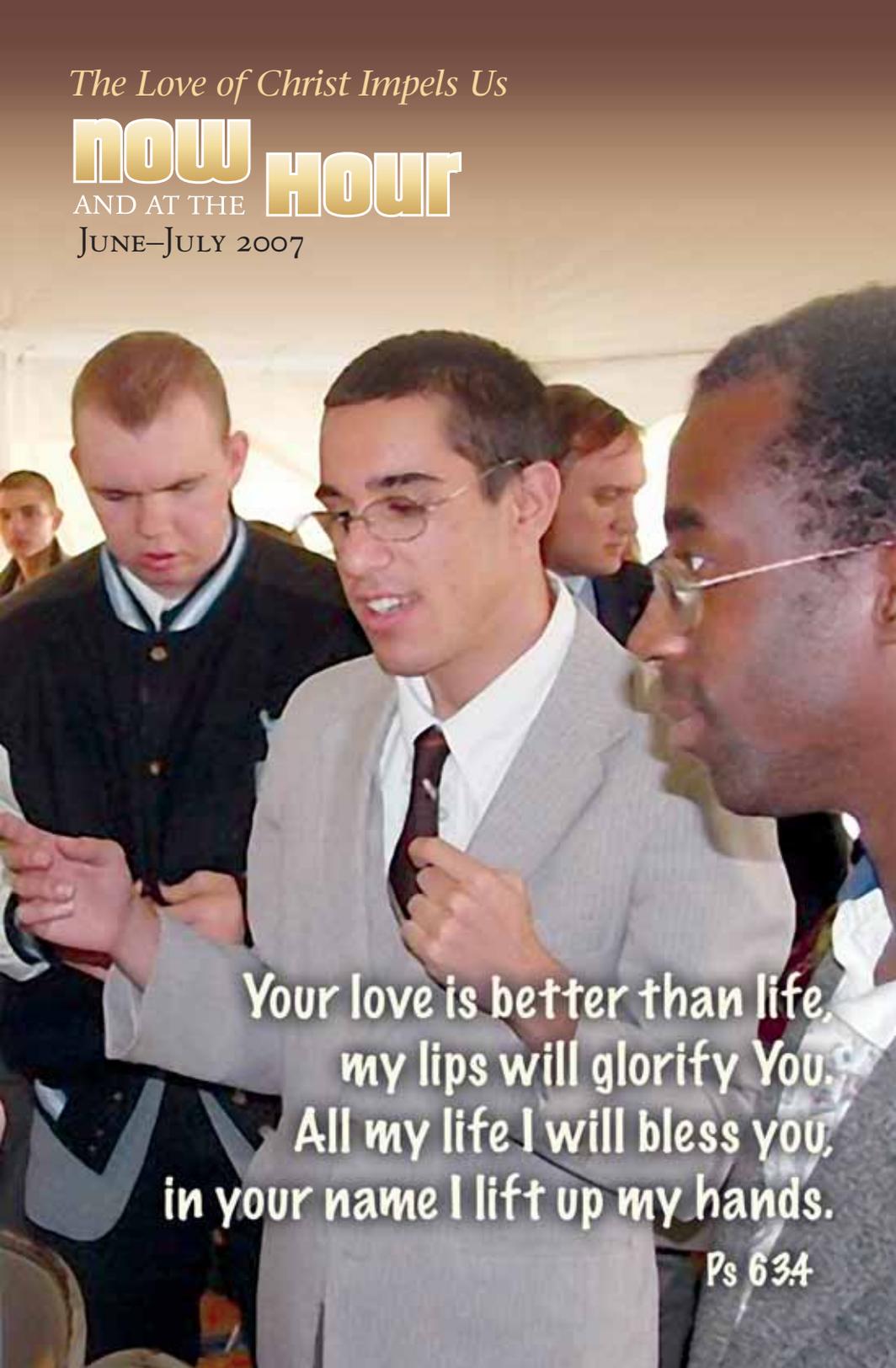


The Love of Christ Impels Us

now HOUR

AND AT THE

JUNE-JULY 2007



Your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify You.
All my life I will bless you,
in your name I lift up my hands.

Ps 634

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Cover: *Mentally impaired youth praying at the Shrine of St. Joseph.*

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The Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Suffering and Dying is an Association of the faithful, founded by Blessed Aloysius Guanella in 1913 and made a Primary Association of the Catholic Church by Pope St. Pius X, on April 12, 1914.

The mission of this Association is to spread devotion to St. Joseph throughout the world and to bind together as many priests and faithful as possible in a universal Crusade of Prayer and work of mercy for the benefit of the suffering and dying.

To become a Member: Enroll your name at the Pious Union of St. Joseph and make a commitment to pray every day to St. Joseph for the suffering and dying.

The Prayer of the Pious Union of St. Joseph

O St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ and true Spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the suffering and dying of this day. Amen.



IN OMNIBUS CHARITAS –

Love in Everything

For almost a century our mission statement, calling for a life full of generous commitment, has been echoing through the Servants of Charity in our efforts to support the spiritual and material needs of the poor and suffering. The motto, “In Omnibus Charitas” - Love in Everything - as proclaimed by St. Augustine, was adopted by Blessed Louis Guanella to identify the work of his Congregation. It is recommended to all our readers, the members of the Pious Union and the whole Guanellian Lay Movement. As we approach the celebration at the First Centennial Anniversary of our Congregation, we invite you to join us in our common vision; to build a more humane, just and holy society, a world founded on love because, “God is Love”.

These are the thoughts of Blessed Fr. Guanella who wanted his religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters to enter into partnership with the people of God, redeeming the world through Charity in Jesus Christ.

“The world shudders like volcanic ground and the tremors threaten destruction. Nevertheless, the world will be saved by the spirit of Charity which, when spread, will stop the wicked work of the evil one. Our faith is revived through Charity, and through our Christian works Charity is reborn. How can we love God and offer him our faith without loving our suffering neighbor? How can we believe that the image of God can be seen in the person of the poor, without running to help and to serve him?”

The Charity of St. Joseph

PART II

By Fr. John Ascedu

We do not have many stories about Joseph to quote from in order to prove his love. They are all the same as the ones you can read in the Gospel. However, from each story we can come to learn how he exercised the Theological Virtues simply and faithfully.

When Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant, he didn't know yet that the baby was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. So he decided to send her away in secret out of his great love and respect for her. When the Angel told him what was happening to Mary, his love for her increased. He learned from the angel that, besides God trusting in Mary, God trusted him also.

As her time to give birth approached and the prophecies told that the Messiah would be born at Bethlehem in Judea, Joseph and Mary were happily living at Nazareth in Galilee. It was the census, ordered by the Roman emperor Augustus that sent them to their ancestral home in Bethlehem to



be registered. Joseph prepared their way, making sure that Mary had all the necessary comforts and safeguards for her precious child. When in Bethlehem, they were unable to find appropriate lodging; they took refuge in a stable that, through the expert hands of the carpenter, was transformed into a habitable dwelling where Jesus was born.

Now they are three. Joseph has another mouth to feed, and he is happy, a happiness which ends when King Herod tries to kill the Baby Jesus. His mission, now, is to save Mother and Child from Herod's men and he takes them on a long flight into Egypt. In Egypt he cares for his family until the Angel tells him to return home to Nazareth.

