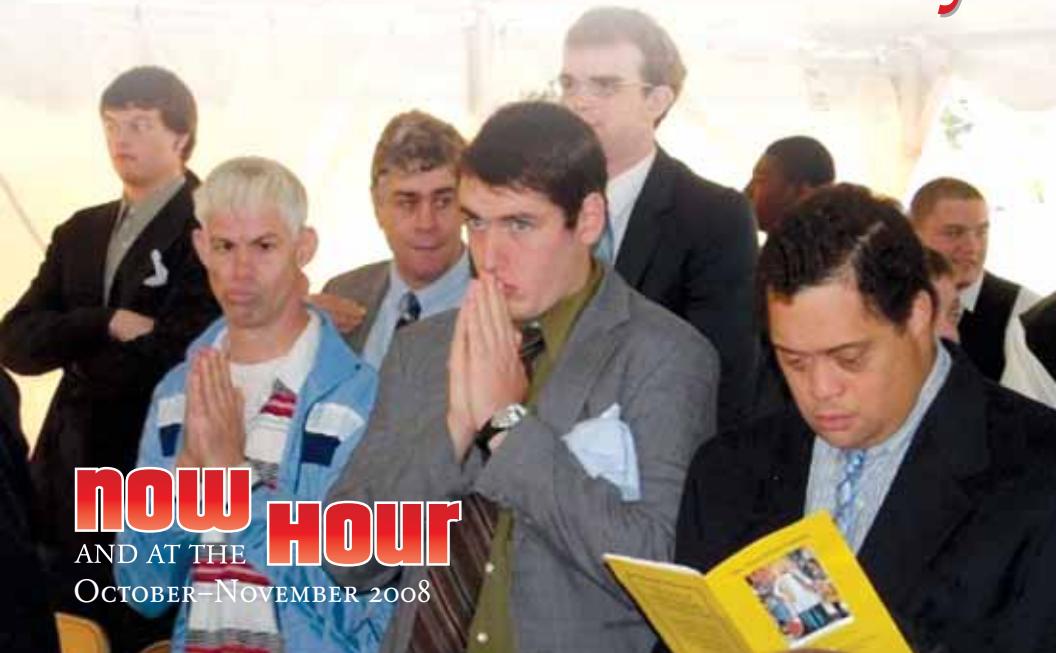


The Voice of Providence

PUBLICATION OF THE SERVANTS OF CHARITY



Servants of Charity



now **hour**
AND AT THE
OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2008

100 YEARS OF SERVICE AND GRACE ♦ 1908–2008

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Mission

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

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



Conscience

By Fr. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

I have been working in special education practically all my life. A child of nine was referred by the court as a troubled youth with a disability. You could not tell by looking at him and hearing him talk.

"Why did they send you here?"

"I killed someone."

"You are only nine, why?"

"He had a leather jacket. I wanted it but he didn't want me to have it, so I killed him and took the jacket."

"But it was his jacket."

"So what? I wanted it!"

"But that was wrong!"

"He made a mistake when he refused to give it up."

Obviously, there was no concept of right and wrong there. That handsome kid made me cry. He grew up without a conscience. His wants were the only rule he had, and this rule was based on the power of the stronger: the law of the jungle. Nine years old.

Conscience is each individual's personal awareness of what is objectively good or evil, right or wrong. Conscience is formed through education, experience and faith. Education teaches us to respect and accept others' rights and duties, expecting reciprocal respect and duties in return. Experience teaches us to accept responsibility for our actions and words.

Faith gives a moral dimension to our words and deeds. Conscience is common sense. It is common knowledge of a prescribed order, which bonds people to give an account of what they think and do.

The widening tragedy of our time is the loss of conscience. Many children grow up without structure and guidance. They are surrounded by role models who have no responsibility or accountability. They learn to live by instinct and employ violence to survive. Violence and wars have characterized the last century and this century has begun with even more violence and wars. Violence is the rejection of conscience. Mother Theresa said that abortion is one of the causes of war and violence. If a mother can kill her own child without blinking, there should be no surprise that we can kill an enemy that we do not even know.

A Christian conscience reflects Jesus' words of loving one another as he has loved us.

A Christian conscience is also a moral conscience, one by which we are able to judge the goodness or sinfulness of our actions, whether such an action is gravely or lightly sinful. Perhaps the loss of conscience or the weakening of this conscience is the reason that the sacrament of reconciliation has been almost forgotten. Unfortunately the loss of conscience follows the loss of God whether in our life or in our society. Many societies these days are forcefully eliminating God from every aspect of life. Then we don't understand why such cruel events occur in our world. Perhaps before judging others we should ask ourselves whether God still lives in our heart.



Formation of Conscience

*Listening to the
Voice of God*

Excerpt taken from the Pope's response to questions from the priests of the Diocese of Belluno-Feltre.

Your Holiness, I am Fr. Claudio. I want to ask you about formation of conscience. Good and evil are often confused with having good and bad feelings, the more emotive aspect.

This question reflects a problem of Western culture, since in the last two centuries the concept of "conscience" has undergone a profound transformation. Today, the idea prevails that only what is quantifiable can be rational, which stems from reason.

In this situation, where morals and religion are almost expelled from reason, the subject is the only ultimate criterion of morality and also of religion—the subjective conscience, which knows no other authority. In the end, the subject alone decides, with his feelings and experience, on the possible criteria he has discovered.

In the Christian tradition, "conscience," "conscientia," means "with knowledge": our being is open and can listen to the voice of being itself, the voice of God.

Thus, the voice of the great values is engraved in our being and the greatness of the human being is precisely that he is not closed in on himself; he is not reduced to matter, something quantifiable, but possesses an inner openness to the essentials and has the possibility of listening. In the depths of our being, not only can we listen to the needs of the moment, to material needs, but we can also hear the voice of the Creator himself and thus discern what is good and what is bad.

This capacity for listening must be taught and encouraged. The commitment to preaching, that we do in church, consists of precisely this: Developing this very lofty capacity with which God has endowed human beings, this capacity to listen to the voice of truth and also the voice of values.

