

# The Voice of Providence

**now** HOUR  
AND AT THE

PUBLICATION OF THE SERVANTS OF CHARITY

FEBRUARY 2012–MARCH 2012



**Featured Story:** *The Canonization of St. Louis Guanella*, page 18

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.....Lent: A Time to Die  
*Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*
- 2.....Shrine News  
*Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP*
- 3.....March, St. Joseph's Month  
*Fr. Silvio De Nard SdC*
- 7.....St. Joseph: Father of the Suffering and Dying  
*Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC*
- 9 .....“Go Green” with St. Joseph  
*Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP*
- 12.....Dedications & Memorials
- 13.....Masses, Medals and The Holy Cloak
- 14 .....Good Children  
*Carlo Lapucci*
- 18.....The Canonization of St. Louis Guanella  
*Joseph Yekulis*
- 21.....St. Louis Guanella Inspires the Work in Vancouver, Canada  
*Meg Ceron*
- 24.....Confirmation Day  
*Fr. Dennis Weber*
- 27.....Run, Louis, Run!  
*Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC*
- 31 .....The Pious Union Library:  
*Father Louis Guanella: Samaritan Priest*

Cover: Fr. Mario Carrera, SdC, director of the Pious Union of St. Joseph, thanks Pope Benedict XVI for the blessing of Canonization on behalf of the Servants of Charity.

### PUBLISHED BY:

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

PHOTOS: St. Louis Center Archives,  
Joseph Yekulis, Kelly Flaherty, Lauren Hill

*Ó St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ and true spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us and the suffering and dying of today.*

### The Voice of Providence:

Is a non-profit bi-monthly publication of the Divine Providence Province of the Servants of Charity, a Catholic Religious Congregation founded by Saint Louis Guanella, (1842–1915).

### 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.

# Lent: A Time to Die

REFLECTION BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

We read in the Gospel that Jesus, before starting His public life leading to His Passion, Death and Resurrection, was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days and forty nights to be tempted by the devil. (Mt. 4,1). During that time, despite the temptations from the devil, Jesus totally surrendered to the will of the Father and accepted His death on the cross out of love for the Father and mankind.

In the history of salvation, there are other events when the spirit leads the people of God to a similar experience that concludes with the acceptance of God's will. The universal flood of forty days and forty nights and the Exodus are the most significant experiences. After each experience the people of God came out changed, renewed and purified. They made a pledge to God: We will be Your people and You will be our God.

Blessed Mother Teresa, St. Teresa of Avila and many mystics and saints had the same experience. They went through the desert experience, also known as the dark night of the soul. Once they surrendered totally to God, their renewed faith exploded in mysticism and holiness.

The recently canonized St. Louis Guanella went through the same night of the soul. In this phase God seemed to disappear, prayer became fruitless and contact with God arid. Father Guanella was persecuted, confined, and treated as paranoid and a fool. He went through the desert experience, the dark night of the soul, but he always trusted in God and never stopped searching for and following His will. He surrendered to the will of God and today he is a saint, founder of the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, who have spread all over the world; taking care of the handicapped, elderly and the poorest of the poor.

Lent is the time of the desert experience or the dark night of the soul experience. During this time by dying to ourselves and surrendering to the will of God we can be reborn to a new life. The experience of Lent dedicated to reflection, examination of conscience and the acceptance of the will of God, will change, renew and purify our soul. Then we will be ready to rise with Christ, because we have died with Christ.

**Happy Easter!**



# Shrine News

BY SR. MARGARET MARY SCHISLER

We here at the Pious Union/Shrine of St. Joseph are very pleased with the new addition. The construction is running on time and we are excitedly looking forward to our larger worship area. We put all in the hands of St. Joseph and asked him to watch over the project and its budget. We were a little skeptical at first and then one of our regular attendees at Mass asked me, “Don’t you trust that St. Joseph will want his Shrine to grow?” That was just what I needed to hear to set my heart at peace about the finances of the expansion.



We are hoping that all will be finished for the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th. Please keep this intention in your prayers, asking St. Joseph to guide and protect the laborers and smooth their way to finishing up the project in your honor before your great Feast.

As we look forward to Spring we need to focus on the “New Life” that will be all around us. Naturally after our winter solstice we eagerly await the new buds and the chirping birds to return to our homes. This year we plan to beautify the Shrine with a special environmental project called “Go Green with St. Joseph.” The next stage in developing a peaceful and restful area for all to visit is the planting of trees that will create the grandeur that honors our dear St. Joseph and his Shrine. To become a forester read on in our magazine and it will give you some ideas about how to “Go Green with St. Joseph.”

Each day the Pious Union/Shrine of St. Joseph celebrates Mass and remembers all of you in our prayers. At the end of Mass we say our prayer to St. Joseph for all the suffering and dying of the day and remind you too to entrust all your cares and worries to our patron. St. Joseph, pray for us and keep us safe, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

# March, St. Joseph's Month

BY FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SdC



**Practicing Catholics are aware that March is the month dedicated to St. Joseph, as May is to Our Lady, and June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Not many of them know that, previously, the month honoring the Spouse of Mary was June. How come? We have to go back to Venice, that romantic Italian city on the water well known to many of you.**

In 1802, a Venetian printing house published the book, “The Month of Lilies”, dedicated to St. Joseph, which soon became very popular among the faithful. The month in question is June because in June lilies are blossoming. I know that in our days Easter altars are filled with lilies, but to me they are “fake” because they are out of their proper season. The true lilies, both white and orange, enjoy their triumph in June. Every time we see a picture or statue of St. Joseph, he’s always holding a lily, why? St. Joseph often carries a staff topped by blooming lilies to signify an ancient legend of how he was chosen to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin.



The apocryphal Protoevangelion of James recounts how Mary's spouse was chosen by collecting walking sticks of the men in Israel who were asking Mary to be their wife. Joseph's alone burst into flower, thus identifying him as divinely chosen.

In 1855, Blessed Pius IX approves the practice of the Month of St. Joseph, and the month he is talking about is March. He allows the faithful to begin the month long celebration of the glorious Saint on February 19 and to close it on March 19, the day in which the Church celebrates his Feast Day.