When Jesus was twelve, the Holy Family returned to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast. Unbeknownst to Mary and Joseph, Jesus stayed behind in the city when they began their journey home, causing great distress to his parents who searched for him for three agonizing days. Mary suffered for the loss of Jesus and Joseph suffered for the loss of Jesus and for sharing the suffering of Mary. His heart is full of love for her and he truly suffers when he sees her in distress. Finally, they find Jesus in the temple talking and listening to the Teachers of the Law. Once reunited, Jesus obeys his parents' wishes and returns with them to Nazareth.

Joseph died before the public ministry of Jesus began. His life was the life of a carpenter, of a worker whose duty is to support his family. He doesn't spare himself any difficulty or trial in fulfilling his God-given mission to protect and care for his exceptional family. His external life was not much different from the lives of other husbands and fathers of Nazareth. His interior life, however, was another matter. He was filled with a supernatural love infused into him by God so that he could carry out his mission.

Joseph loved everyone with a great love. In Jesus, he loved God Himself; in Mary, he loved his wife and the mother of God; in the people of Nazareth he loved his neighbor. He loved everyone because of God who is worthy of all love. The Holy Spirit imparted to Joseph the gift of wisdom, strengthening his heart in the exercise of Charity.

Joseph loved God. Being in close contact with Jesus, he could see how great God's goodness was and how much He was worthy to be loved above everything and everyone in the world. How many times he thought of his unusual situation: God the Almighty gave into his care His only Son. Just thinking about that, his heart was inflamed, bursting with love for God.

Joseph loved Mary, his spouse. Through the gift of wisdom, Joseph saw the beauty and the holiness of Mary, the woman God Himself chose among all women to be the dwelling place of His Word.

Joseph loved Jesus. He was aware that his love for Jesus was never enough because he knew He was the Son of God, and yet he was entrusted to him as his dear son on earth. Through the gift of wisdom, Joseph's heart was filled with love for Jesus.

Joseph loved his neighbor, no one excluded. Still, his love was a human one, a limited one, having a beginning and an end. Only God's love is infinite and without end. Through the gift of wisdom, Joseph tried his best to love everyone, even those who were hard to love.

He, a descendant of King David, was a poor carpenter. But he never complained about it. He spent his life in taking care of his small family, in defending it from danger, in bringing food to the table, and in being a good and faithful husband and father. He did not regret the lack of a royal palace and its comforts; he didn't curse his poverty and humble life; he didn't complain about the particular and unusual mission bestowed on him by God. He accepted what God gave him and asked for no more, no less. He was not a complicated man. Work, suffering, disappointments, uncertainties, worries, trials, were his tools to grow in holiness. Love grows as holiness grows. This was Joseph's experience, a soul living his vow to love God and neighbor under the direct action of the Holy Spirit through the gift of wisdom.



Sr. Clare Bosatta, Daughter of St. Joseph

By SR. RHONDA BROWN, DSMP

God calls holy souls to follow him on the road of charity and sacrifice.

Sr. Clare Bosatta of Pianello Lario, Italy was one such soul. Born the last of 11 children, Clare was reared by her eldest sister, Marcellina Bosatta, co-foundress of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. Although born almost 1900 years after our holy patron, St. Joseph, the life of Sr. Clare clearly reflects that of our good patron.

In her early teens, Clare was enrolled at the Canossian Sisters boarding school. Drawn by the example of these sisters, Clare sought admittance as a religious to their congregation. Despite her good will, prayerful spirit, and love for God, Providence had other plans for her and the Canossians dismissed her, sending her on an unintended path to sanctity.

It is here we begin to see a parallel between the lives of Blessed Clare Bosatta and Good St. Joseph. St. Joseph, engaged to Mary, anticipated a life in Nazareth working as a carpenter, raising a pious family, and praising God. Though all good and noble aspirations, this would not be his way.

While awaiting the birth of their child, Joseph had to travel with Mary to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. While there, Jesus was born, and the Holy Family then fled Bethlehem to protect the Christ Child from Herod's threat. After hardship they returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and grace, and where St. Joseph lived out his days. Providence permitted these trying events that led St. Joseph to great holiness.

Like Joseph, Providence also led Sr. Clare. After dismissal from the Canossians, Clare returned home. At home with her beloved sister Marcellina, she was introduced to the fledgling work of Providence initiated by the saintly Fr. Charles Coppini, which was to grow and blossom under the direction of Fr. Guanella. Clare eventually joined the members of this little congregation, and embraced wholeheartedly its mission of charity with orphaned children and abandoned elderly people.

Holy souls often recognize in each other a lively faith and a strong love for God and so it was with Sr. Clare and Fr. Guanella. Just as God gave charge of His beloved Son and Mary to St. Joseph, Fr. Guanella gave charge of his work of charity to Sr. Clare during the first expansion into Como.

On a warm spring evening in 1886 Sr. Clare set out across Lake Como with one Sister, four orphans, and some pieces of furniture that seemed more suited to a junkyard than to a house of charity. Yet, Sr. Clare's great faith, love and kindness more than compensated for what was lacking in material things. Providence enabled this tiny congregation to grow in number, in holiness, and in every way necessary to care for the increasing number of residents in the little house.

In a short time the work of directing souls in extreme need depleted Sr. Clare's health and in her 29th year, she fell ill with tuberculosis. As her condition worsened it was decided that she should return to Pianello where she could be cared for by the Sisters and here she lived out her final days.

Like St. Joseph, what is clear in the life of Sr. Clare is her faithfulness to God, her readiness to do His will, and her love for all those entrusted to her care. These same virtues made St. Joseph a glorious saint and a powerful intercessor for the poor, the suffering, and the dying.

Sr. Clare has also been raised to the honors of the altar. Beatified by Pope John Paul II, Blessed Clare continues to care for God's children through her benevolent and powerful intercession for all who call upon her.

JUNE: Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

HOW ST. JOSEPH TEACHES US TO BRING JESUS INTO THE CENTER OF OUR LIFE

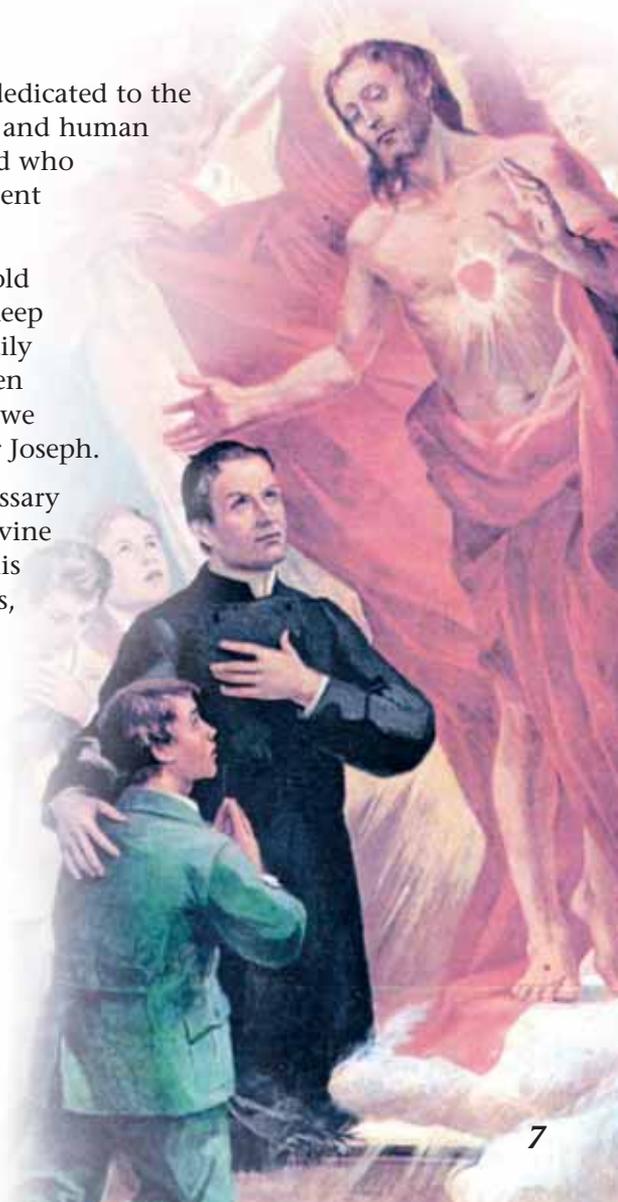
BY R. BORGHESI

It's already June, the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, symbol and human face of the eternal love of God who loved the world so much he sent His only Son.