I would say, therefore, that a first step would be to make people aware that our very nature carries in itself a moral message, a divine message that must be deciphered. We can become increasingly better acquainted with it and listen to it if our inner hearing is open and developed.

The actual question now is how to carry out in practice an education in listening, how to make human beings capable of it despite all the forms of modern deafness, how to ensure that this listening, the opening of the inner senses, truly takes place.

I would propose the combination of a secular approach and a religious approach; the approach of faith. Today, we all see that man can destroy the foundations of his existence, his earth; hence, that we can no longer simply do what we like or what seems useful and promising at the time with this earth of ours, with the reality entrusted to us. On the contrary, we must respect the inner laws of creation, of this earth; we must learn these laws and obey these laws if we wish to survive.

In short, this is a first criterion to learn: That being itself, our earth, speaks to us and we must listen if we want to survive and to decipher this message of the earth. And if we must be obedient to the voice of the earth, this is even truer for the voice of human life. Not only must we care for the earth, we must respect the other, others: both the other as an individual person, as my neighbor, and others as communities who live in the world and have to live together. And we see that it is only with full respect for this creature of God, this image of God that man is, and with respect for our coexistence on this earth, that we can develop.

And here we reach the point when we need the great moral experiences of humanity. These experiences are born from the encounter with the other, with the community. We need the experience that human freedom is always a shared freedom and can only function if we share our freedom with respect for the values that are common to us all.

In this context, respecting the human experiences that point out the way to us today and in the future, I believe the Ten Commandments always have a priority value in which we see the important signposts on our way.

The Ten Commandments reinterpreted, relived in the light of Christ, in the light of the life of the Church and of her experiences, point to certain fundamental and essential values. Together, the Fourth and Sixth Commandments suggest the importance of our body, of respecting the laws of the body and of sexuality and love, the value of faithful love, of the family; the Fifth Commandment points to the value of life and also the value of community life; the Seventh Commandment regards the value of sharing the earth's goods and of a fair distribution of these goods and of the stewardship of God's creation; the Eighth Commandment points to the great value of truth. If, therefore, in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Commandments we have love of neighbor, in the Seventh we have the truth.

None of this works without communion with God, without respect for God and God's presence in the world. In any case, a world without God becomes an arbitrary and egoistic world. There is light and hope only if God appears. Our life has a meaning that we must not produce ourselves but which precedes us and guides us.



Paul the VI: Father of the Church

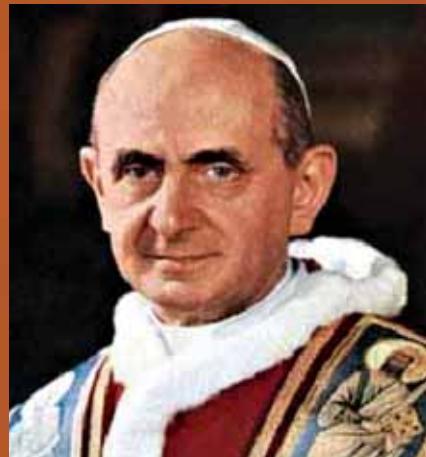
**On the 30th Anniversary of
his death – August 6, 1978**

FROM AVVENIRE News

Pope Paul VI envisioned Mother Church as a mystery of faith and understood that he was the successor of Peter. As Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, he took the microphone only once during the Vatican II Council. He told the Bishops that they were there to see the Church as Christ sees her and wants her to be. Yes, the whole people of God are called to pass on the faith; however, the successors of the apostles, the bishops, with the successor of Peter, the Pope, as their head, have a special responsibility to pass on the true faith. Paul VI, skilled in self-analysis which originates in ethics did not see himself according to popular psychoanalytical models of the time. He was aware that once he was elected as Pope of the Catholic Church, he would shoulder a heavy responsibility, a responsibility given to him by the Lord Himself.

His writings, notes, meditations, decisions and pontifical acts were visible proof of his unshakable belief. He made some very unpopular decisions without fear of being criticized or labeled politically incorrect. Being Pope freed him from cultural limitations and restrictions, even those imposed by the churchmen themselves. One example is the idea of bishops' collegiality, an idea often misunderstood. Another was his support for the final chapter of Lumen Gentium, which recognizes the Blessed Virgin Mary as the preeminent member of the Church. And, in order to dispel all doubts or last minute hesitancy, he surprised the cardinals, bishops and laity by proclaiming Mary, Mother of the Church.

The most difficult and painful period of his Papacy occurred with the publication of his encyclical "Humanae Vitae." Most bishops did not welcome or understand this teaching, and theologians spoke out in determined opposition, which continues today. Even so, he remained firm. He suffered greatly, but his heart could be in peace, because he strongly believed that he had to be faithful to God in the responsibility entrusted to him as the successor of Peter.



The years following Vatican II were tragic; years of deep crisis and harsh opposition within the Church, which led to many defections. Pope Paul VI didn't lose his mind or temper during these disastrous times, but stood in the middle of it all, confirming his people in their faith. He accomplished this through the Wednesday General Audiences in St. Peter's Square which he instituted for the purpose of passing the faith on to the thousands of people coming to him at the Vatican. They came to hear the truth and be confirmed in their faith.

Christ Jesus was his love and he imitated him, as closely as possible, by proclaiming from the highest position within the Church the Evangelical Virtues, without allowing the fear of being ostracized by the wise ones of the world and those speaking out within the Church to silence him. He was not afraid to profess evangelical poverty in renouncing the honors and rich paraphernalia that surrounded the papal court. He removed so much of it that people are still mad at him today. He was also the first traveling Pope. Like his name-sake Paul the apostle, he left the Vatican to travel around the world, spreading the message of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Paul VI was a great Pope, though misunderstood and unjustly contested by those who prefer a more accommodating Christianity to that of Church Tradition. However, not even a Pope can change what is received from that Tradition. He is not the owner, but a faithful administrator of what he has received from Peter and ultimately from Christ Himself.