He writes: "Let the faithful be encouraged to pray and to perform virtuous acts of love to God during the month of March as they do during the month of May in honor of the Mother of God. I bless them in their endeavor."

In 1889, Pope Leo XIII invites the faithful to pray the Rosary every day and to close it with a special prayer to St. Joseph, a prayer composed by the Pope himself. I grew up with that tradition, and still today I say that prayer—To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation—

at the end of my daily rosary. Pope Leo wrote: "In different places it has developed the praiseworthy and healthy tradition to dedicate the month of March to the honor of Saint Joseph by carrying out some daily exercises of piety. Where that practice cannot be carried out daily, it should be laudable that, before the day of his Feast, every parish should make a Triduum in his honor."

“PRAY THE ROSARY EVERY DAY AND CLOSE IT WITH A SPECIAL PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH... TO YOU, O BLESSED JOSEPH, DO WE COME IN OUR TRIBULATION.” POPE LEO XIII

“HOLY MOTHER CHURCH APPROVED MANY PRACTICES OF DEVOTION TO THE GREAT PATRIARCH, ESPECIALLY THE WEDNESDAYS OF THE YEAR AND THE MONTH OF MARCH. I REQUEST THAT THESE DEVOTIONS BE PRACTICED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...”

POPE BENEDICT XV



In 1920, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as the patron of the universal Church, Pope Benedict XV exhorted the bishops of the Catholic Church to implore the help of Saint Joseph. He added: “Holy Mother Church approved many practices of devotion to the great Patriarch, especially the Wednesdays of the year and the month of March. I request that those devotions be practiced as much as possible in each diocese beginning with the local bishop.”

In 1962, Blessed John XXIII remarked in an audience: “Today is February 28th, the vigil day of the month of March. It is the month dedicated to the devotion of the great Saint Joseph, the chaste guardian of the Most Holy Mother of God and Foster

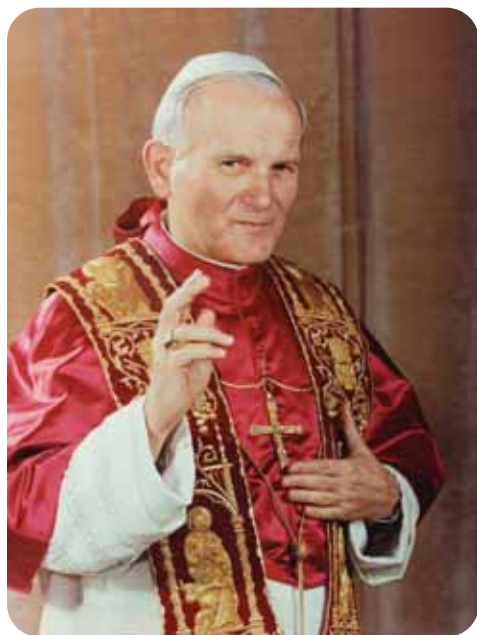
Father of the Redeemer... All faithful are invited to pray for the Vatican II Ecumenical Council... it is the right occasion to carry out the devotion of the month of March in honor of Saint Joseph for the success of the same Council.”



In 1989, Pope John Paul II published the Apostolic Exhortation “Guardian of the Redeemer.” In the intention of the Pope, that Exhortation has to be viewed in the context of the great Encyclicals he had dedicated to our Redemption. He clearly sent the message to many Catholics (alas, even bishops and

“SAINT JOSEPH HAD RECEIVED THE CALL FROM GOD “TO SERVE THE PERSON AND MISSION OF JESUS DIRECTLY THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF HIS FATHERHOOD...”

priests!), who dismissed the carpenter Joseph as just a carpenter or one of the many Saints in the calendar. Saint Joseph is not “a pious intrusion” in the Holy Family, a second or third class saint venerated by simpletons who don’t know better. On the contrary, Saint Joseph had received—inside the mystery of the Incarnation and Redemption—the call from God “to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood... It is precisely in this way, as the Liturgy of the Church teaches, that he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation, and truly he is a minister of salvation himself (n. 8).”



The month of March could be the right opportunity to meditate day after day the adventure and call of Saint Joseph to be husband and father. Fathers should pray to him for the grace to be true family-men, open to unconditionally serve those who God put under their care. Mothers should pray to him for the grace to be true wives and mothers open to life as Mary was at the Annunciation. Children should pray to Saint Joseph for the grace of being good children, God-fearing children, who love and respect their parents because God used their parents to create them, to love them and to save them.

# Saint Joseph: Father of the Suffering and Dying

BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

**St. Joseph, the Spouse of Mary and foster father of Jesus was the silent part of the mystery of salvation. He accepted the will of God and recognized the role of Mary and Jesus in the redemption of mankind.**

He follows Mary in her suffering. From the birth of Jesus, Mary knew that every day of His life was a day closer to the Cross. Mary became the sorrowful Mother and Jesus the suffering Servant of the Lord who gave his life for us. Joseph was the spouse of the sorrowful Mother and the foster father of Jesus, “A man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity.” (Is 53, 3).

With Jesus and Mary, Joseph lived, understood and accepted suffering for the salvation of the people of God. St. Joseph is the Father of the suffering and dying. His death was a holy death; he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

St. Louis Guanella understood this special role of St. Joseph and declared him patron of all the suffering and dying. But he did not stop there. He founded the Pious Union of St. Joseph and built the Basilica of St. Joseph at the Trionfale quarters in Rome. The church was dedicated on March 19, 1912 and the Pius Union was canonically approved by the Holy See on February 17, 1913. St. Pius X, before he died, extended the Pious Union of St. Joseph to the Universal Church.

Every Catholic can register to become a member of the Pious Union. The daily prayer for the suffering and dying is the only obligation for the members. The priests also become members of the Perennial Mass for the suffering and dying by promising to offer the Mass for the suffering and dying on a specific day assigned to them each year.



“ EVERY CATHOLIC CAN REGISTER TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PIOUS UNION. THE DAILY PRAYER FOR THE SUFFERING AND DYING IS THE ONLY OBLIGATION FOR THE MEMBERS. ”

The members so united constitute a chain of prayers and love that reaches to the heavens in supplication for the suffering and dying. It is an utmost consolation to know that every day millions of people are praying for the suffering and dying and that each hour of the day, in every corner of the world, a Mass is being offered for the same intention.