Like a doorman at the threshold of this devotion to Jesus, we keep St. Joseph dear to us in our daily life. He is the mediator between Jesus and us. Through Joseph we may go to Jesus: *Ad Jesum per Joseph.*

Upon this mediation, so necessary in giving full honor to the Divine Heart, John Paul II wrote in his encyclical *Redemptoris Custos*, "St. Joseph is the proof that in order to be good and true disciples of Jesus it is not necessary to do great things, but to live the common, human, and simple virtues."

The love of Christ is the key to understanding our Christian faith and our vocation. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is necessary for us to understand our faith and becomes the door to our spiritual life.





Joseph is the model for us in answering our Christian vocation because he too built his own spirituality on the Child that was given to him to protect and to care for. He sacrificed everything for Jesus. From the divine Child, Joseph received the necessary strength to put himself, his freedom, his human vocation, and his spousal happiness at the service of the divine design. Being a humble and simple soul made this possible.

Another great saint, St. Theresa of Avila, teaches us how to reach the Sacred Heart. In time of need she sought the intercession of St. Joseph to send her messages to Jesus.

In her "Autobiography" she writes, "I still marvel remembering the great favors bestowed on me by the Lord, and the dangers of soul and body removed from me by the prayer of St. Joseph interceding with Jesus on my behalf. The glorious St. Joseph (and I speak by personal experience) extends his intercession to any need. It seems that the Lord Jesus is obedient to his earthly father as he was at Nazareth, obedient to everything Joseph was asking from Him. Now in Heaven, Jesus listens to what Joseph is asking for."

Among the many petitions that we find in the devotional booklet "The Holy Cloak of St. Joseph" there is one that we should keep in our daily prayers, "O St. Joseph, for the great love you showed to Jesus, help me to love Him more and more."

The love of Joseph for the Son of God nourished and supported his humble surrender to God's will. His mission was to sustain, defend and protect Jesus and Mary. He was in perfect harmony with Mary since the difficult days following the Annunciation. He never left alone, his holy wife. He was with her when traveling to Bethlehem, during the Holy Night, and in the temple where Simeon told Mary that their Child would be a sign of contradiction.

It is interesting to know that today's workers, betrayed by the prophets of "class struggle," are discovering the Lord Jesus through Joseph. They see the humble, hard-working and unassuming Joseph, as one of them and a model for their lives.

We should treasure the vocation of St. Joseph and try our best to make it our own: by keeping Jesus in our hearts, we allow Him to grow in us and around us, especially within our family. It is easy to go along with mediocre people; they are not very demanding. They are content with whatever little things we want to do. Joseph was not a mediocre man. He was of strong and resolute character when dealing with difficult situations. God is demanding and He demanded a lot from him, and Joseph never turned his back to the Lord. He gave all his time and energy, natural and supernatural gifts, body and soul to put into practice God's will, and to serve the divine design so visibly present in Jesus and Mary.

No one can accuse St. Joseph of disobeying God. Pope Paul VI said that the secret of St. Joseph's greatness was to be found in his humility and obedience to the Lord.

Jesus never spoke about his earthly father. However, we may perceive in some teachings of Jesus a hint of what He, for many years, saw and learned from Joseph, because "among all the Saints, you, St. Joseph, had the honor to care, to guide, to feed and to keep in your arms the Messiah so much awaited and desired by Prophets and Kings".

On earth Joseph had the unique fortune to die in the presence of Jesus and Mary. His intercession to Jesus is the key which opens the door to Jesus, present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is God's promise and pledge of our salvation.

St. Joseph invites us to go to the Tabernacle and, together with him, to pray to Jesus.



*St. Theresa of Avila:
great devotee of St. Joseph*

DO YOU FORGET GOD? **You are Lost!**

by Fr. Mario Carrera, SC

Pope Benedict XVI presented the pastoral plan of his papacy through the encyclical letter "God is Love." This is the central nature of the Christian message. His teaching has no other reason than to help us to live our faith so that we may persevere in charity in spite of the many clouds which bring storms into our personal life and into society and cause us more and more to forget the Lord.

To forget God is to lose human dignity. To decrease our intensity in relating to God is to impoverish human existence. Truly, to give more in our lives to God is to make man greater.

It seems that we are, today, in a deep forgetful sleep, forgetting God. Economy, efficiency, productivity, the acceleration of society is diminishing God's presence in our lives and replacing Him with a sense of sufficiency, and, sometimes, even soulless cynicism. Regarding cynicism, itself, I offer you this quotation, "When a cynical person smells the sweetness of a flower, he looks around to see where the casket could be." Cynicism scorns whatever it is not. We know that a cynical



person is unable to honor or appreciate God, faith or neighbor.

The Word of God teaches us in Psalm 127 that, "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor." Our scurrying and restlessness, our efforts to secure our future, can appear to be the main reason for our existence. However the secret of our future is instead to live fully our every hour and treat every day as a whole life. Trusting in God, we may enter more fully into our daily lives knowing that we are frail and sinful, but filled with a supernatural energy which allows us to transform our anemic, sick and weak bodies into the rock that God uses to build his kingdom of love.

Each New Year we make a lot of plans; we use our imagination to plan a bright future. We have learned that in the planning we cannot leave God outside the door of our existence because He is the creator of our being. For this reason, we direct our vital energy into our faith in order to give to our life a divine taste.

Faith in God, who is love, does not bind our actions to a law, a precept, or a mere habit, but instead binds us to a love that gives us life itself, to a trust that helps us share with others, to a charity that is without charge, and to a hope that helps us to cultivate spiritual energy. God is always at work, always vigilant, like a mother concerned for the health of her children. He charges his angels to watch over his creatures and we can see His divine presence only when we open ourselves to the Spirit.

An old Jewish story says that one day God asked the archangel Gabriel to bring gifts to men. Surprisingly, after a few days he came back to heaven with his load intact.

“What happened?” God asked him.

“No one was willing to listen to me,” Gabriel answered, “Because everyone had a foot in their past and a foot in their future and no one had the time to stop and listen to what I was telling them. So, no one was interested in your gifts.”

Being nostalgic for a golden past and running

headlong to dive into a brighter future is of no use to us in the present. We have to learn again to delight in the present and to savor the little moments of our daily life: this is the time we have. It is in our hands.



