

The Voice of Providence

PUBLICATION OF THE SERVANTS OF CHARITY

now AND AT THE **hour**

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2011



EWTN ®
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

Featured Story: *Reflections on EWTN, page 5*

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*The Life, the Spirit and the
Works of Father Louis Guanella*

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

The Voice of Providence:

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

Mission

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

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

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

REFLECTION BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

Every Sunday and on major holy days, we recite the Creed. Among the several mysteries we believe in, there is one that says, “*I believe in the Resurrection of the Body.*”

The Church teaches us that there will be a resurrection, that it will be for all people, and that all people will arise with the same bodies they now have. This is the resurrection for which the Church, from the very beginning, has been the believing witness.

This faith helped me tremendously at the death of my father and mother as well as dear relatives and friends. As I offer my prayers and I think how much I loved them and how much they taught me and cared for me, I am comforted by the fact that they are with God and that one day, sooner than later, we will be reunited. An even more consoling thought is that one day we will recognize them and love them in their normal appearance as when they were with us. The love of our Creator who ordered humankind’s existence in this way is unsurpassable and limitless. We will see how Jesus looked, how the Blessed Mother smiled, how St. Joseph spoke. We will recognize Moses and King David.

This is the power and infinite wisdom of God who created us in His own image and likeness. He is the Father who said to each one of us, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you.” (Jer 1, 5).



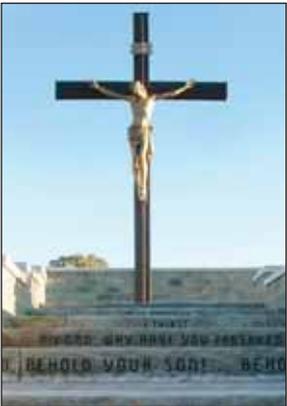


Remember Your Loved Ones

by Making a Dedication or Memorial in their name.

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

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



For more information or to make a pledge, please call the Pious Union of St. Joseph Office Monday–Friday at 517-522-8017.

Send email to piousunion@pusj.org.

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

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

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

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

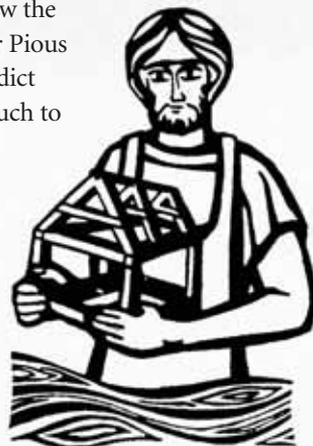
*Please use the envelope in the center of the magazine to
make requests and send donations.*