St. Louis Guanella, writing in his periodical, *La Divina Provvidenza*, thus informs his readers about his project of the Pious Union of the death of St. Joseph. “We had come to Rome and have been abundantly blessed. In Rome, under the love of the common Father, all God’s work will flourish and prosper. We are happy to be in Rome, because from here we can spread our foundation through the entire world. From here we can do a lot of good for the people of God and the work we do is consoling the heart of the Holy Father so anxious for the salvation of all. This has been the desire of my heart and mind. There is a need to live well, but there is even a greater need to die well. A holy death is everything. What value is all the work for the salvation of the faithful if they don’t die with God? Our chain of prayers for the dying is extremely important these days when people are so lost in business and entertainment that they forget about eternal life and many people are in danger of losing their soul. It is important that we work and pray hard that all people have a Christian and holy death. For this need, so important and so vast, the work of men is not sufficient; we need help from above. Therefore, the Basilica built in Rome was dedicated to the Death of St. Joseph. We wanted to offer to the people of God, a model, an intercessor for a death with God and to establish within the Basilica a perennial supplication to the Great Saint of the dying to assist our brothers and sisters who are passing from here to eternity. It is my prayer and desire that the center of prayer for the dying would not be limited only to Rome but that it would be extended to the whole world. Thus in the Basilica of St. Joseph at Trionfale was born the Pious Union for the Dying.” (*LDP March 1924*).

*Oh St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus Christ and true Spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the Suffering and Dying of Today (Tonight). Amen.*

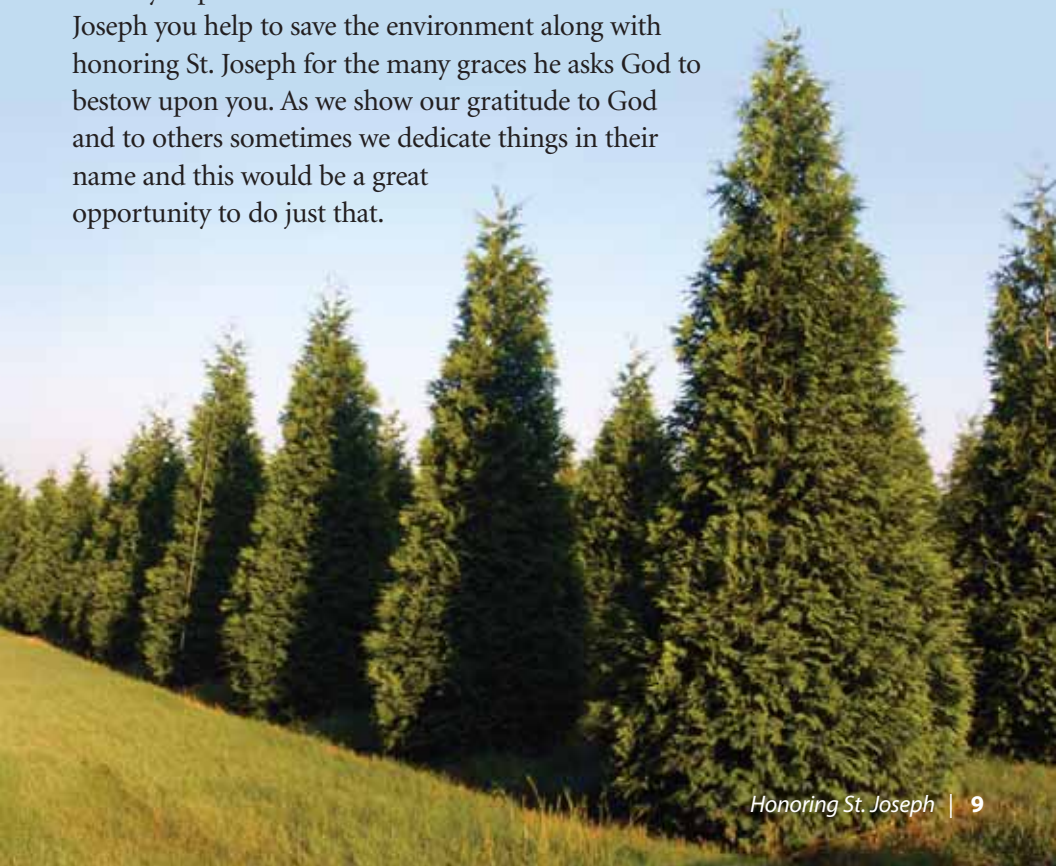
# “Go Green” with St. Joseph

By SR. MARGARET MARY SCHISLER, DSMP

**As we are getting ready to finish our extension on the Shrine to St. Joseph we are beginning to see that a good way to beautify our grounds is by encouraging St. Joseph’s supporters to “Go Green” for the feast of St. Joseph on March 19th.**

As we pray to St. Joseph to help to save the souls of the suffering and dying, we can also help to save the environment by planting a tree at the Shrine of St. Joseph. These trees may be dedicated for a loved one, for their birthday, their anniversary, to celebrate their lives or in thanksgiving for a grace received.

We plant trees for future generations. The tree has played an important part in Christian symbolism. It is the symbol of life. The Lord planted the Garden of Eden, growing every kind of tree that was pleasant to the eye and good for food. When you plant a tree at the Pious Union/Shrine of St. Joseph you help to save the environment along with honoring St. Joseph for the many graces he asks God to bestow upon you. As we show our gratitude to God and to others sometimes we dedicate things in their name and this would be a great opportunity to do just that.



One of the types of trees we are planting is the evergreen. The evergreen tree symbolizes perseverance and resilience to adversity. It stays green all year long and gives beauty to the area during all the seasons. Evergreens remind us of Jesus' words "The ones who persevere to the end shall be saved." We, like the evergreens, are to meet the different "seasons" in our life with resilience. St. Joseph is a great example, teaching us how to face adversity and remain confident that we will make it through any event.

Pope Benedict has declared 2012 the "Year of Faith." Faith, too, can be compared to the beautiful evergreen tree. As the cold and wintery weather challenges the evergreen to withstand the elements around it so, too, may we stand firm always with hope whenever our Faith is tried and when difficulty surrounds us. The Pope tells us, "The Year of Faith will also be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity... Faith and charity each require the other, in such a way that each allows the other to set out along its respective path."