Happy Father's Day, St. Joseph!
Happy Father's Day, Dad



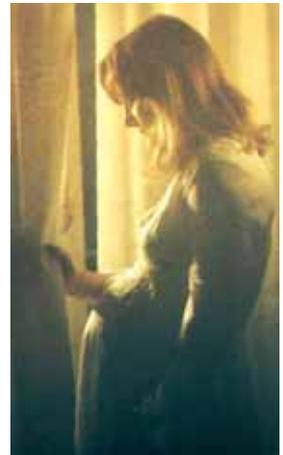
The UN and Reproductive Health:

The Holy See Refuses to Sign

On December 13, 2006 the Archbishop Celestino Migliore, representing the Holy See in the UN, refused to sign the document of the International Convention on the “Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” The following statement explains the reason for the decision and at the same time the position of the Church.

“Protecting the rights, dignity and worth of persons with disabilities remains a major concern for the Holy See. The Holy See has consistently called for disabled individuals to be completely and compassionately integrated into society, convinced that they possess full and inalienable human rights. Therefore, from the very beginning, my delegation has been a constructive and active partner in these negotiations.

While there are many helpful articles in the Convention, including those that address education and the very important role of the home and the family, surely the living heart of this document lies in its reaffirmation of the right to life. For far too long and by far too many, the lives of people with disabilities have been undervalued or thought to be of a diminished dignity and worth. My delegation worked assiduously to make the text a basis upon which to reverse that assumption and to ensure the full enjoyment of





all human rights by people with disabilities. This is why I would like now to put on record the Holy See's position on certain provisions of the Convention.

With regard to article 18, concerning liberty of movement and nationality, and article 23 on respect for home and the family, the Holy See interprets these in a way which safeguards the primary and inalienable rights of parents.

Further, my delegation interprets all the terms and phrases regarding family planning services, regulation of fertility and marriage in article 23, as well as the word "gender," as it did in its reservations and statements of interpretation at the Cairo and Beijing International Conferences.

Finally, and most importantly, regarding article 25 on health, and specifically the reference to sexual and reproductive health, the Holy See understands access to reproductive health as being a holistic concept that does not consider abortion or access to abortion as a dimension of those terms. Moreover, we agree with the broad consensus that has been voiced in this chamber and the travaux préparatoires that this article does not create any new international rights and is merely intended to ensure that a person's disability is not used as a basis for denying a health service.

However, even with this understanding, we opposed the inclusion of such a phrase in this article, because in some countries reproductive health services include abortion, thus denying the inherent right to life of every human being, affirmed by article 10 of the Convention. It is surely tragic that, wherever fetal defect is a precondition for offering or employing abortion, the same Convention created to protect persons with disabilities from all discrimination in the exercise of their rights, may be used to deny the very basic right to life of disabled unborn persons.

For this reason, and despite the many helpful articles this Convention contains, the Holy See is unable to sign it.

In conclusion, my delegation considers that the positive potential of this Convention will only be realized when national legal provisions and implementation by all parties fully comply with article 10 on the right to life for disabled persons."

Compassion

BY FR. DENNIS M. WEBER, SC

The Cardinal Krol Center, a ministry of the Servants of Charity for persons with developmental disabilities, at Don Guanella Village in Springfield, PA has sadly experienced three deaths since the end of November 2006.

Two of the deaths resulted from the medical complications of Alzheimer's dementia, which afflicts persons with Down syndrome as much as 20 years earlier than the general population and which runs a course of 3 to 5 years, a much more rapid rate of deterioration than that of the 8 to 12 year progression in the general population. One of the men was 58 and the other 63. The third resident's health had been declining for a number of years after major back surgery and he finally succumbed to multiple infections. He was 48.

As the health of these men declined, they experienced multiple hospitalizations and endured periods of suffering and further debilitation.



Carl F. Lux

April 11, 1948–February 12, 2007



James P. McCafferty

June 9, 1943–January 12, 2007

They required complete care for their most basic activities. In many ways, they became only a small part of who they were to us for much of their lives as healthy residents of Don Guanella Village. Their suffering and deterioration was something that was not a good. In fact, in a classical sense, it could be seen as “evil.” It was not evil in a sinful sense but evil as defined as “the lack of a good that ought to be there.” Tony, James and Carl lost their good health and it gradually led to their suffering and eventually to death.



**Tony and staff pose
for the camera**

St. Augustine, in questioning why evil existed or why God permitted evil to exist, discerned the answer to this question as one in which God permitted evil to exist “so that good may come from it.” My experience with the staff of the Cardinal Krol Center during these last few months is a testimony to St. Augustine’s words. The good that came out of the suffering and death, the “evil,” which afflicted these three men was, in short, an exemplary and extraordinary witness of the good of compassion. If one understands the definition of compassion from its Latin root, as a “passion with” or a “suffering with,” then I was a privileged observer of compassion.

During their last few years of life these three men, as they continued to experience the deterioration of their health, saw a group of compassionate, dedicated, committed, and loving persons who gave of themselves selflessly so that they could live out their final days in the fullness of their God-given dignity. These compassionate people, working as staff members of the Cardinal Krol Center,

were in many ways a counter-cultural witness to the “culture of death” and testified to the inestimable value of each and every human person up to the moment of their natural death. These many “instruments” or “hands” of God’s loving Providence truly gave testimony to what it means to be compassionate: to suffer with, to journey with, to companion with, to walk with those who are suffering and dying.

The Gospel for the feast of Blessed Louis Guanella is from the 25th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew and it closes with this verse: “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” I was privileged to see this Gospel lived generously by the caring staff of the Cardinal Krol Center. They may not have been thinking of this Gospel verse, but they certainly lived out the spirit of God’s word. They saw in the men that they were caring for and “suffering with,” in “one of these least brothers of mine,” the very person of Jesus Christ Himself. And also, even without fully realizing it, in seeing Jesus in the least ones they were becoming more and more an imitation of the compassion, love, care and tenderness of Jesus Christ Himself.

The memories of these last few months will not be forgotten.

I will deeply miss Tony, James and Carl. But, what will also be emblazoned upon my memory is the privilege of witnessing a selfless group of dedicated, committed, and loving persons who cared for the suffering and dying members of our human family and can best be summed up by this one word,

Compassion.



Tony, with family & friends enjoys the fair



THY KINGDOM COME

AN EXPERIENCE OF GOD ACCORDING TO BLESSED LOUIS GUANELLA

The reign of the Father is in heaven. Since you are a child of God, behold the Paradise which awaits you. Look at it with great joy. The kingdom of God the Father is vast, because it is meant for all the children of the Lord. His kingdom is abundant because it possesses glory and happiness for everyone. It is a very well ordered kingdom, because honor and reward are given according to merit. There is no sign of hunger, thirst, or of any suffering in His kingdom because there is peaceful rest in it.

When the Apostles experienced only a part of the glory of God in the Transfiguration of Jesus, they were so filled with joy that they exclaimed: "How good it is for us to be here!" And they would have liked to remain there.

Seeing the Lord, you will rejoice in a continuous ecstasy of heavenly happiness. You will turn your smiling gaze on Mary, and seeing your Mother crowned as a queen, your joy will be doubled. Looking around in amazement, you will encounter the blessed faces of the angels and of the rejoicing saints and you will continue to exclaim: "How lovely are your tents, O Lord! Here I am and here I will stay forever. I am blessed and I will be so for eternity!"

