of us are co-responsible, to a different degree and in a different way, to one mission: *extending the tent of charity*.

Along with the Document of the Guanellian Lay Movement, we can also look forward to the translation of some formation materials. The document, itself, may be considered formational and studied personally or in groups to great benefit. In the words of the authors, the materials will be presented in a spirit of “total freedom and autonomy,” for individuals and groups to use for their human, spiritual and *Guanellian* growth.

The Basic Document of the Guanellian Mission is available through the Pious Union of St Joseph and *Making Charity the Heart of the World* is soon to be published.

Jesus Appears to Children of Jackson, Michigan

By SR. MARGARET MARY SCHISLER, DSMP

The children of St. John the Evangelist Elementary School in Jackson, Michigan participate in Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of every month. As they enter the chapel of the Middle School they genuflect or bow as a sign of reverence to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

As the children from Pre-K through Grade 6 say their prayers and sing their songs they believe that Jesus is happy with their visit.



On Friday, February 4, 2011 the children felt “assured” that their visit to Jesus was welcomed. The first class to enter Adoration that day expressed to the staff that they “saw Jesus.” This was relayed to the principal, Mrs. Kathy Tarnacki, and her response was “Oh, that’s nice.” She thought they were having an extra special time in prayer and went on with her day’s duties.

When it came time for the principal to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament she entered the chapel, gave Jesus her reverence and as she looked up at the Monstrance her breath was taken away; SHE WAS SHOCKED! The Principal actually saw what her children were referring to when they said, “I saw Jesus.” Mrs. Tarnacki saw an image on the Eucharistic Host in the Monstrance that resembled a pencil sketch of the

face and hair of Jesus. Not knowing exactly what to do, she phoned their pastor, Fr. James Shaver, and because he was not available she left a message on his cell phone. Because of the occurrence of this mystery she decided to remain with the Blessed Sacrament until all the classes made their visit that day.

When the second to the last class of the day made their visit to the chapel, the children saw color beginning to appear on the image, as if a “hue” of pink, to some, and orange, to others, was observed around the shoulders of Jesus’ image. Some even say that they recognized the Sacred

Heart of Jesus on the Host. Dominic, an eighth grader at Jackson Catholic Middle School, called me and said, “Sister, you have to come down here and see the miracle in our chapel.” Needless to say I immediately responded to his urging and felt privileged to be his contact. Jesus most definitely speaks to the children many times to reach us and to help us to deepen our Faith. Each of our children at St. John’s saw with the eyes of Faith and passed on their belief to the adults around them. We DID see an image of Jesus and the picture in this magazine is a photo taken by one of the parents.

As Fr. Bob Pienta, the Associate Pastor, came to pick up the Monstrance, as he usually does at the end of the school day on First Fridays, he himself saw the image. He called Fr. Shaver and, connecting with him, he asked him to come to the Chapel immediately. Fr. Shaver observed an image on the Host in the Monstrance and called the Diocese of Lansing to relay the occurrence. He was directed to continue Adoration



until 8:00 p.m. that evening, ending with Benediction and the repose of the Blessed Sacrament back to the church tabernacle.

When the school day was over and parents were picking up their children, the students told their parents about their experience. Many then went over to the chapel to make a visit and to experience the mystery. They shared with us that they could not believe their eyes and were astonished at the sight. One parent said to me, “Jesus is truly present here and has blessed us and our children.” A truer statement had never been spoken. We were blessed with a “gift” from Jesus Himself.

For the remaining four hours, several hundred people from throughout the community arrived to pray and see this gift. At times, the line stretched from the altar of the chapel, out the door, and into the Jackson Catholic Middle School gym.

After Benediction at 8:00 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament was reposed in the St. John the Evangelist Church and examined by the Priests of St. John’s, as well as the pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fr. Cecilio Reyna. The following is a quote from Fr. Cecilio’s blog:

“After benediction in the chapel around 8:20 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament was taken to St. John Church where it was reposed to the tabernacle. Before this was done, we placed the monstrance on the altar at St. John and turned some lights on. The image the students





saw and the less visible image I saw in the evening, which was the same image, was gone. It was no longer visible. Not seeing anything, I nevertheless decided to take a picture. When I uploaded the picture to my computer, I noticed an image that was entirely different than the one I saw in the school chapel. It reminded me of an image of Jesus taken from the Shroud of Turin. What is also interesting is that the subtle rose colored tint in the area of the face is not visible anywhere else.”