OCTOBER 24: FEAST OF BLESSED LOUIS GUANELLA

FROM ONE “YES”
A CENTURY OF LOVE
FOR THE POOR

BY FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SDC

Blessed Louis Guanella made his religious vows as a Servant of Charity on the solemnity of the Annunciation. He chose the same day that Mary gave her “Yes” to the angel Gabriel to give his “Yes” to God. One hundred years ago, March 24th 1908, Father Guanella gathered together his first priests in front of the altar of the Sacred Heart Shrine in Como, and they made their perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. This day the Servants of Charity were born.

A hundred years later, the same offering took place in front of the same altar. New Servants of Charity made their final vows to God promising to serve Him

and the poor forever. They were surrounded by many confreres, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, Guanellian Cooperators and friends who were there to celebrate the one hundred year anniversary of Father Guanella’s vows.

In his homily Fr. Superior General told the congregation the reason for their celebration. They were there especially to give thanks to the Lord for the many good things the disciples of Father Guanella had done in his name for the glory of God during all those years. He quoted from something written many years ago by Father Mazzucchi, who was for many years the private secretary of Father Guanella, and who led the Servants of Charity Institute for twenty-two years. He was one of those

lucky confreres who made the vows with the Founder on that historical evening. Mazzucchi wrote: "We would like to share our joy with you, friends and benefactors, because on that evening you too were present in the heart of Father Guanella. With tears in his eyes, he thanked us for following his invitation to spend our lives serving the Lord in the poor. In seeing him moved to tears, we too shed ours with great love and thanksgiving. It was a sight never to be forgotten; a deep mark was left in our heart."

We still carry that mark after one hundred years, borne by the many men and women who spread charity in the world. Father Guanella was sixty six when he made his vows. To many, he was too old to enter into the demanding "business" of being a Founder of a religious order. But that was God's Will. Divine Providence had prepared him over many years of hardship, persecution, and patient waiting.

"It is God at work!" Fr. Guanella was used to saying. To him, he was doing nothing noteworthy, nothing special at all. His ministry of charity was, in his eyes, only the work of a servant who obeys his master's command; nothing else. His vocation and mission was to alleviate the many human miseries that were asking to be relieved. By himself, he couldn't have done much. He invited other men and women to join him in the mission, and they came. They continue to answer his invitation today from the many countries of the world that Fr. Guanella didn't even know existed.

Celebrating a centennial is celebrating one hundred years filled with acts of charity, of self-giving and dedication towards those who are the

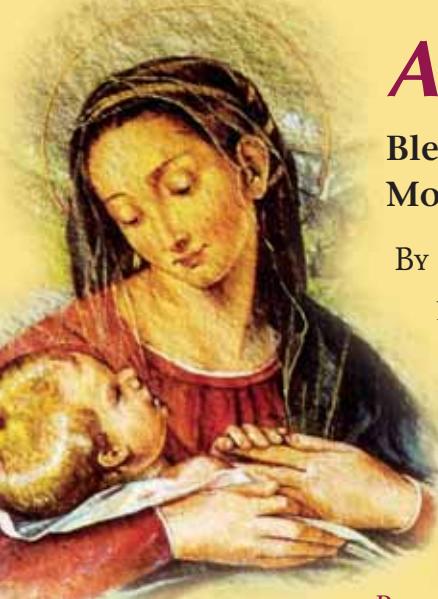


least ones in the eyes of the world. It is celebrating years of blessings and graces, a history of charity in the company of many poor. It is also an occasion to rededicate our Christian fellowship to serving and ministering to those in need. There are so many needs to be relieved, and the laborers seem few. Fortunately there are countless men and women who are not deaf to the cry of the poor. They give energy and time, passion and money to alleviate the sorrow and pain they see around them. How many of you are helping people! How many of you are doing acts of charity and love in your own family, in your neighborhood, in shelters, in soup kitchens! How many of you are spending hours and hours in volunteering! How many of you are working for the glory of God without asking anything in return! You too are servants of charity, servants of the Master who came to serve rather than to be served. Father Guanella would be proud of you!

Saints are persons in love with life and with everything around them. God possesses their hearts, and in their hearts He places His mercy and concern for His creatures. Through Baptism we all have received the same gift of charity, the duty to be our neighbors' keeper. The Lord counts on us to be His servants. Let us build a future of love together. Let us leave a renewed world to our children where "kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss."

Como, Italy, Motherhouse: Pilgrims waiting for John Paul II on May 5, 1996.





A Journey of Love

Blessed Guanella Honoring Mary, Mother of Divine Providence

By LAUREN HILL

November 4th we begin to pray the Novena to Our Lady of Divine Providence in anticipation of her feast on November 12th. As we enter into the spirit of this important aspect of Our Lady we depend upon Blessed Louis Guanella's writings for guidance in our personal prayer and meditation.

Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. (Phil 4:6)

This scriptural maxim begins the sixth day of Blessed Guanella's Marian meditations, "The Month of Flowers." He directs us to dwell upon "Mary who consecrated her mind, heart and body in a perpetual vow of virginity to the Most High in the holy temple of the Lord. At the age of fifteen, after nine years in the temple, Mary is directed to take a husband." Blessed Guanella places in our imagination the "trembling heart of the Virgin as she presented herself to the Lord with affection, saying to Him: 'My God, you are the Almighty, and I know that you are pleased to hear the petitions of the poor. Asking for great graces does not hinder them, but gives them strength since you are the Lord of Heaven and Earth. See to it, Lord, that I may not break my vow. Tell me, what should I do in order to obey my Superior who commands me in your name?' What the Lord revealed was soon known to the Virgin in her heart."

Blessed Guanella directs us to see that if we have doubts in life, even though they are serious, "we must pray to God and let the Providence of the Lord take care of it. See to it that your prayer is one that comes from your heart."

It was like this for Mary as she made her supplications to the Most High. St. Paul tells us to pray in this fashion, through prayers of petitions and thanksgiving. "Imitate the way an innocent child asks you for something. When his father shows him a colorful present, the child raises his little

hands towards it, running toward him, climbing on his father's knees, asking him over and over until he sees the longed for object.