The reception which God will have for you in heaven will be proportional to the reception you have had for God here on earth. What God desires from you is your heart. He showed himself in human flesh in Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Jerusalem hastening through his tiring journey until, when unable to find you, he climbed Mount Calvary. There he cried out for you in agonizing pain, and to show the depth of his love, he opened his sacred side to show you his divine Heart. When kneeling at his feet, you cried out, "Come in, O Lord, because the house of my heart is your house!" and the Lord came and joyfully sat at your table with you. You gave your heart to him, and Jesus enriched that heart and seemed to do to you as he did to Mary, Most Holy. The Lord enriched the heart of the Blessed Mother with immeasurable virtues to render it a worthy dwelling for God. The Lord himself enriches your very heart with many gifts, so that you may become His chosen dwelling.

Another kingdom of the Father is the Church of Jesus Christ. In heaven, Father, Son and Holy Spirit said together: "Let us show great mercy to mankind until they learn to live with their hearts!" And consequently, the Lord established the kingdom of his Church on earth. The Church of Jesus Christ is like a great capitol city placed on the top of a mountain to be seen from all over the world.

Think of a pure golden mountain from which many crystal clear springs flow. Think also of people who come to them to drink. Those springs are the grace of the Sacraments which come forth from the open side of our Divine Redeemer. The people, then, are all fortunate Christians who rejoice in the Kingdom of the Father. A divine light envelops them. Faith opens wide the gates of heaven to them. Hope is rekindled, by which they are fortified as by a comforting angel. The Charity of Jesus Christ unites them with God so that they exclaim: "I do not live any longer, but it is Christ who lives in me!" Charity joins them together so that they may exclaim: "How beautiful it is that brothers live together, with one mind and one soul!"

From Let us go to the Father," Works, Pg 36-38

This Book can be requested at the Pious Union of St. Joseph with a donation of \$10.00



St. Joseph at Trionfale



A Roman Basilica Unique in the World

By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SC

Blessed Louis Guanella was a man of great love and tenderness toward all the poor, especially those who were most at risk: the handicapped and the elderly.

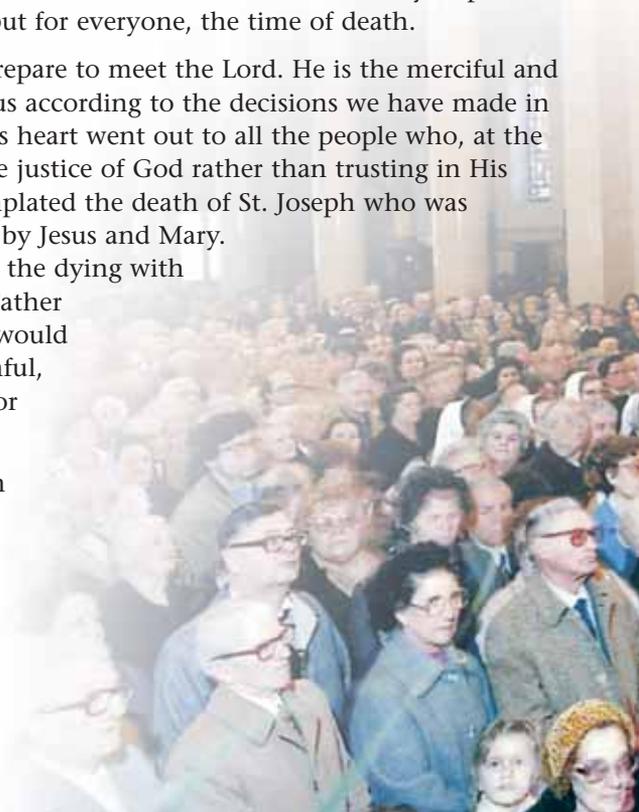
Following the example of Jesus, he cared for their spiritual and temporal needs. All his life he worked to heal them in body and soul. In the midst of these works of mercy, he saw another extremely important need encountered at a very important

time, not only for the poor, but for everyone, the time of death.

Death is the time when we prepare to meet the Lord. He is the merciful and just judge who will evaluate us according to the decisions we have made in our lifetime. Father Guanella's heart went out to all the people who, at the time of their death, feared the justice of God rather than trusting in His mercy. In his faith he contemplated the death of St. Joseph who was assisted, loved and embraced by Jesus and Mary.

Perhaps the living could help the dying with their prayers, love and care. Father Guanella loved this idea. He would assemble an army of the faithful, committed to praying daily for the suffering and dying.

The Pious Union of St. Joseph was born. For him, this Association was inspired and wanted by God and it was truly holy.



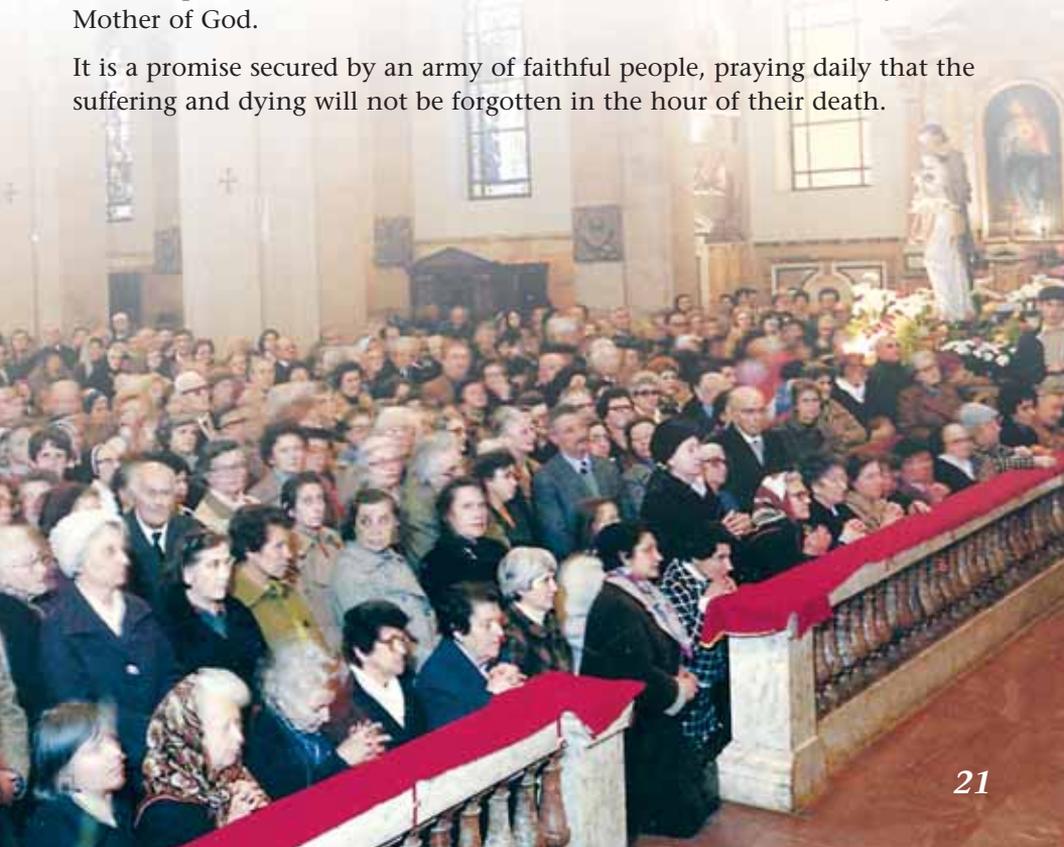
He called, summoned, and impelled everyone to join him. Where to begin? Obviously in Rome, the center of Christianity, where his friend Pope, St. Pius X, confirmed his dream, encouraged him and asked him to build a church dedicated to the death of St Joseph, also called Transit of St Joseph.

