



Greetings from Michigan!

This is quite an exciting time for us! We feel privileged that we have been asked to begin a newsletter for the Guanellian Lay Movement (GLM) and happy to share our experiences. We look forward to the day when we will be able to share GLM news from other parts of the US, Canada, and Mexico along with our own.

Whenever any new endeavor begins, there are always questions about how to go about it and our organization

is no different. So perhaps it is easiest to begin by looking at the model of the news business itself. They say that a good story should always include answers to the following 5 "Ws": Why?, What?, Where?, When?, and Who? So at least for this issue, we are going to try to be good reporters and tell you just that. To start with, you'll find an article from our spiritual leader Fr. Joe Rinaldo, SdC. His wisdom should help us understand "Why" we are

doing this. You'll also find an article describing our recent activities. That's the "What" part. And then our Steering Committee will be passing along the "Where, When, and Who" in hopes that our lessons learned will be useful to others.

So tell us what you like in this issue and what other things you would like to hear about and we'll do our best to respond.

*Sharon Pignanelli,
Newsletter Editor*

My Vineyard *by Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*

Jesus invites everyone who is willing to work in His name to His vineyard. This vineyard is the Church he founded and left to our care. We all are the laborers. Some of us decided to work in God's vineyard early on, some at day's end and some in between.

You, too, are also invited to take advantage of an opportunity to work in God's vineyard. "You too go into my vineyard." (Mt 20, 7). On August 21, we will have the Annual Conference of the Guanellian Lay Movement at The St Louis Center in Chelsea, Michigan, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the presence of the Servants of Charity in the USA. We meet in one state or another every year. Regardless of the attendance, it is always a learning and enriching experience.

The Charism of our Founder is needed now more than ever in our country, where life is threatened

anytime it is deemed unwanted or useless. The other phenomenon we are witnessing and suffering with is the planned and systematic persecution of the Catholic Church and the values for which it stands.

We cannot be silent! I believe in the principle, "Stand for something, or you will fall for everything." Christian life strengthens us in the time of trials and when we bear witness to our faith and values. Together we can go a long way.

Hope to see many of you in Chelsea, MI on August 21.



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What We've Been Doing



Dr. Delia (Millie) Lopez and daughter, Maria Esperanza, sample one of the many delectable dishes at the potluck.

Several GLM activities have taken place since last fall. In August through October we scheduled three gatherings on Friday evenings. They consisted of a potluck supper and a multi-part presentation given by one of our Steering Committee members, Dr. Juan F. (Paco) Lopez, on Pope John Paul II's message, *REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS*, his Apostolic Exhortation on the person and mission of St. Joseph in the Life of Christ and the Church. But the Friday time slot seemed to be problematic with many families and so we decided to make a change to see if we could boost attendance.

In November we moved the gatherings to Sunday after 10 AM Mass at the Shrine of St. Joseph next door. The format was the same, Mass, potluck and presentation and Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC, our

spiritual advisor gave a well-received presentation on "The Power of Prayer". We were encouraged by the much improved attendance (~30 adults and children) and followed this with a Christmas Party on the same day and time in mid-December. About 60 adults and children attended this festive celebration so we feel we may have finally found the right day and time for families to attend.

Our February gathering on Sunday the 21st welcomed over 35 adults, teens, and children. Sr. Sharon Williams, DSMP, the GLM Coordinator from Illinois, joined us. The delicious potluck following 10 AM Mass at the Shrine fed our bodies and prepared us for the ensuing spiritual feast.

Fr. Joe Rinaldo, SdC our spiritual advisor, Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP, and Dr. Juan Lopez, who has long been involved in Guanellian activities, spoke on "An Overview of the Greater Guanellian Family from Three Different Perspectives: Priest, Religious, and Lay Person".



Steering Committee President, Al Zangara, introducing the speakers.

They emphasized that at the heart of the Guanellian charism is the belief that all human beings deserve equal dignity and that charity needs to be radiated to the surrounding community. Copies of the "Basic Document for the Guanellian Mission" were also distributed to help us become better acquainted with Fr. Guanella's mission and to provide a stimulus for future, more detailed exploration.



