



St. Louis Center
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Servants of Charity
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



2011 Canonizzazione di Don Luigi Guanella 1842-1915

"HOLINESS WILL SAVE THE WORLD"

Blessed Louis Guanella, the founder of the Servants of Charity, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Pious Union of St. Joseph, will be officially proclaimed a "SAINT" 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 created orphanages and homes for the people he considered the "poorest of the poor," and cared the most for persons with disabilities and the frail elderly. His charism and congregations spread throughout Italy, Europe, S. America, N. America, and now exist in twenty-two countries; including the Philippines and India.

Fr. Guanella (1842-1915) was known to have a big heart and was able to conquer all adversity. He visited America in 1913, two years before his death, and eventually his religious communities were established in several states, including Michigan. They are known as St. Louis Center in Chelsea and the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake. 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."

The Vatican announced the canonization date for Fr. Guanella on Monday February 21, 2011, and a delegation from the United States, including the local communities in Michigan, are expected to attend.

A miracle healing was attributed to Fr. Guanella following a skating accident involving William Glisson, Jr. in Glen Mills, Pa. in April 2002 from which he almost died after being in a coma for five weeks. His family and the religious community used two relics of Fr. Guanella's to pray for his recovery, and he not only returned from his coma, but has been restored to full health. In November 2009, the medical commission of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints declared there were no scientific, natural, or medical reasons for his cure. And in January 2010, the Pontifical Theological Commission approved that William Glisson's healing was obtained through the intercession of Blessed Louis Guanella.

For more information on Fr. Guanella and the Servants of Charity, please visit www.servantsofcharity.org, or www.guanelliani.org.

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