Father Guanella began in a very humble and small shanty, known by its Italian nickname, the Basilichetta or small basilica. The real Basilica was completed in 1912. The facade is imposing in its simplicity. It humbly opens on the street. There is no square, no obelisk, no fountain and no parking. However this modest exterior is somewhat deceiving. Like all spiritual beauty and holiness, it's all inside.

The interior of St Joseph Basilica, in this respect is a unique Basilica in Rome and in the world. It inspires recollection, invites us to prayer, offers hope, stimulates faith and generates love. The feeling cannot be described because it is intimate for each person, penetrating and long lasting. Like a mirror it reflects everything in front of it.

Father Louis Guanella wanted his Basilica to be a sign, a symbol and a promise. It was to be a sign of the mercy of God, symbolized by the death of St Joseph, the foster father of the Son of God, in the arms of Mary, the Mother of God.

It is a promise secured by an army of faithful people, praying daily that the suffering and dying will not be forgotten in the hour of their death.



This is how Fr. Nino Massara, SC, the present pastor of the Basilica of St Joseph, sees it. "This prayer comes from an army of saints. This prayer is against the enemy at the time a person becomes prey and at high risk, because of what is at stake -- an Immortal soul. This prayer is for the diminished spiritual energies of the dying person, child of God, for whom Christ shed His blood.

The weapon of this army will be prayer; the undefeated means in all times and places. The enemy is strong, but powerless against the faithful invoking the intervention of God who said "let it be light against darkness, and there was light." He also said: "I want it, get up and walk."

And so, the Pious Union of St Joseph began, spreading fast with limitless promise. It immediately became a mass movement headed by the Pope, the Bishops, priests and millions of faithful members active throughout the world.

"Let us go to the Father" the one in Heaven, invites Father Guanella. We all go together accompanied by the saints and angels with St Joseph and Mary at the head. This is a dream come true as you enter the Basilica of St Joseph at Trionfale.

You will see a liturgical hall, splendid and peaceful. Your eyes and heart will rest upon endless soothing images in fresco and mosaic.

High above there is the triumph of St Joseph dying. In the presence of Jesus and Mary, he appears more as a Patriarch on his litter, from where he imparts the last lessons of life to his children, rather than a man on his death bed. The lamps are carried by the faithful, whether already in heaven or still on earth. They are kept lit by the prayers of the faithful in the main naves, who pray incessantly: "Oh Saint Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ and true spouse of Mary ever Virgin, pray for us and for the dying of today."

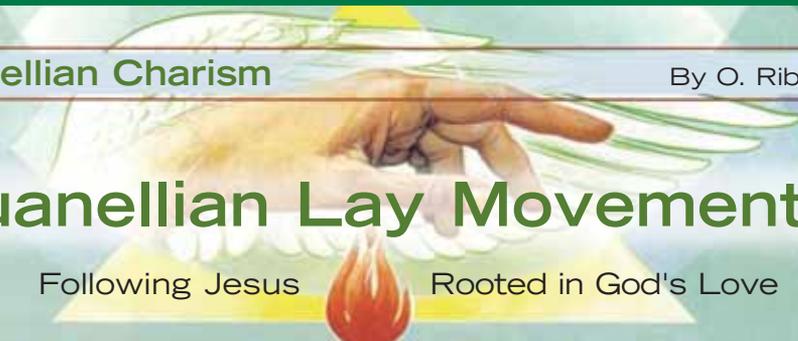
"St Joseph, assist me now and at the hour of my death, as you were assisted by Jesus and Mary, so that one day I can honor you in the celestial home for all eternity. Amen"

This is the spirituality of the saints and the spirituality of the Church for everyone's imitation and assurance, now and at the hour of our death."



Guanellian Charism

By O. Ribeira



Guanellian Lay Movement

Following Jesus

Rooted in God's Love

The Guanellian Charism is the biblical announcement of the Paternity of God. Blessed Louis Guanella was the spokesman throughout his life, ministry and activity.

He teaches us that God is the Father of all and never forgets or marginalizes His children. In this point-of-view attention to the poor is very important. They must be welcomed and lifted up from their miserable conditions since they, as human beings, were created in the likeness of God.

In this context our ministry is embraced and is recognized as the way to put into practice the teaching of Jesus, following the example of our founder.

Fr. Guanella reminds us of the teaching of Jesus, inviting us to look at the image of God as a loving Father. At the same time he gives us as an inheritance, that is our duty to guide our least and last brothers and sisters toward the house of the Father, so that all together we can build God's Kingdom of charity.

"Charity is the bond which holds our hearts open... and as Christians we cannot help but be wounded at the sight of all the good that needs to be done."

The Guanellian Family, from the Superior General to the laity who share our ministry, should be united in charity. This was the intention and desire of Fr. Guanella, when founding his Congregation: to walk together in faith and charity toward God, "united in mind, heart, and body, providing bread and Paradise" to our needy brothers and sisters.

According to the intention of the founder, the Guanellian Family should be structured as a home where daily life and interpersonal relationships approach, as much as possible, that of the family.

Referring ourselves to the family model, we are invited by Blessed Guanella to look at the fundamental values on which the Holy Family founded their daily experience. The family is the place where each member opens themselves to life, grows in faith, knows themselves and their limitations, and learns how to live together with love and respect.

The members of the family are united by reciprocal affection and everyone, according to his capacity and duty collaborates for the common good, working together with the other members of the community in a self-giving commitment to the growth of the entire body.

Fr. Guanella teaches us also that the family is the place where we are educated, and he rooted his educational system in what he called the “preventive method” and defined it as “a method of love, because the aim of discipline is to prevent a negative outcome rather than punish. The aim of education is, above all, a work of love.”

The preventive method consists in surrounding the person with love and removing stumbling blocks so that they can be led on a path of good.

Blessed Guanella was a courageous man. He firmly believed in the worth of the human heart and never allowed himself to rest while there were still poor to be helped.

Blessed Guanella was a stubborn, hardheaded man, provided by God with an immense trust in His Providence. He did great things, conscious that in everything he was only an instrument of the Father, for “it is God who works.” This is the inheritance contained in the warning he left to his spiritual children, “you will do much more than I if you will always trust in the Providence of God.”

We, his spiritual children, religious and lay committed men and women should feel deeply in ourselves this investiture: to carry on, after one hundred years, his work of charity.



Come, Follow Me!

BY FR. FORTUNATO TURATI, SC

“This is my son,”

I can still hear the voice of my mother saying these words. In those days, in Italy, we were wearing the black cassock even before becoming a priest. One day I was walking with my mother when we met a lady I did not know and she asked her, “Maria, who is this priest with you?” I could see the bright smile on my mother’s face when she answered, “This priest is my son.” I was not a priest yet, but I was only a few years away.

A vocation to be a priest or a nun is not only a blessing for the person who has been chosen by Jesus out of love, but it is a blessing for the family as well. The family too, in a way, has been chosen by Jesus out of love to share in the blessing. My mother died before I became a priest, but I feel her closeness always.