I don't know of another time when the mind and the heart or the imagination of a child is happier than when he achieves his intent. Blessed Mary, who retained, in its most pure form, the simplicity of an innocent child, offered her prayers to God with the same affection."

Like Mary, "it is appropriate that when you pray you rise from the earth and think only about what you are asking for. Concentrate with all your heart, mind and imagination. If you get lost in a thousand vain words, you might be said to have a great imagination, however if you sit down and fall asleep, you are ridiculous and if you are careless in presenting your petition, you just don't care whether it is granted."

"With tender affection, she knew how to attract the Divine Mercy and God's power in her favor! Do you? Jesus Christ is always willing to accompany you personally to the Eternal Father. So, then, speak to the Most High with confidence: 'Hear my prayer, Father, since your Only Son is here praying with me.'"

"Show a trusting spirit and let him see that you are certain of being heard. Mary Most Holy spoke to God with confidence, as a daughter speaks to her beloved father. Learn to pray like Mary..."

"As your gift today, spend a quarter of an hour in devout prayer of petition and much thanksgiving."

PRAYER

O blessed Virgin! I wish I knew how to pray as you do!

*Unfortunately, I don't know the needs of my soul,
nor am I able to present myself to God as you would.*

Teach me, O Virgin that I might have the fervent heart of an innocent child.

Blessed Mary, I have much trust in you: Help me!

From the Sixth Day in the "Month of Flowers"

by Blessed Louis Guanella

Why I Am a Priest



By FR. ANDREW FRANCESCHINI

I am 37 years old and have been a priest for five years, the best five years of my life. Why have I chosen to become a priest? You better ask the Lord. What I know is that in my late teens and early twenties, He came to shuffle the cards of my life and led me to paths that I would never have traveled by myself.

The day that God first shuffled the deck is still vivid in my mind. He brought me a seminarian bearing witness to his vocation. I was 18 years old. My first reaction was, "that's not me!" I had already made my decision; I would pursue the path of holiness among the laity as Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati had done. His example was so

fascinating to me, and besides, I was attracted by the beauty of forming a Christian family. How a man could live a life with no woman at his side, without the love and intimacy of a woman, without sharing everything he is and has with a woman he loves, was beyond me!

I entered college, majored in Engineering, and dreamt that one day I would enter politics, which I believed to be the highest form of love toward neighbor. I have an unfortunate defect which makes me too careless: I don't keep a careful eye on what is going on around me. I say unfortunate, because one afternoon I wasn't paying much attention to whom He was that entered my room. The Joy entered, and caught

my heart by surprise while I was reading a biography of St. Alphonsus Liguori. A strong joy inebriated me, inspiring me to become a priest like him. The feeling lasted only a few minutes and I went back to my old comfortable life convinced, more than ever, that I had nothing to do with a priestly vocation. I knew a priest's life was a perpetual meeting with parishioners and others during the day, but thought his evenings would be sad and lonely. I didn't like that! But the Lord Jesus had different plans, and He came back to me three times in the following days so that one evening I had to get on my feet and take a walk, because I

couldn't hold still any longer with all that was going on in my heart. Was that enough to change the course of my life? No way! The experience did force me, however, to begin a journey of discernment that finally brought me to say "YES" to Jesus.

I said "YES" for the simple reason that: I was too much in love with Him. I wanted to stay with Him.

What's the meaning of all this to me now? Now, my joy is to announce Jesus to all, to call everyone to gather together around the table of his heart, where the food is his grace and the drink is his love. My joy is to invite people to sit at the banquet that is the Church; a Church which is made up of sinful and holy people

just the same as in all humanity.

A Church, however, that offers her friendship to all. I am in love with the Church, because for her my Lord gave himself totally. I desire to help Mother Church to shine every day more and more in beauty.

I am a priest, because people are thirsty for God and they don't even realize it. Jesus placed me right beside the spring to be the first to draw the water from it, the words that give meaning to our life, and to pass the same living water to others.

*"I am a priest
because people
are thirsty for
God and they
don't even
realize it"*

I am a priest because, in the simple love stories of all adolescents, and in spite of the many foolish things I have done, I have experienced that the only life worthy of living is love. Love seizes my totality: body, soul, intelligence, heart, creativity. If only the Love could be absolute Love. I could not back away from God who is absolute Love. And it was this God-Love who was calling me.

One day a friend said to me, "Andrew, you could do all the same things that you are doing now, as a priest, if you were a layman working like everyone else and getting married like everyone else. You can evangelize and do good works, even if you're not a priest. Can't you?"

I said, "Sure! That kind of life would make sense in the eyes of everyone, even to those who don't believe in God. Instead, in being a priest, I strongly need and want to show and proclaim with all my being that the love of Christ is Life, and that He constantly takes hold of me reaching into the deepest recesses of my flesh and bones. His Love totally fills my life."

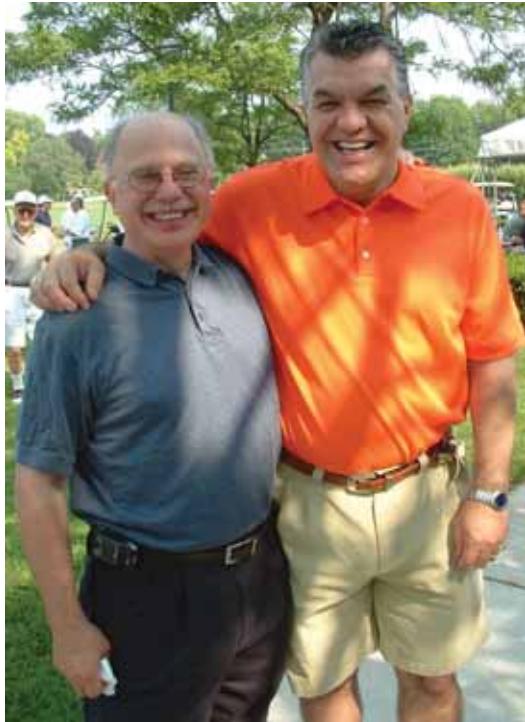


The True Meaning of Thanksgiving

By JOSEPH YEKULIS

Thanksgiving in the United States was created in November of 1621 by the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, as a way of giving thanks to God for those who survived the ordeal of the past year. Of the 102 colonists who arrived in the “New World” that year, half of them perished from disease and the harsh weather that followed their arrival. Those who remained felt compelled to celebrate with a traditional “thanksgiving” feast that was shared by all, as a way of giving thanks to God.