Our faith must remain vibrant in all types of environments, in and out of season. Faith, just like trees, needs to be nurtured and cared for so that it may grow strong to be able to stand up to the elements of adversity. Each new day brings new challenges. As we grow in our Faith we are able to meet tougher and tougher challenges, just as an evergreen meets harsher and harsher winters throughout its years of growth.

With all the new growth around the Shrine each year we offer to all people a place to experience peaceful and relaxing surroundings that gives tribute to St. Joseph. So many of you have shared with us the way that St. Joseph answers your prayers and so we are inspired to trust him more deeply and to make his Shrine a more beautiful place every year. And this year, March 2012, we want to "Go Green" with St. Joseph to plant as many trees as we can on the grounds. You are helping us to enrich the environment around our Shrine.

If you decide to become a Shrine Forester of the Pious Union/ Shrine of St. Joseph we will plant a tree for your intention and place a plaque inside his Shrine. Each and every day we pray for you and all our benefactors and supporters, asking St. Joseph to be close to you and to your family.

For a donation of \$150 you will dedicate and we will plant one Green Giant Arborvitae, the fastest growing evergreen trees, which grow up to 50 feet high. These majestic trees will be the home of many birds, especially the Cardinal. New life will be humming around the Shrine thanks to you.

Feel free to mark “Go Green” on your check and send it to us in the envelope provided in the center of this magazine. Don’t forget to include your dedication.

Remember...we want to persevere through every kind of weather, like the evergreen, and we will be successful if we trust in Divine Providence and pray to St. Joseph for guidance. St. Joseph be our guide in all things!

**Go Green with St. Joseph...save souls and save the environment!**





# 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
- Dedicate a leaf on the Tree of Remembrance  
in the Shrine..... \$500

All donations are used for ministry at the Shrine of St. Joseph for the Suffering and Dying and for the continued building up of the Shrine in his honor.



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](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org).

# Sharing your devotion to St. Joseph with your family and all those who God brings into your life

	Donations
Give blessed St. Joseph Medals to family & friends	\$5.00 each
Offer a Mass in thanksgiving to St. Joseph	\$10 offering
Share a copy of the Holy Cloak with a friend	\$5.00 each
Share copies of the Voice of Providence	\$1.50 each

*Are there places where you visit that will display brochures of  
the Pious Union of St. Joseph?*

*Let's generously celebrate the Year of our Founder's  
Canonization by spreading devotion to our dear St. Joseph.*

*Please use the envelope in the center of the magazine to  
make requests and send donations.*

# Good Children

FROM PARABLES OF A GOOD SAMARITAN BY CARLO LAPUCCI

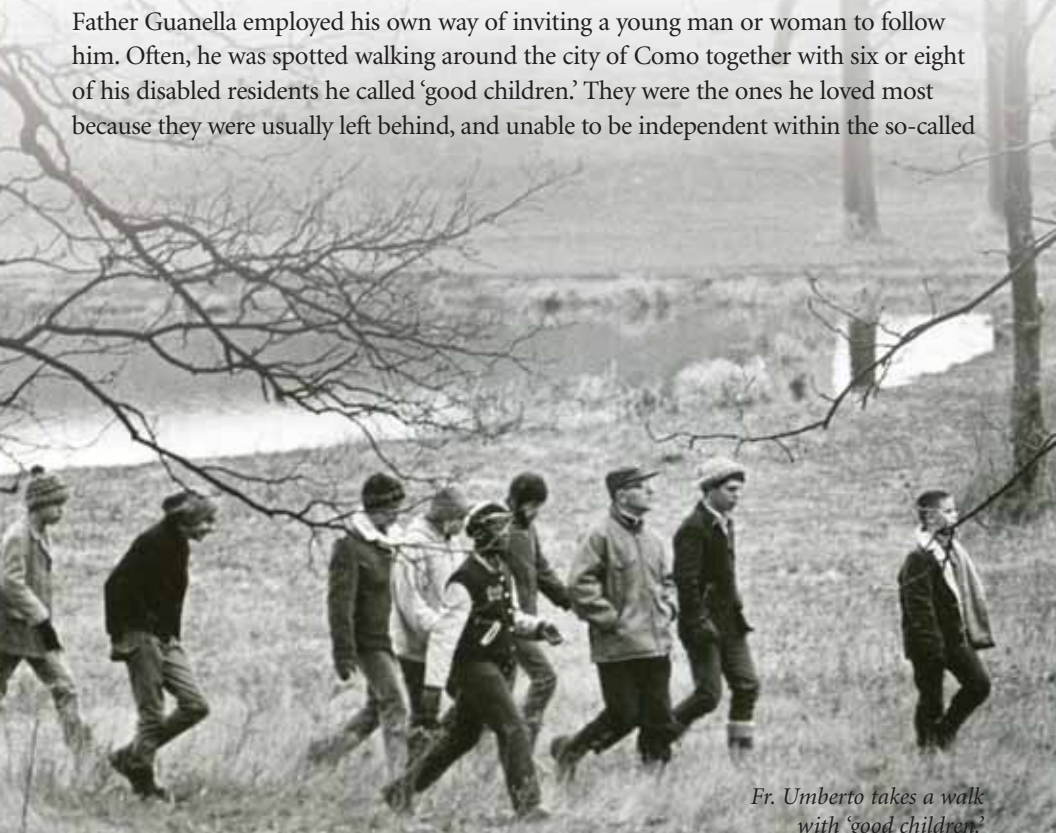
Father Guanella's main effort was to provide his new religious Families with vocations willing to carry on and continue his apostolate. Before entering, the candidates were informed that they would have to embrace his four "F's," *fame* (famine), *fumo* (fumes), *freddo*

(frost) and *fastidi* (fear). They were the unwelcome first four residents of his Little House of Providence. Though they were not always present at the same time, they were the undesirable guests his Religious Sisters and Priests battled against every day. These vocations usually came from the Lombard Region and other nearby provinces that remain very strong and generous in their Catholic faith today.