In the gospel of Mark (Mk.10:17) a young man meets Jesus and asks him, “What do I have to do to have eternal life?” Jesus answered, “Observe the commandments.” He replied, “I have since I was a child.” The gospel of Mark then goes on and says, “Jesus looked at him with love and said to him, “There is one more thing, go home,



sell everything you have, give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven, then come follow me.” The vocation to be a priest or nun is Jesus “looking with love” on a person and saying, “Come follow me.” The vocation to be a priest or nun is an encounter of love between Jesus and the person. Ultimately, as a priest, we don’t say yes to a job but to a person, Jesus. Jesus looked at me with love and said, “Let go of everything... you will have treasure in heaven... Come follow me.” And with my weakness, with my imperfections, with my unworthiness, I answered “yes.”

The first awakening of vocation can be felt in the good example of a priest or the desire to help the poor or go to the mission or the beauty of the liturgy, but at the end it is an answer of love to Jesus who chose us, “You didn’t choose me, I chose you.”

Jesus looked with love upon my family. I remember the day I said to my mother, “Mom, I want to go to the seminary; I want to be a priest.” Maybe she did not expect it. We never talked about it before. The desire was in my heart for a while but I didn’t talk with anyone about it. I still remember my mom answering me, as if it was today, “We are poor and I was hoping you would go to work and help me pay the bills, but if God is calling you and if that is what you want, you can go. The good Lord who has helped us until now will help us in the future.” At that moment I realized that I was not the only one who had to say “yes” to Jesus; my mother too had to say “yes” to Jesus and let me go. Jesus looked with love upon my mother and she said “yes.” Jesus looked with love upon my family and chose me to follow Him.

A vocation to be a priest is such a mysterious thing, a choice of preferential love from Jesus, not because I was holier or smarter or more handsome than others, but only because Jesus in his love chose me. In a way my family too was part of this preferential love of Jesus and they were chosen.

Maybe Jesus is looking with love upon your family? Many times the first seed of vocation starts in the heart of a devout mother or father or grandmother.

GUANELLIAN NEWS

BY FR. PAUL OGGIONI, SC

Working in the Vineyard of the Lord

This is a time of grace and fervor for the whole Guanellian Family, which is witnessing God's generosity in the increased number of candidates asking to join in our religious experience in nations where, in the past twenty years, the Servants of Charity staked their tents and established their pastoral ministry of charity.

In India, the Philippines, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Latin America, ripe fruit is being harvested after years of growth and untiring work, prayers, suffering and hope.

Summer is the season when we breathe in the perfume and taste the goodness of the produce of the soil and the fruit of the trees. During this season God is also granting us spiritual joy and a vision of a future full of grace with the Priestly Ordination of a group of men who are committed to a pastoral ministry with the poor and following

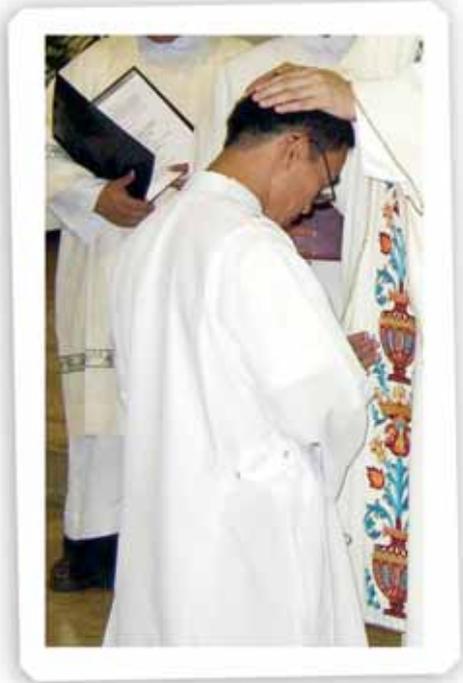


India: Seminarians

in the footsteps of Blessed Louis Guanella. In all four corners of the world other groups of young men are on the eve of Religious Profession offering their vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience, committing themselves to follow Jesus within the Guanellian ministry.

They have become a sign of hope in our world, which seems marked by destiny for social, political and environmental self destruction. However this sign of hope tells us, life is not like this. As long as men and women entrust themselves to God for the good of their brothers and sisters, in priestly and religious life, it means that God is not yet tired of us.

They are the visible sign of the love of God who, always present among us, is leading us toward another destiny, one of salvation and everlasting happiness.



Phillipines: Ordination



*(Right) Africa:
Ordained Deacons
– Future Priests*

Fruits of Holiness



On March 30, 2007 the Congress of the Consult of Theologians met to examine the heroic character of the Christian virtues practiced by Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini (1872-1935).

He was among the founding group of religious priests and brothers who, with Blessed Louis Guanella, started the Congregation of the Servants of Charity.

He became the first successor to Blessed Guanella and was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Lugano, Switzerland in 1917. Following the examples of the holy bishops, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Francis de Sales,

he spent his life donating his time and energy to promoting spiritual growth and protecting the faith of his flock, defending the Church, educating the young and aiding the poor and sick.

Bishop Bacciarini was presented by Blessed Louis Guanella to St. Pius X for appointment as the first pastor of the Parish of St. Joseph in Rome, the international center of the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Suffering and Dying. He died in 1935.

A recent medical report substantiating a presumed miraculous healing, obtained by his intercession, for a person with tumoral disease was presented by the Bishop of Lugano to the Medical Commission of the Holy See. Upon their positive finding this miracle will fulfill the required action of grace necessary for him to be declared Blessed by the Pope.

This is a time of prayer for all of us. We ask God to enlighten the minds of these experts as they do their work. We give thanks to God for the additional grace granted to our Guanellian Family, where God is showing His presence and radiating His holiness among us.

Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini frequently invited everyone to trust in the intercession of St. Joseph, because, "as the Virgin Mary is the Mother of All Graces, St. Joseph is the Father of the Divine Favors."

SHRINE REPORT



St. Joseph Shrine: A Place of Faith and Prayer

Onward and upward spreads the devotion to St. Joseph, protector of the suffering and dying. Pilgrims travel to the Shrine in large groups, with their families

and individually to entrust the pain and suffering hidden in their hearts to St. Joseph. They are asking for the intercession and protection of the man who silently and faithfully allowed himself, together with Mary, to mediate upon God's merciful plan through the incarnation of His Son for the salvation of fallen mankind.

It was impressive! An influx of Caldean pilgrims crowded into the Shrine for the Feast of St. Joseph, invoking his protection for the safety of Iraq, their native land, so afflicted amidst war and ethnic and sectarian violence.

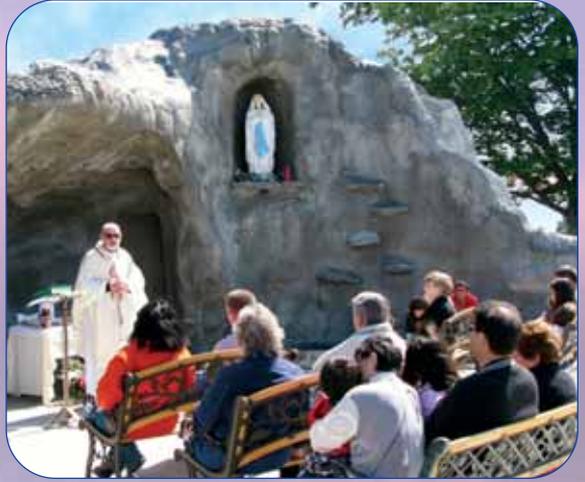
During the Eucharistic Celebration, the Secretary of the Patriarch of Babalonia presided and the Aramaic harmony was expressed in the same language of the Holy Family, echoing throughout the Shrine.