As this issue is meant to deal with the examination of our conscience, let's reflect on the true meaning of Thanksgiving. It seems more and more that our religious holidays have become the purview of secular society; meant more for selling products than to give thanks and praise to God as was originally intended. Thanksgiving for example, is the day we over-consume food and drink, watch football all day long, and strategically plan the next day's “Holiday” shopping extravaganza.



Mike Malinowski and Novo Bojovic

For Michael Malinowski and his family however, this Thanksgiving will mean much more, as last year during Thanksgiving he was in the hospital fighting for his life. Michael is a cancer survivor who tells us the story of being pushed to the brink while undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Of course there are many others out there fighting this same daily battle with cancer, but Michael shares his story for the lessons we can learn about the living presence of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

Mike Malinowski is a gifted leader in the Michigan Knights of Columbus, and currently serves as State Treasurer. Known for his quick wit, war stories, and great sense of humor, Mike is a favorite throughout Michigan. Mike will never forget the day in June 2005 that his family physician sent him to an urologist suspecting the presence of testicular cancer. "I was a carpenter my whole life and never spent a single day in the hospital. Now all of a sudden, I'm experiencing surgery, testing positive for cancer, and undergoing radiation treatments."

Following a series of 20 chemotherapy treatments that began in the fall of 2005, doctors discovered three cancerous lymph nodes in his upper chest cavity during the summer of 2007; the largest appearing between his esophagus and aorta. Being 90% sure that it was cancerous, oncologists began the first in a series of four chemotherapy treatments that caused his health to spiral out of control.

Each treatment made him more violently ill than the last, and while undergoing his third chemotherapy treatment in October 2007, he entered the hospital to have his "PICC line" cleaned and flushed. He was in such a debilitated state that the doctors admitted him on the spot! "A normal white blood cell count is 8.0, and mine was at 0.3. I was told that there was nothing left of my immune system, and that a common cold could kill me. So they admitted me immediately. The next day when I begged the nurse to let me get up to relieve myself, I blacked out when I sat up in bed. I apparently 'coded' and woke up surrounded by 20 white coats at the foot of my bed. Apparently my PICC line had become infected, and a blood clot developed in my arm. I received nitroglycerin under my tongue, and regained consciousness.

"Even though I survived that day, it wasn't the end of my ordeal. After thirteen days in the hospital, I had to undergo my fourth series of chemotherapy treatments, and wound up back in the hospital in

November when my immune system crashed again. My last Thanksgiving was actually spent in the hospital, eating jello and applesauce. By December 2007 however, I was cancer-free. I lost a total of 57 pounds and four inches off my waistline. But I know God had a reason for this."

In summarizing his experience, Mike reflects on the importance of his wife, Maureen, his three children, and the Knights of Columbus. "Since I was an only child, the Knights of Columbus have become family to me. I couldn't have survived this alone. Once word leaked out about my condition, I learned that there were a tremendous number of people praying for me and my survival all over the state. All of the Mass cards and all of the prayers made a difference. I knew this wasn't my time to die, but I told my friends and brother Knights that God gave me cancer to teach you all how to pray again."

In praise and thanksgiving we thank God for the continued presence of Michael Malinowski in our lives, and for reminding us of the "true" meaning of Thanksgiving in America.

*Mike Malinowski with the State Council
of the Michigan Knights of Columbus*





Servants and Apostles of Jesus Christ

October 19, 2008

World Mission Day

Pope Benedict XVI, on the occasion of World Mission Day, sent his message to all the Church reminding us once again the commitment to announce Jesus, the Savior of all mankind, to every culture and nation. This is a responsibility that concerns every member of the Church, not only those who are directly involved in spreading the Good News in the different areas of the world not yet evangelized. Inspired by the "Year of St. Paul" which will end on June 29, 2009, the Pope invites the Catholic community to live and to be active like St. Paul so that the Gospel proclaimed to the ends of the world will become the way of salvation for everyone who believes in it. Looking at the world, groaning for the tragedies caused by wars, terrorism, violence, persecutions, technological manipulations and natural disasters, Benedict XVI announces once again that the world needs, above all, that hope coming from Jesus Christ. Following the footsteps and the example of St. Paul we can understand that "missionary activity is a response to the love with which God loves us." Redeeming us through Jesus Christ, He prods us to announce his love to everyone.

Looking at the pierced heart of Jesus from which the grace strengthening the faith of the apostles and the Church overflowed, the Pope invites the Church to drink from this original source. "Only from this source can care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality, availability and interest in people's problems be drawn, as well as the other virtues necessary for the messengers of the Gospel to leave everything and dedicate themselves to spreading the perfume of Christ's charity around the world." As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel." Benedict XVI states it is a duty and joy for bishops, priests and lay people to follow St. Paul's example.

It is a pleasant surprise to find in the papal message the reminder for the Guanellian Family to relive and manifest again the fundamental paths

of the way of our charism and mission. Fr. Guanella, too, tells us that God is love and that in the heart of Jesus we are renewed by Divine Mercy. Sheltered in his heart, from which overflows an abundance of graces, we are encouraged to face the world and to announce the Gospel of Charity.

From his youth Blessed Louis Guanella strongly felt in himself this thirst for the salvation of souls. In substitution of his desire of being a missionary in far away lands, God suggested another way of grace and commitment to Fr. Guanella. Founding his religious Congregations he transmitted to his spiritual sons and daughters, together with their cooperators, a deep sense of belonging to the Church, who, as a thoughtful mother welcomes those who are searching for real joy and fulfillment. Fr. Guanella tells us that "in order to restore persons and works we must fulfill the desire of the Divine Heart who cries out, 'I have come to light a fire of Charity on earth. How I wish the blaze would be ignited in the hearts of men!'"