Fr. Joe Rinaldo, SdC sharing his view while Dr. Juan Lopez awaits his turn.

Where, When and Who

We are fortunate to be able to gather at the St. Joseph Shrine and Pastoral Center. It is an old farmhouse with a warm, comfortable family feeling. Several rooms in addition to the original kitchen provide enough space in which we can place enough tables and chairs to seat about 50 for the potluck brunch. Families can attend 10 AM Mass and then come right over for the gathering.

As mentioned before, Sunday seems to be a good day for the gathering. Many families already set aside the time for family activities and they need to partake of a meal at some point so bringing one dish to a potluck can actually make it easier than cooking for the family alone.

When possible, our gatherings are scheduled for the same Sunday (the 3rd) each month so families can get them on their calendars in advance.

The format for our gatherings is

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simple and consistent: Mass, Potluck, Presentation. Out of respect for the many demands on a family’s time, we try to limit the entire activity to two hours or less.

An important concept of our gatherings is that they are not just for adults, they are for the entire family. We always have a children’s activity in a separate room during the presentation portion of the gathering.

We have several different ways of announcing the gatherings to those who may wish to attend. First of all we publish a flyer that is posted in the Shrine and other local areas several weeks in advance. A notice is also placed in the Shrine Bulletin each month. About 10 days before the scheduled event we send out an email reminder to all those who have indicated an interest in the organization or have attended a past gathering and left their con-

tact information.

But our biggest cause for celebration is the establishment of officers. In order to be perpetuated, organizations need designated leaders. Perhaps motivated by the spirit of lenten sacrifice but certainly buoyed by the increased numbers attending our gatherings, these individuals have agreed to lead us for the following year:

- Al Zangara, President;
- Dr. Juan Lopez, Vice President and;
- Pat Zangara, Recording Secretary.

Sharon Pignanelli will continue as Communications Coordinator.

Based on a survey the attendees at the February gathering completed, we expect the list of those willing to take on a leadership role will grow.

May the spirit of Blessed Louis Guanella be with you as he has been with us during this formative time.

Calling All Guanellians ... by Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP

The Fifth National Guanellian Lay Movement Conference will be held August 21, 2010 in Michigan. Since we will also be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the St. Louis Center in Chelsea we will be having our meeting on their beautiful grounds.

We are so grateful to God for the charism that Blessed Louis Guanella gave his family. He specified a particular way to live out our life. This way is called “The Guanellian Mission.” And so the theme of our conference this year will be “The Guanellian Mission”, focusing on the sources of inspiration for this mission and how to carry out this Guanellian mission in our lives.

We hope you will all start making plans so that as many of you as possible will be able to join us in this years festivities. Attached to this Newsletter is a copy of our brochure. Feel free to copy and distribute to any and all who may be interested.

We look forward to seeing you all in August.



**GUANELLIAN LAY MOVEMENT OF
MICHIGAN**

Shrine of St. Joseph Pastoral Center
971 East Michigan Avenue Grass Lake, MI 49240

Steering Committee

Al Zangara, President
Dr. Juan Lopez, Vice President
Pat Zangara, Recording Secretary
Dr. Delia (Millie) Lopez
Frank Pignanelli
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Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP
Sr. Brenda McHugh, DSMP

Contact Person

Sharon Pignanelli
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The Guanellian Lay Movement is an association of persons who listen, learn and announce the Word of God in the Spirit of Blessed Louis Guanella. Like him, we are sent to evangelize the poor, arousing in them reasons for hope, by witnessing the love of the Father.

As members of the Greater Guanellian Family and in reciprocal collaboration, we partake in the Spirit and mission of the Founder. We become instruments of Providence through the exercise of the works of mercy.

Note from the Editor

We hope you enjoyed reading this first issue of the GLM Newsletter. While we were happy to share our Michigan experiences with you, the longer term goal for this publication is to make it a voice for the larger US/Canada/Mexico Guanellian Family. So, we need to hear from YOU! Our next issue will hopefully go to press in the early fall so please send us your articles by August 31, 2010. We, of course, would also appreciate your comments. You may send both to Sharon Pignanelli at the following address: pignanelli.sharon9@gmail.com.

Have a blessed summer!