Father Guanella employed his own way of inviting a young man or woman to follow him. Often, he was spotted walking around the city of Como together with six or eight of his disabled residents he called 'good children.' They were the ones he loved most because they were usually left behind, and unable to be independent within the so-called



*Fr. Sateesh enjoys a baseball game with 'good children.'*



*Fr. Umberto takes a walk with 'good children.'*

'normal' world. They were not usually known by their given name but by an affectionate nickname. And so we had Pelapatat (peeling potatoes), Leccapiatt (licking dishes), Pallanin (playing ball), and Pestalac (puddle stomper)...

It became an ordinary occasion to see Guanella walking with these men in and around Como City. "There is our Father Guanella with his poor souls!" people would say.

Once the happy crowd reached Lurate Caccivio, a village on the outskirts of Como, and a group of boys and girls gathered around them. As usual, the first thing that Guanella did was to pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament in the church. After a brief 'hello' to the parish priest, Guanella and company



*Guanellian priests and cooperators guide young men in their call to give their lives in service to the least.*

spent time in prayer in front of the Tabernacle. Before leaving the church, he gave a short talk to those present, "Dear friends, today I brought some of my 'good children' with me who possess an intelligence that not many in the world have, because they are innocent, and God's grace is in them all the time. God loves them without limit, and they love him as no one else. We walk because they need fresh air, relaxation, and an opportunity to be in contact with the world. They need your love. They deserve it, not because they look funny, sure they do, but because their souls are innocent and their hearts are good. They really are, even though they live an unfortunate life because they cannot take care of themselves. When they feel truly loved, they become better, and more willing to pray to the good Lord. In their own way, of course! Is there no one in this church who is willing to embrace religious life and spend their life in taking care and loving these good creatures of the Lord?"

Calling his 'good children' around him, Guanella then resumed his walk in the midst of green meadows and fields, thus returning to Como. His heart was dancing in happiness for having sowed more seeds of a sound restlessness in the hearts of many listeners. He was forcing them to think that we cannot be truly happy if we keep ourselves closed to the needs of others.

*Is God calling you to serve others? See pp. 32-33 if you would like more information on joining the Servants of Charity or Daughters of St. Mary of Providence.*



*'Good children' pray the rosary with young men discerning their vocation.*

spent time in prayer in front of the Tabernacle. Before leaving the church, he gave a short talk to those present, "Dear friends, today I brought some of my 'good children' with me who possess an intelligence that not many in the world have, because they are innocent, and God's grace is in them all the time. God loves them without limit, and they love him as no one else. We walk because they need fresh air, relaxation, and an opportunity to be in contact with the world. They need your love. They deserve it, not because they look funny, sure they do, but because their souls are innocent and their hearts are good. They really are, even though they live an unfortunate life because they cannot take care of themselves. When they feel truly loved, they become better, and more willing to pray to the good Lord. In their own way, of course! Is there no one in this church who is willing to embrace religious life and spend their life in taking care and loving these good creatures of the Lord?"





# The Canonization of St. Louis Guanella

BY JOSEPH YEKULIS

What is the experience of the canonization of a saint all about? We know that it is a very special occasion in the Catholic Church and that it happens infrequently. But what is it like to be there, and how can you describe the atmosphere? Since most have never participated in a momentous event such as this, many had to experience it for themselves.

Fifty members of the Guanellian Family from Michigan and Pennsylvania traveled to Rome to support the canonization of St. Louis Guanella, the Founder of the Servants of Charity and inspiration for the work that they do in caring for the poor, the marginalized, and persons with disabilities.

The canonization took place on Sunday October 23, 2011, and unified the worldwide Guanellian Family present at St. Peter's Square. Of the 20,000 people who were there on Sunday morning, 12,000 were from the Guanellian Family to honor their new saint.

The canonization weekend included a series of events that took place over a four day period which began on Friday October 21st, and ended on Monday October 24th. The events unfolded in the following way:



*Soloist Karen Ciaccia performs at St. Joseph at Trionfale*

## Outdoor Evening Concert at St. Joseph at Trionfale in Rome

The open air concert was a wonderful event under the stars and lights of Rome on Friday night (10/21), as 500 people attended the concert featuring six different musical acts; all performing original Christian Rock music dedicated to the life of St. Louis Guanella.

## Prayer Vigil at St. Paul Outside the Walls

The prayer vigil Saturday (10/22) at St. Paul Outside the Walls was a beautiful service, performed in an ancient basilica that was constructed by Emperor Constantine from 384-395 and enhanced throughout the centuries.

The group arrived in late afternoon and remained as night descended. The service, prayers, and music were performed in many different languages, and by the end of the ceremony, a line of flag bearers marched to the front, carrying the flags of the 22 different countries that the Guanellian Family has been welcomed into. By now, 5,000 Guanellians had gathered together.



*Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome*

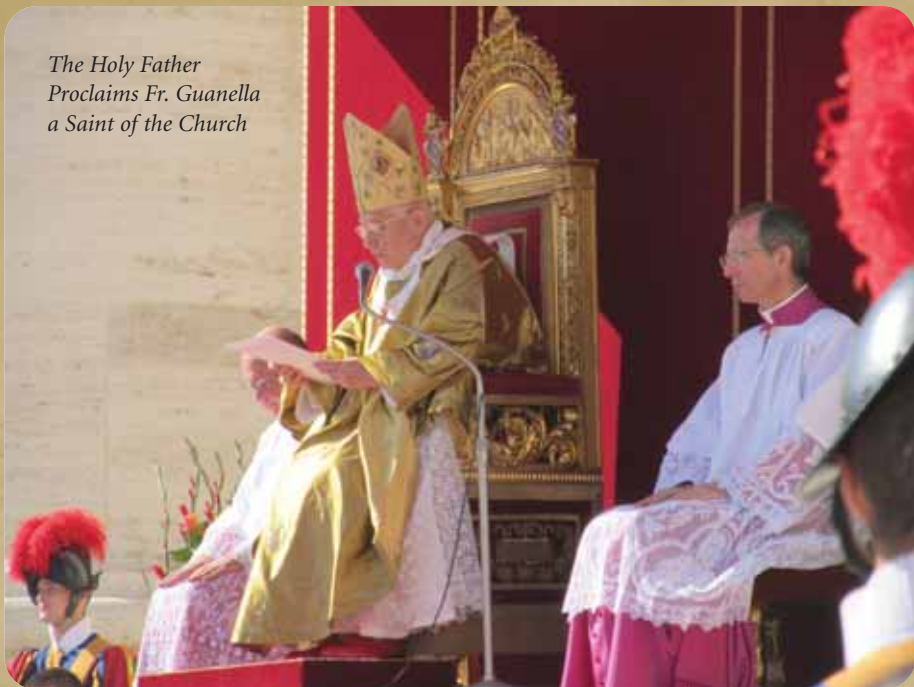
## The Canonization of St. Louis Guanella in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican

Of course, the canonization was the highlight of the weekend, led by the presence of the Holy Father and 20,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. At 9:30 a.m., an Introductory Ceremony began with readings that focused on each of the three people being canonized that day. Then at 10:00 a.m., the Holy Father began the canonization ceremony,



*St. Peter's Square the morning of the Canonization*

*The Holy Father  
Proclaims Fr. Guanella  
a Saint of the Church*



with trumpets sounding and the Swiss Guards moving quickly to their posts. Suddenly, the clouds parted, the sun shone brightly, and God seemed to smile down on the crowd; right on cue. The pageantry was beautiful as each step of the canonization process was completed.

Especially significant for the United States was the participation of William Glisson of Springfield, PA., and Fr. Peter Di Tullio, SdC. of East Providence, RI, during the ceremonies. Glisson was the recipient of the miracle celebrated through the intercession of Fr. Guanella, and was one of three members of the laity who carried the reliquaries to the altar bearing the bone fragments of each saint. Finally after the Litany of Saints, Pope Benedict XVI read the Formula for Canonization, and declared that Fr. Luigi Guanella, Fr. Guido Maria Conforti, and Sr. Bonifacia Rodriquez De Castro were the newest saints of the Catholic Church. Mass for 20,000 people followed the canonization ceremonies, and the Guanellian Family left with a blessing from the Holy Father, and filled with the Holy Spirit.



*William Glisson, miracle recipient,  
is escorted by excited priests*



*St. Peter's Basilica awaits the Guanellian Family*

## **Thanksgiving Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone**

The following day, the Guanellian Family came together one final time to celebrate Mass with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State of the Vatican.

It was a colorful site to behold, as well over 100 priests, bishops, and cardinals entered St. Peter's Basilica for this special Mass that was shared with 12,000 members of the Guanellian Family. The laity were colorfully dressed, as the Chilean's were dressed in blue, the Brazilians in red, and members of the Divine Providence Province (USA) wore their white hats and yellow scarves.

All of our Servants of Charity and local priests who came from the USA sat proudly near the altar, and Cardinal Bertone, Secretary of State of the Vatican, welcomed everyone to St. Peter's Basilica on behalf of the Holy Father. This brought the official ceremonies to an end.

The U.S. delegation from Michigan and Pennsylvania returned home on October 27th.



*Cardinal Bertone begins the Thanksgiving Mass*

# St. Louis Guanella Inspires the Work in Vancouver, Canada

BY MEG CERON, GUANELLIAN COOPERATOR

In October 1981 the congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Vancouver B.C, Canada was surprised to see three sisters in habit attending Sunday Mass. A few days later our pastor called to see if I would go to the house where the sisters were living and ask them if I could assist them in whatever ministry they were starting.

I went over to the house and found the sisters most pleasant and welcoming, but I was taken aback when they said they would be working and teaching Catechism to mentally challenged children and youth of the Diocese. At the time, I was a bookkeeper, parish volunteer, driver, school mom, director of the provincial fair and responsible for the paper work for our family-owned roofing company. Me...teach?

While waiting to move into the parish convent, the sisters, kept busy by helping in the parish, in the school and in preparation for the proposed catechetical program which was to be called, VANSPEC (Vancouver Special Catechism). Other parishes were contacted, young people were attracted, as well as many adults and teachers at Our Lady of Sorrows. Many volunteered as teachers and counselors.



Residing in the convent, the program began in 1982 with students from local parishes as well as others from as far away as 40 kilometers. Most of the students were baptized earlier, so the program was aimed at preparing for the Sacraments of Confession and Confirmation. When time came for Confession, we took the students to various parishes to introduce them to the other diocesan priests. In this way VANSPEC became known throughout the Diocese.

In time, the sisters asked five of the first volunteers to become Guanellian Cooperators and we were very excited to become associated with the spirit and works of Fr. Guanella. Our little group became the first English speaking Guanellian Cooperators in North America.

Shortly thereafter, the idea of taking the kids and counselors to camp was raised and accepted. To raise funds for the camp, the first VANSPEC Dinner Dance was planned and the turnout was terrific. Leavenworth, Washington was selected as the first site for camp and two parishes donated their school buses for the trip. Counselors were chosen, seminarians and three priests were invited – and away we went! A great time was had by all. For a few years Leavenworth was the camp location.

Dinner dance patrons from some of the outlying areas were inspired to hold VANSPEC classes in their Parishes. Some of these parishioners became involved in the program and became Guanellian Cooperators, involving themselves with Saint Guanella's special children, those who "the world has set aside." One of the newly involved women was moved to leave her corporate position to work for the Community Living Society, coordinating day programs for mentally and physically challenged people.



Today, three groups of Guanellians gather for a monthly Prayer meeting. I head up the group in the Fraser Valley where we recently have had inquiries from people wishing to join us. We have eight members at present—four Knights of Columbus, two of their wives and two from the first group of Cooperators. Father Guanella's charism of charity is truly followed in our group. Two members provide transportation for the sick to the hospital and escort the elderly to Mass, two of us are involved in Prison Ministry, six cater for parishes that hold fundraising dinners for charity and there are four more who dearly hope to become Cooperators. They feel they will be able to reach out to other K of C Councils to organize fundraising for the benefit of Guanellian programs in need. By these works we hope to make the diversity of physically and mentally challenged people known, acknowledged and respected in our communities.

Jim Brown and Sr. Beth Ann lead the other groups and many good things are happening. In St. Ann's parish, the Knights have welcomed four challenged men into their group and have involved them completely in their charitable works for others.