Today the Guanellian Family, working on six continents, is called once again to fully devote itself in a new way adapting itself to different cultures. This coming October 10-12, the Third National Conference of the Guanellian Lay Movement will be held in Elverson, PA. The participants will be invited to become messengers of hope in this our world where many are dimmed in their ideal of a committed Christian life.

In God, saving us by his love, we put our trust.



Companions on the Journey of Hope

Inspired by the recent visit to the United States of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, the third annual Lay Guanellian Movement Conference in the United States will take this opportunity to reflect upon his words found in the encyclical, *Spe Salvi—In Hope We Were Saved*. Pope Benedict writes, “The present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads toward a goal, if we can be sure this goal is enough to justify the effort of the journey.” As lay Guanellians, we find these words hopeful for we know where the ultimate journey leads: as Blessed Guanella tells us, it leads to the Father.

Although the road ahead may sometimes be difficult, our goal motivates us to give charity without limits. We are further encouraged by the words of our Founder, “as long as there are poor to serve we cannot stop doing good.” Each person is called to serve in a different way, but regardless of what our individual callings in life might be, let us keep our eyes on the goal!

We invite you, our fellow laborers in the vineyard, to come and enjoy fellowship as we study and reflect upon the hopeful message of *Spe Salvi* and its implications for our lives in our third national Lay Guanellian Movement Conference.

THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE

Guanellian Lay Movement

“As Companions on the Journey of Hope”

**October 10–12, 2008 • St. Mary of Providence Center
Elverson, Pennsylvania**

***Guest Speaker: Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, SdC,
Provincial Superior of Divine Providence Province***

For more information, please contact Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
(frjoe@stlouiscenter.org) or Sr. Beth Ann Dillon, DSMP (srbethann@gmail.com).

Or visit the Servants of Charity website:
www.servantsofcharity.org/GLMConference.html.

To make reservations, please contact:
Kim Beaubien (kim@servantsofcharity.org)

SERVANTS OF CHARITY



"GIVE BREAD



HELP US IN OUR MINISTRY OF SERVICE TO THE POOR

MISSIONARIES OF LOVE



"AND THE LORD"



THEY NEED EDUCATION, SHELTER, TOOLS FOR WORK,
FOOD, MEDICINE, CLOTHES, CLEAN WATER...LOVE.

*Whoever receives a Prophet Because he is a prophet,
receives a Prophet's reward. (Mt 10: 41)*

Ways to help our Missions in India and the Philippines:

- Prayer
- Intentions for Masses. These provide the daily bread for our Missionaries and help them in their ministry.
- Sponsor the Children's Malnutrition program: \$1.00 a day
- Sponsor the Children's Educational program: \$0.75 a day
- Sponsor the Children with AIDS program: \$1.00 a day
- Sponsor a seminarian or a Religious Brother to complete their formation: Five hundred dollars a year.
- Any donation is gratefully accepted to provide medicine for TB, Malaria, Dysentery, Typhoid, Meningitis and surgeries.

Please indicate what program you would like to support. We will keep you informed. Send all contributions to:

**Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC, Missions Coordinator
16195 Old US 12, Chelsea, MI 48118, USA**



My Time at Camp

By ROBERT NIEMEYER

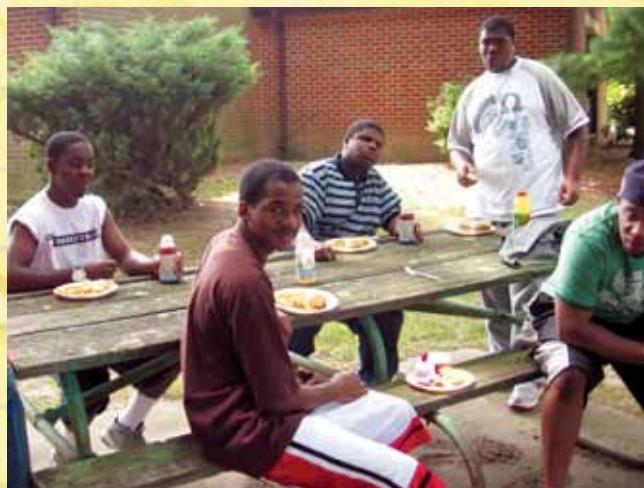
"Let us give them bread and paradise!" These words of Fr. Guanella, which express his desire that both the physical and spiritual needs of his "good children" be taken care of, are continually going through my mind each day of summer camp for the boys here at Don Guanella School, Springfield, PA. Camp is just about half way through the ten weeks, and there has been much to reflect on. This is my first experience with summer camp, so it is all new to me, but some of our boys are old pros; they have been attending camp for several years and know about all the trips and activities, and they are happy to tell me the best parts of each beforehand.

Each Monday is trip day. Most of the guys look forward with joyful anticipation to our trips. Even being caught in a heavy downpour during our walk through Longwood Gardens couldn't dampen the spirits of some of the boys. In fact some even sang a few verses of "Singing in the Rain" to lighten the mood. Just about everyone had a good time on the trip to the Herr's potato chip factory (and they especially enjoyed the potato chips that came hot off the conveyor belt). Many were wide eyed with wonder as we visited the Camden aquarium, and participated in such activities as petting baby sharks and visiting the various displays. But by far, the most enjoyable time so far for the guys was our trip to the Wildwood Beach Boardwalk. The boys were very excited to go on all the amusement rides and were so supportive of one another.

Tuesdays through Fridays we spend our time here on site at Don Guanella Village. Volunteers from all over the country come to us each



day from a group called “M-Fuge,” (a Baptist Missionary group). The days are packed full of activities such as: basketball, baseball, soccer, dodge ball, volleyball, puppet shows, sing-a-longs, and skits. One day we even had a Baptist Gospel Choir from Texas come in and sing for us. At



other times the boys participate in music lessons, swimming, or bingo. There are about four hours of activity each day, and an hour lunch, in which the boys get a chance to get to know the volunteers a little better.