Fr. Shaver shared this with his parishioners. “Two inspiring results that I can see, both deal with our core belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In the first place, I cannot imagine many of the school kids from pre-school to the 6th grade struggling as they get older with the profound truth of the Real Presence. Secondly, I can see the high likelihood that Eucharistic Adoration will increase for adult parishioners, perhaps even to the point that our north-side adoration at St. Joseph Parish may become 24–7 perpetual adoration.”

As St. Bernard tells us, “These revelations are not the work of man; and no mortal will understand them unless love has renewed in his soul the image and likeness of God.”

The Joy of Being a Priest

“Lord! Where shall I go? For you have the words of eternal life” (Jn 6, 68)

BY FR. RAJESH SEVARAJ, SDC

“It is an ever new experience of wonder to see that the Lord brings about the mystery of His presence in your hands in your voice,” said Pope Benedict XVI to the young Roman priests during their Priestly ordination in the Diocese of Rome.



Eight months have passed since eleven of us were consecrated, on June 19th, by the hands of Most Rev. Antony Anandarayar, Bishop of Pondy-Cuddalore. I feel the essence of consecration in each and every moment of my life. Let me share with you my heartfelt experiences of living my priesthood in these early months.

I was called and chosen for the priesthood by God Himself, not because I am worthy but because of His infinite mercy. The Psalmist, David, admires the love of God: “How precious O God, is your constant love.” I can see that God is the protagonist of my vocation’s journey and I recognize His loving hands on my shoulders, guiding me.

My journey has had ups and downs; yet, I would say: “Life is beautiful in the sight of God in spite of mere troubles.” First of all, I am thankful to my parents who have generously sacrificed my young heart to God and to the Guanellian family. My gratitude is to my formators and friends who, in simple ways, set an example for my life.

My life may have something to tell you about perseverance in vocational discernment. I strongly believe in Divine Providence which brought me near to the Holy altar of the Lord, and Providence increases my desire to go further and further. I never considered myself to be 'holy' or different from any of my friends from my schooldays. I had a mischievous life as a teenager. I really loved sports, studies and parties with friends. However, I am sure that none of those things filled me with the same joy I feel when I am enjoying the company of the Lord Jesus Christ as His priest. He is the breath of my soul and encourages me to grow abundantly in His love day-by-day.

"Lord! Where shall I go? For you have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6, 68). These words urged me to be a person thirsty for God from the beginning of my life and to pass it on to the poor. I am only a simple priest, assisting people who are thirsty for God. Jesus placed me beside the spring to draw water from it, the words that give meaning to our life, and to pass the same living water to others.

A few months back, I met a senior priest, who was celebrating the Golden Jubilee of his priestly ordination. In spite of his poor health, he was very happy and proud of his priesthood. Like this Jubilarian, I want to love the priesthood, which has worth and value. Of course, I have had a number of faults and failures during my journey, but I believe I can do anything He asks of me with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am always impressed by Blessed Louis Guanella, whose holiness will soon be recognized by the Church. The roots of the Guanellian identity consist in the Charism of the Institute. When I hear my name, a Servant of Charity, in Church, I know it is a call to listen to the cry of the poor. It demands effective participation in my religious family.

In the past months, I have experienced these pleasant memories in my community in Cuddalore, India. I humbly ask you to pray for me as I serve the poor and needy in order to glorify our Lord.

*Fr. Rajesh,
St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore*

The Loan of St. Joseph

(la cambiale di San Giuseppe)

A rich Milanese man, Mr. Joseph Annoni, loaned five thousand nine hundred liras to Father Guanella. It was a considerable amount of money that was supposed to be paid on March 18, 1905. The date was approaching and Father Guanella did not have a penny.

He and Father Paride Vezzosi, one of his priests, went to Mr. Annoni on the due date, the day before the Feast of St. Joseph, bringing him a small present as a token of their appreciation for all the good he had done for the Servants of Charity. Father Guanella invoked God's blessings, upon Joseph and his family and then he told him that he could not pay the loan that was expiring that day.

Father Guanella was known for his immense trust in Our Lady of Divine Providence. He experienced her presence and intervention many times and in many difficult situations. However, he never pretended or demanded the Lord's benevolence or providence, never daring to think of Divine Providence as an insurance policy against his many problems. Difficulties were real difficulties for Father Guanella. Worries were real worries for him too.

He was truly sorry that he could not pay back the loan. His creditor realized that a man stood in front of him who, in the name of charity, was humbling himself and asking in a choked voice for an extension. Father Guanella was honestly opening up his heart to him, a heart that bore numberless sorrows and anxieties for the cause of the needy.