All of these good works that have been accomplished began with the first three Sisters at Our Lady of Sorrows. We wish to thank these Sisters who served our community so generously: Sisters Andrea, Anna Maria, Arlene, Beth Ann, Brenda, Collette, Kim, Linda, Margaret Mary, Mary Patricia, Nancy, Rhonda, Rita Rose, Theresann.

We Pray for all of you, we give thanks for your leadership and assistance. SAINT LOUIS GUANELLA, PRAY FOR US



## Confirmation Day

BY FR. DENNIS WEBER, SDC

**On Saturday, November 12th, 2011, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Providence, a Confirmation Mass took place at St. Anastasia Church in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.**

The celebrant was Bishop Timothy C. Senior, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and who, for fourteen years, was chaplain to the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the residents of Divine Providence Village in Springfield. On the surface, it seemed to be like any other Confirmation Mass with confirmandi filling many pews of the church and the sponsors, family members, and friends bringing the congregation to an overflow. The bishop preached the homily and quizzed the boys and girls, who would soon be filled with the Holy Spirit, about their faith. However, one of the boys to be confirmed was Michael Malloy, a growing 15 year old teenager with Down Syndrome. Michael and his family chose the name of St. Louis Guanella for his confirmation name. Although we cannot say for sure, Michael may have been the first person to choose the newly canonized saint for his confirmation name.

Why St. Louis Guanella? Well, there is certainly the connection to the ministry of the Guanellian family for persons with developmental disabilities. But the reason is much deeper than that. The Malloy family- husband David, wife, Mary Beth and children

Maureen, Maggie, Michael, Bridget and Daniel-believes that Michael owes his life to a “miracle” through the intercession of St. Louis Guanella. On March 3rd of 2011, Michael had a terrible choking incident at lunch in his school, went into cardiac arrest, and was rushed to one hospital and then to another; the world renowned Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The doctors did not hold out much hope for Michael’s survival. Brain damage was suspected because of a loss of oxygen and both of his lungs were completely filled with fluid. He developed a severe staph infection and severe pneumonia. He was in a comatose state for 8 days and the doctors chose to treat him with a hypothermic blanket for 5 days- a treatment which, at the time, had only been used for 113 children in the world. On March 4th, Sr. Mary Veasy, SSJ and Sr. Sue Lindinger, SSJ, pastoral associates at Divine Providence Village, brought a first class relic of St. Guanella, obtained through Fr. Paul Oggioni, to the family and the family prayed constantly to St. Louis Guanella. Michael indeed did survive, and Mary Beth, Michael’s mother, said that when she sees the ER doctors they attribute Michael’s survival and subsequent partial recovery to a miracle.

As Michael overcame this ordeal, he continued his preparation, along with three other children with special needs, to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. All was going well. He was back in school, he was going through various therapies to restore some of his lost skills and he and his family eagerly awaited the day of Confirmation on which both Michael and his 11 year old brother Daniel would receive the sacrament of Confirmation. On November 3rd, while Michael was at home eating his dinner, he had another choking episode. His father David performed the Heimlich maneuver which provided only partial relief. Michael’s lips began turning blue and he passed out. His 17 year old sister Maggie began CPR and Michael awoke.





In the meantime, 14 year old Bridget called 911 and the EMT's arrived and transported Michael to a local hospital where he was then transported back to Children's Hospital and to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Again, because of the choking incident, a pulmonary edema was caused, which again led to a severe case of pneumonia, only 9 days before Michael's confirmation!

His family again offered their prayers to the now "Saint" Louis Guanella and the doctor's provided an excellent course of treatment for Michael so that, one week later, Michael was at home on Thursday, November 10th, attended school on the 11th and was blessed with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his confirmation day, November 12th.

Because of his family's prayers and their belief and trust in the intercession of St Louis Guanella, Michaels' name is now Michael Edward Louis Guanella Malloy. We are grateful for the Malloy family's devotion to Don Guanella and welcome all of them into the Guanellian family. St. Louis Guanella, pray for us!

# Run, Louis, Run!

BY FR. PAUL OGGIONI, SDC

**“Run, Louis, Run! Tell Giambattista that your dad wants to see him at City Hall at ten this morning.” Louis runs fast, from the mountains, through ditches, creeks and tortuous trails to deliver the message from his father, the Mayor of the city, to Giambattista.**

Louis, the ninth of thirteen children of Lorenzo and Maria Bianchi, while the rest of the family were working on the slopes of the mountains, was only able to relay messages or call for help during emergencies.

“Louis, run and bring this bit of food to old Michele.”

Or, “Louis, run, the bell rang the last call for Mass and you are the altar boy.”

Often, “Louis run, the

Brown cow jumped the

fence.” Many times, “Louis run, our neighbor Maria is very ill; she wants to see Fr. Giovanni.”



*Fr. Guanella (lower left) at the blessing of a new foundation.*

Run, run, and run! This fast rhythm characterized St. Louis Guanella’s life on earth as he answered his call from the Lord. Once he became a priest, he walked the muddy path of that suffering and rejected part of mankind who he embraced as the ones in need of redemption and salvation in Christ Jesus. The Lord said that he had come to the world to bring fire and he committed himself to be “a sword of fire in his holy ministry.” Like Jesus, who appeared “more a worm than a man” in a passion accepted and suffered for love, Father Guanella became a ‘Samaritan,’ that is a fool and outcast, rescuing all who were rejected by a corrupt society while reminding us all, that they too were worthy to share the goods of heaven and earth.



His life and ministry became a witness to the message of universal love that recognizes the dignity of every person, redeemed by the incarnate Word.

Father Guanella in his service to the poor adapted a saying from St. Augustine: In Omnibus Caritas, Love in everything. He loved St. Augustine and quoted him often in his writings for his priests, sisters and parishioners. “The one who loves, runs, and the race is much

*Fr. Guanella and companions on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land.*

faster when the love is deeper. To a feeble love corresponds a slow walk, and when love is missing, one will stop on the way.” (disc. 346, 2).

He ran a fast race because since he was a child, he understood that Jesus at his side asked him to assist his brothers who were ill, deaf, blind, crippled, homeless and rejected. They were the same crowd that followed Jesus on His way from Galilee to Jerusalem.