Amidst all the activities, many

days (before we break for lunch) I am asked to say a quick prayer. On those days it is very heartwarming to see everyone's heads bowed in prayer for about two minutes, as we thank the Lord for His blessings, and ask for His continued blessings upon us, which is followed by grace over the meals. Even the days that I am not asked to pray with everyone, I will say a little prayer with my own group, and often throughout the day I quietly pray for our boys, the staff, and the volunteers.

Through all the business of the activities, every once in a while I see a little spark of Charity: whether it is in a tender moment shared between one of our boys and a volunteer, or when a hesitant volunteer finally lets their guard down, and opens up to our boys, or when our boys join together and exhibit teamwork and cooperation to complete a task—like digging a garden.

I know that the Lord can ignite these little sparks of Christian Charity into a large flame and I pray that they will affect everyone who comes in contact with them. And with a continued focus on the Guanellian mission we can truly give them *both* bread and Paradise.

Saint Paul and Saint Joseph



The Word and the Plane — Remembering the Second Millennium of the birth of St. Paul

By ANTHONY ROSE

June 28, 2008 through June 29, 2009 we celebrate the bi-millennium anniversary of the birth of the apostle Paul. Pope Benedict XVI has called the whole Church to remember the great apostle by reading and meditating on his letters, which are rich with inspired teachings for Christians of all millennia. Paul exhorts his people to live a life conformed to the grace of the Baptism they have received. In some of his letters he insists upon practicing virtues, abandoning false idols and vices that absolutely block Christians from regaining the lost dignity caused by sin, bringing them closer to the image of the new man proposed by Jesus himself.

Initially, it seems impossible to find something in the writings of St. Paul that draws us to St. Joseph. By looking deeper into the mystery that surrounds the humble spouse of the Mother of God, we can, however, apply to Joseph what the Apostle says to believers of all times.

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship." (Rom 12:1)

Indeed, Saint Joseph gave his life as an offering to the Lord by cooperating with Mary in the great mystery of redemption. His mission was so unique and exalted that Pope Pius XI said it came straight from the highest heavens. The divinity of Christ, on earth, was entrusted to St. Joseph.

There are no words to describe his soul's inner joy while sharing his abode with the Son of God and the Immaculate Conception. In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul might as well have been talking about Joseph, living side by side with Jesus and Mary, when he wrote: "Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us. Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Eph. 5:2;21) In his letter to the Romans, Paul said: "Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor." (Rom 12:9-10) Certainly, Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved each other, and practiced virtues in a heroic way, bearing the witness of their mutual love. They rejoiced in hope, endured in affliction, persevered in prayer, contributed to the needs of others, and exercised hospitality. (Rom 12:12-13)

Paul exhorts the Christian communities to seek and reach for the ideal of a family and of a community that was already set forth by the Holy Family of Nazareth. It seems Paul was living right next door to Jesus, Mary and Joseph when he wrote: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all." (Rom 12:14-18)

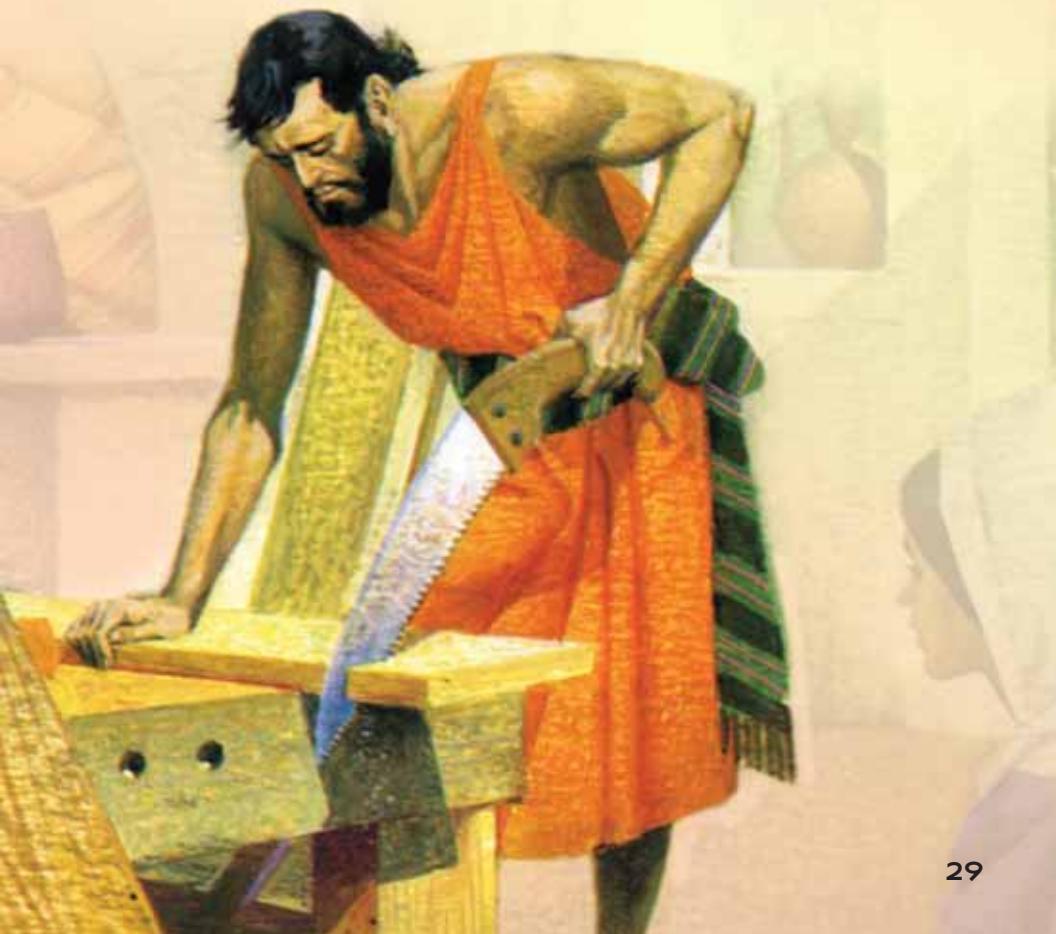
Saint Joseph perfectly mirrors the ideal of a true disciple of Christ. In living Christian virtues, perfectly, he becomes a model to all who wish to follow the Lord Jesus. Love is the virtue that, in St. Joseph, outshines every other virtue. He embraced love by making love the center of his life. "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own

interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails." (1 Cor 13:4-8)

Looking at the family of the carpenter of Nazareth, we learn and welcome into our houses God's love, singing with the psalmist: "How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise!" (Ps 84)

What a treasure we find in God's Word, when we meditate on St. Joseph!