Tears appeared in the eyes of Mr. Annoni and his wife. He asked her, "*Adelina, what do you think of this?*" And he tore the promissory note into pieces. The good lady was more than pleased to approve and to see the good heart of her husband. Adelina answered, "*I would say that it is the best thing you could do to honor St. Joseph. This is the best present you could make to Father Guanella and to his poor.*"

With that, the loan note landed in the fireplace. Father Guanella went back to his Houses in the company of a speechless Father Vezzosi who, once again, witnessed the solution of Father Guanella's financial problems beyond all business logic.

THE PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH'S LIBRARY

The Basic Document for the Guanellian Mission is a delightful book of 168 golden pages.

It is a complete plan for the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence on how to operate in the field of charity and help the poor all over the world. It offers the principles, the goals and the means to accomplish God's work according to the spirituality and charism of Blessed Louis Guanella.

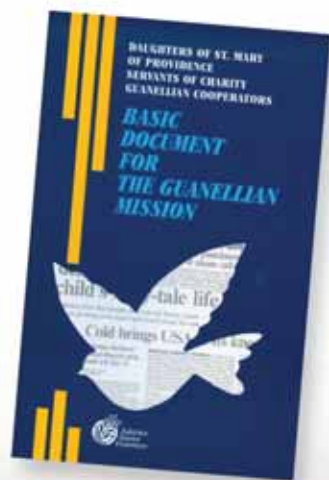
It is almost a practical way of following and living the Gospel.

The beauty of this booklet is that it does not apply only to the religious communities but it can become a marvelous tool for one's faith and spiritual growth. It can be used by individuals, families, groups and associations who are somehow dedicated to help others.

I encourage you to get familiar with this small treasure. It is my faithful companion together with the Bible.

If you do read it, let me know what you think.

Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



The Basic Document of the Guanellian Mission is available through the Pious Union of St. Joseph. Send your request and a donation to The Pious Union of St. Joseph, 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240.

Call the office at 517-522-8017 for more information or for purchasing quantities of more than ten copies.

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UNITED STATES

► **Servants of Charity Formation House**

Fr. Dennis Weber
1795 S. Sproul Rd.
Springfield, PA 19064
tel: 610-328-3406
fax: 610-328-1019
fr.dweber@chs-adphila.org

► **St. Louis Center**

Fr. Satheesh Alphonse
16195 Old US 12
Chelsea, MI 48118
tel: 734-475-8430
fax: 734-475-0310
frsatheesh@stlouiscenter.org

► **Daughters of St. Mary of Providence**

Sr. Brenda McHugh
953 E. Michigan Ave.
Grass Lake, MI 49240
srbrenda@pusj.org

INDIA:

► **Bangalore**

Fr. Samson Rajasekaran
Guanella Preethi Nivas
Geddalahalli, Kothanur (PO)
Bangalore – 560 077
Karnataka – India
Tel: 080/28445501
Email: gpnbangalore@yahoo.com

► **Chennai**

Fr. A. Adaikalam
Don Guanella Major Seminary
Karayanchavadi, Poonamallee
Chennai – 600 056
Tel: 044/26274795
Email: guamaj@yahoo.co.in



► **Cuddalore**

Fr. Paul Arockiara
St. Joseph's Seminary
Samupillai Nagar
Cuddalore 607 001
Tamil Nadu – India
Tel: 04142/296788
Email: sjseminary@yahoo.co.in



► **Vatluru – Eluru (A.P)**

Fr. Charles Boromeo
Guanella Karunalaya
Vatluru, West Gothavari
(Dt) 534 007
Andhra Pradesh – India
Tel: 08812/244474
Email: gkarunalaya@yahoo.com



PHILIPPINES:

► **Servants of Charity House**

Fr. Charlton Viray
Centerville Subd – Pasong Tamo
Tandang Sora –
1107 Quezon City
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Mass times: Sun 10:00 a.m. • M,Tu,Th,Fr and Sat 11:30 a.m.

Wed 8:30 a.m. followed by Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: Wed 4:45 p.m. • **Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Wed 4:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary: Before Mass • **Stations of the Cross:** Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Anointing of the Sick: First Saturday during 11:30 a.m. Mass and when requested

Confession: Before and after Mass, upon request

To receive the Monthly Shrine Bulletin and all special event mailings, please contact the office at 517-522-8017 or send email to piousunion@pusj.org

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