Therefore, it was instinctive for him to become ‘the Good Samaritan’ rescuing as many poor as he could from degradation on the dark and filthy streets.

In this way, he invited them to a spiritual experience which would help them to discover that God is a Father who cares in a special way for those who are considered the least.

HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY BECAME  
A WITNESS TO THE MESSAGE  
OF UNIVERSAL LOVE THAT  
RECOGNIZES THE DIGNITY OF  
EVERY PERSON, REDEEMED BY  
THE INCARNATE WORD.

HE LITERALLY TRAVELED EVERY ROAD  
IN ITALY TO OPEN SHELTERS OF CHARITY  
WHERE HIS DISCIPLES, THE SERVANTS  
OF CHARITY AND THE DAUGHTERS OF  
ST. MARY OF PROVIDENCE COULD  
GIVE LIFE TO HIS DESIRE.

We have over four thousand of the many letters that Father Guanella wrote. From this correspondence we can compile a diary of a constant pilgrimage through the ways of the world in search of the poor. He literally traveled every road in Italy to open shelters of charity where his disciples, the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence could give life to his desire.



*Fr. Guanella with Cooperators on one of his early endeavors.*

St. Pius X, kept encouraging him with his friendship and his counsel; they both wanted the poor to share happiness and salvation in Christ. His heart and mind, however, had no boundaries. Even as a theology student he had asked his bishop to let him go as a missionary to India. He followed the work of missionaries in China, Africa and Latin America very closely. When his time came, he went from Italy to Switzerland where he started to open orphanages, nursing homes for the elderly and kindergartens for poor children. He visited the Holy Land to retrace the steps of Jesus, but his desire to establish a foundation there was to be fulfilled years later by his Servants of Charity. He reached Germany, England and France where he visited Lourdes and prayed to the Virgin for protection over his Congregations.

He was seventy years old when he embarked on a journey to the United States, traveling with hundreds of emigrants looking for an opportunity for decent lives. He was concerned that in the process they might lose their faith and family values. Soon he sent his religious women and men to help the emigrants to start a better life and rediscover the mercy of God who loves the poor and the lost sheep.



*Fr. Guanella with the Scalabrinian priests with whom he stayed in Boston on his trip to the US.*

As if this was not enough, old and ill, he rushed among the first ones to assist the victims of the earthquake near Rome in January 1915. Tens of thousands died and the plight of the wounded, the children, the elderly and the homeless was breaking his heart, as they were looking for help or family members.

He was still running to a new foundation when he was stopped by a stroke. Forced into bed, he could only speak with his eyes with intensity and expectation, indicating to his spiritual children the roads they needed to travel. He appeared to tell them, “Run, Run! The world needs you.”

Father Guanella is now St. Louis Guanella. Is he still running in heaven? There is no doubt. With his steady and decisive walk he encourages us as when he wrote, “*At the end of the world the deceivers and the deceived will see droves of men and women pass before their eyes and will ask themselves, ‘who are these people and how far will they go?’ Open your eyes. They are the honest who respect others and their property; they are the pure of heart who would not stand for lies and falsehood. Their passage will be distinguished and unique for those of the Servants of Charity who, in deeds and not in words, followed Jesus who ran the way of doing good with His example of charity.*”

St. Louis Guanella, help us to walk, always happy, in the ways of the Lord.

# THE PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH'S LIBRARY

## Father Louis Guanella Samaritan Priest

The above is the title of the latest published booklet and perhaps the most delightful of all the writings about Father Guanella.

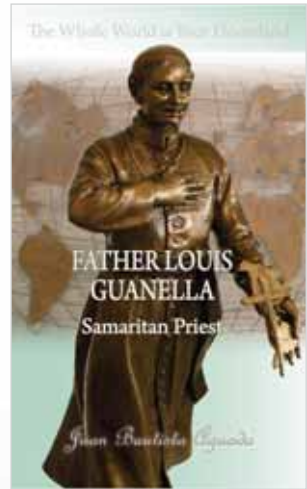
There are one hundred pages of a very colorful and fascinating biography.

The new Saint, Louis Guanella, is presented alive and moving from stage to stage in life, searching for the poor and dealing with all the deceiving and the deceived people who treated him as a fool, a rebel and delusional.

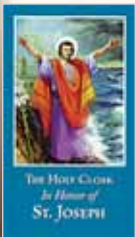
In this narration, accompanied by many colorful and meaningful illustrations, Father Guanella is presented as a real man of God, human, sensitive and a risk taker. When I finished reading it, I thought, oh my God, this man was declared a Saint, because he was a saint and did not even know it. I went over some chapters more than once. One feels changed after putting this booklet down. I wish you the same experience and a Happy Easter.



Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



*Father Louis Guanella: Samaritan Priest* 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.



*The Holy Cloak in Honor of St Joseph* continues to be available with a donation of \$5 or more. Please note on your donation envelope the books that you would like to receive.

# IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE OTHERS?

Among those who are deprived of human and spiritual support, we care for developmentally disabled, abandoned youth, indigent elderly, and the incurably and terminally ill. We are also committed to pastoral and missionary work in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa.

The **Servants of Charity** Priests and Brothers, **Daughters of St. Mary of Providence**, Cooperators and hundreds of members of the greater Guanellian family serve over a million brothers and sisters while offering comfort, consolation and support.

There is room for many others; those needing help and those who want to help.

Consider joining our mission, making the love of God more and more visible in our world. **For more information, contact:**

## 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  
Tel: 2-931-5549  
Email: coviray@yahoo.com



**Please consider helping  
one of our seminarians to  
become a priest or a brother  
for one dollar a day.**



To become a member of the Pious Union of St. Joseph or to extend membership to prayerful friends and relatives, please send names and addresses to 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240 or email [piousunion@pusj.org](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org)

### **Shrine of St. Joseph Sacraments and Hours of Devotion**

**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](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org)

### **Pious Union of St. Joseph**

953 East Michigan Ave.

Grass Lake, MI 49240

Phone: 517-522-8017

Email: [piousunion@pusj.org](mailto:piousunion@pusj.org)

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 87  
ANN ARBOR, MI