How right it is that he should be our model and guide in living out what we read and have received from the great apostle, St. Paul!





Sacraments and Sacramentals

BY FR. PAUL OGGIONI, SdC

In the April-May issue of *The Voice of Providence* we invited you to spiritually join the celebration of the “Perpetual Mass,” adding your prayers and suffering to the prayers and suffering of Jesus dying on the cross for our salvation. The sense and preciousness of the celebration of the Eucharist consists in the fact that it is not a repetition of the Last Supper, but the reactualization, in the present moment, of the real and eternal sacrifice of Jesus

Christ on the cross, redeeming us today. To believe in His living sacrifice is to set off on the way that leads toward a personal encounter with the Lord, repeating with St. Paul, “I have been crucified with Christ, and the life I live now is not my own; Christ is living in me.” (Gal 2:20)

In addition to the seven Sacraments and the Word of God, the channels through which God grants us his grace to fulfill our Christian vocation, there are spiritual paths we call “Sacramentals” which prepare us to go toward Him and sustain us in our determination to look for Him. These Sacramentals help us to place God first above all things. Among these religious practices, we remember the veneration of the Saints with their relics, pilgrimages, the Way of the Cross, the Divine Mercy chaplet, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, devotion to the Blessed Mother, praying the Rosary and honoring St. Joseph.

Everyone knows, even those who do not believe in God, how hard it is just to live; we know that we can take nothing for granted. Everything has a cost and each one of us must pay his share. In the difficulty of meeting daily challenges we become aware that someone is paying what we cannot pay because of our weakness, poverty and unworthiness. The angels and saints ask God to sustain us so that our joys and suffering may become expressions of gratitude to Him and acts of love for those in need.

Wednesday Devotion

Wednesdays have long been dedicated to St. Joseph. The members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph pay their tribute of devotion and gratitude on Wednesday with special prayers to St. Joseph for the Universal Church and for the suffering and dying. An intimate, spiritual atmosphere surrounds all who join in the prayers and devotions in the Shrine of St. Joseph. Early in the morning we celebrate the Eucharist, followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Praying the Rosary together we ask Mary to bridge the gap between ourselves and God. St. Joseph is honored and we try to model our day of prayer on his silent and humble trust in the Lord. Throughout the day the faithful spend time in adoration praying for the Church, for peace, for the needs of our families and our country and for spiritual growth. As afternoon moves toward evening we pray the Litany of St. Joseph, asking protection for the suffering and dying and for those who are asking for our prayers. During Benediction, the celebrant intends to bless all the members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph. He asks Jesus to console you while you face daily spiritual and physical trials.

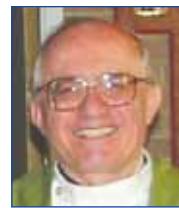
We invite you to join spiritually in the Wednesday Devotion of St. Joseph. Choose a *"Holy Hour with St. Joseph,"* offering your prayer and suffering for a special intention. Other expressions of love and devotion to St. Joseph on Wednesdays are placing flowers and lighting candles near his image in the Shrine, giving alms to the poor, and visiting the sick. Friends and members of the Pious Union send donations and prayer intentions to the Shrine, asking for candles to be lit and for their intentions to be remembered during the daily celebration. Let us all go trustingly to St. Joseph! We will truly experience his solicitude in asking God for what we need.





Fr. Joseph
Rinaldo, SdC

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Fr. Fortunato
Turati, SdC

As part of the Church, the Superiors of our Congregation always look for new pastoral strategies to express her mission more faithfully and effectively. They then appoint confreres to implement them so that our ministry in the Church may achieve deeper meaning.

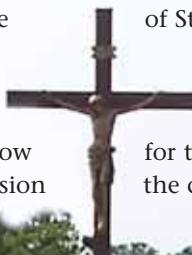
Twenty years ago Fr. Germano Pegoraro began the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Suffering and Dying in the U.S. On June 18, 2000 the Shrine of St. Joseph in Grass Lake, MI was solemnly blessed and offered as a welcoming center of prayer for all those afflicted in body and spirit. At the Shrine a beautiful Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and a replica of Mount Calvary were added to offer the pilgrims spiritual support and inspiration.

Following the maternal care of the Church which always aides us in our journey toward God, our ultimate goal, we are developing at the Shrine a ministry of charity for those sick in body and spirit who come here asking God to show them mercy through the intercession

of St. Joseph. During the past four years Fr. Paul Oggioni fully and generously dedicated himself to the growth of the Pious Union of St. Joseph so that the Shrine would be known as a spiritual place of refuge for many in need.

On July 27, 2008 Fr. Paul celebrated his farewell Mass at the replica of Mount Calvary. He left the Shrine, sent by his superiors to start a new pastoral ministry in Philadelphia, PA. Two other Servants of Charity, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo and Fr. Fortunato Turati, took his place at the Shrine. For many years they were involved in ministry with children and adults with developmental disabilities at St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI.

With your cooperation they will continue their labor with the sick through the ministry of the Pious Union of St. Joseph. At the same time they will promote the Shrine of St. Joseph as a center of consolation for the suffering and prayer for the dying.



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 **Guanellian Lay Movement** 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:

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The Servants of Charity

100 Years of Service and Grace 1908–2008

The divine call places us 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 must be witnesses of God's love and of the sacred value of each man, even of the least gifted, according to the commandment of the Lord: "Love one another, as I have loved you."

Attentive to the signs of the times and in collaboration with all people of good will, we endeavor to safeguard the least ones so that no one will be neglected in life, and we work toward building a world more just and open to Christ and his Gospel.



"Give Bread and the Lord"

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