May St. Joseph obtain from God long-lasting religious, social and political peace for their country: the country where Abraham began his spiritual journey, following God's call to become the father of numerous descendants, whose inheritance we were made worthy to share in Jesus Christ.



Marian Devotion

This beautiful season allows us to resume our celebrations at the Grotto of Lourdes, near the Shrine of St. Joseph. Every Saturday, from May to November, we welcome the sick coming to the Grotto and asking for the intercession of Mary, honored as Mother of the Suffering and Consolation of the Afflicted.



Beginning at 11:00 am, special prayers will evoke in the sick, gathered at the Grotto, the atmosphere of Lourdes. During the Eucharistic Celebration the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are asking for a special grace from God for the spiritual and physical trials they are suffering.

Devotion to St. Joseph

Pilgrims coming to the Shrine to express their devotion to St. Joseph will be surprised to observe some changes. You will find a sacred space within the Shrine where the painting of the Death of St. Joseph resides and where you can pray and meditate, light a votive candle and beg the glorious Patriarch for his intercession before God.

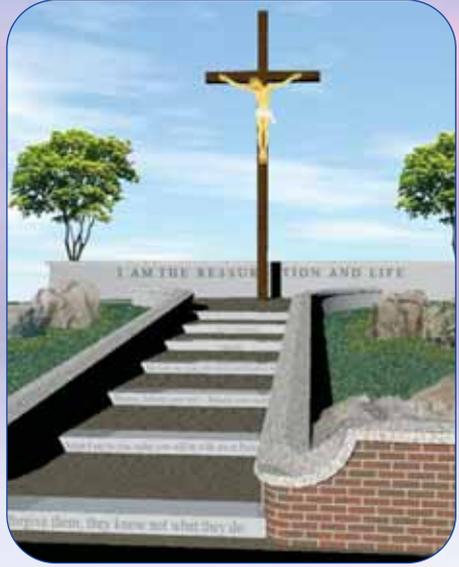
The intercession of St. Joseph is so powerful that never was it known that anyone who implored his protection was left unaided.



Calvary Project

Summer 2007 is a season of intensive work. In July we begin construction of the Calvary and trusting in generosity of the members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph, we plan to celebrate the Dedication of the altar and the Calvary at the end of the month of September.

Your help is very much appreciated. Your prayer is essential.



Dedications & Memorials

You may reserve the following Shrine or Calvary memorials or dedications with your donation:

- Dedicate a step of the Holy Stair.....\$5000
- Dedicate a Bench in front of the Altar\$1000
- “I am the Resurrection and the Life” Memorial Wall\$500
- Dedicate a tile near the Calvary\$250
- Dedicate a tile at Our Lady’s Grotto\$250
- Become a Shrine Forester, Plant a tree\$150
- Dedicate a leaf on the Tree of Remembrance in the Shrine\$500

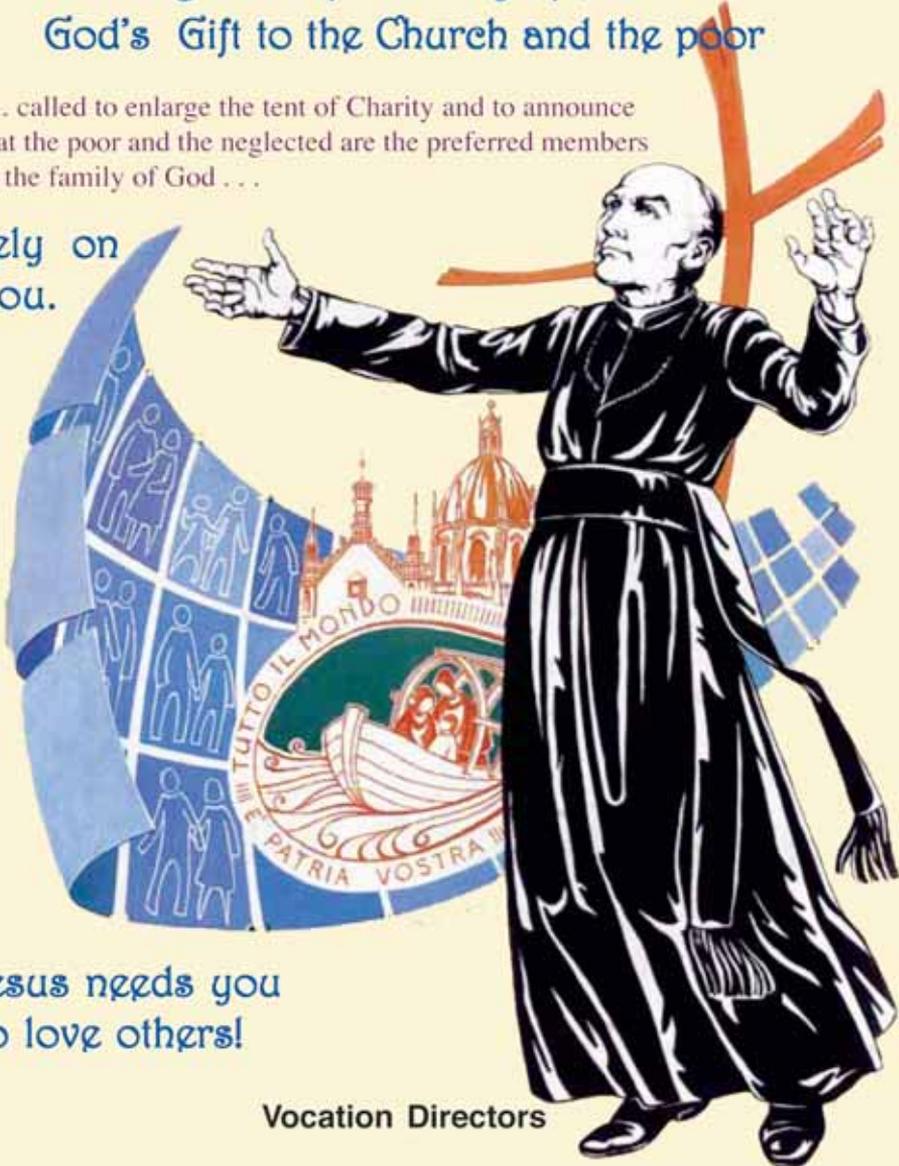
All donations are used for ministry at the Shrine of St. Joseph for the Suffering and Dying and for the continued building up of the Shrine in his honor.

For more information or to make a pledge, please call the Pious Union of St. Joseph Office Monday – Friday 517-522-8017 or send email to piousunion@pusj.org

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E-Mail : srbarbaram@sbcglobal.net

Fr. Paolo Oggioni, SC
Pious Union of St. Joseph
953 East Michigan Avenue
Grass Lake, MI 49240-9210
Ph. (517) 522-8017
E-Mail: frapauloni@yahoo.com



I give... You give... He lives!

Pious Union of St. Joseph
953 East Michigan Ave.
Grass Lake, MI 49240

Shrine Pastoral Ministry

Mass Schedule

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat. – 11:30 a.m.

Wed. – 8:30 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction at 4:30

Sun. – Eucharistic Celebration for Pilgrims at 10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Daily before & after Mass

Saturday 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Sacrament of the Sick

Upon request

For pilgrimages and/or day retreats, please contact the Pious Union Office
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mon. – Sat. (517) 522-8017

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