BY SR. MARGARET MARY SCHISLER

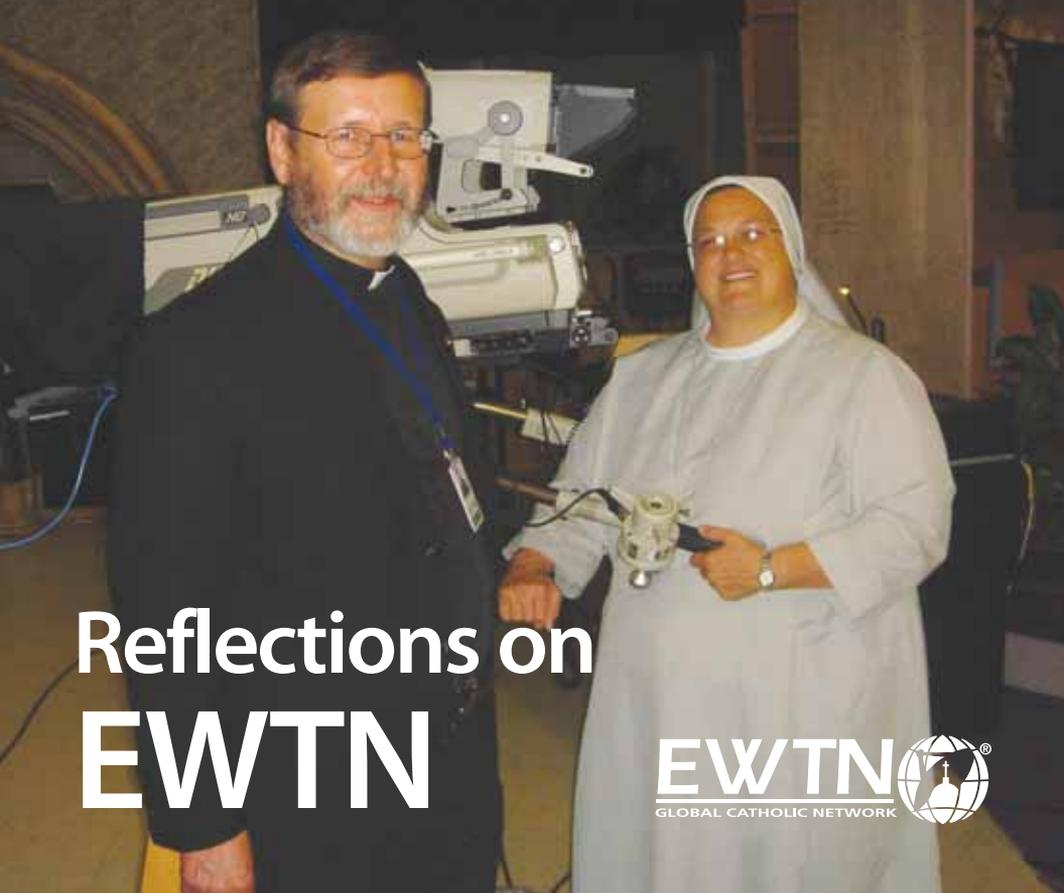
These next two months are very important for we who follow the “Guanellian” life. This month of October the founder of our Pious Union/Shrine of St. Joseph will be Canonized by Pope Benedict XVI and become “Saint” Louis Guanella. We indeed have much to celebrate and much to be thankful for.

Fr. Guanella founded the Pious Union of St. Joseph because of all the suffering that people were experiencing in Italy in the early 1900’s. He thought that just as it is important for us to live a good life each of us should look forward to having a happy death. The things that are important to us during our life will also assist us in the time of our death. Prayer and spiritual works will prepare our soul to greet the Divine Creator with nothing but joy to join Him in the Beatific Vision. Our devotion to St. Joseph will indeed help us to be welcomed in His Son’s house.



In this year of the Canonization of our Founder Louis Guanella it also seems fitting to support the great work of the Pious Union in its ministry to the suffering and dying by expanding the Shrine Chapel dedicated to the happy death of St. Joseph. We are grateful to all of you who have contributed to the Shrine expansion already and ask our new members to be generous with this project. Each of you are remembered in our daily prayers as we continue to beg St. Joseph to watch over us and our members in their daily lives. Entrusting our cares to the man who cared for Jesus and Mary should give us great comfort and joy.

Please feel free to use the enclosed envelope for your offering to St. Joseph for the expansion of the Chapel in his honor. God Bless your generosity as only He can. May St. Joseph bless you and your families in thanksgiving for all you do for us.



Reflections on EWTN



BY SR. MARGARET MARY SCHISLER

My experience with Fr. Mitch Pacwa and the EWTN community was a very uplifting and insightful meditation. We all are very fortunate to have such a wonderful Catholic Station to feed and nourish us. Our founder, Blessed Louis Guanella, who will be Canonized on October 23, 2011, told us that it is just as important to feed the soul as it is the body. The EWTN Studio helps us to do this and I am happy to be included in their ministry to feed the soul.

The interview with Fr. Mitch Pacwa on EWTN Live went very well and our membership at the Pious Union has increased greatly from that international broadcast. EWTN Live, which Fr. Mitch hosts, seeks to teach and prepare us for evangelization of our neighbor. Sharing our mission of praying for the suffering and dying through the intercession of St. Joseph was very well received by the viewers of EWTN.

Fr. Mitch is a very interesting priest. Just getting to know him has enriched my life and I admire him very much. (The fact that he is also from Chicago, like me, doesn't hurt either.) He is very learned and speaks many languages including Latin, Greek, Aramaic,

German, Italian, Polish, French and Spanish. I asked him what he does for “stress relief” and he proceeded to invite me to his house to see what he does. He likes to deer hunt. This is not just a “sport” for him but he shares the meat with the poverty stricken of the EWTN area, one amazing man!

I began to prepare for my trip to the EWTN Studio by praying especially to St. Joseph for inspiration on what exactly to share with the audience. Each one of you were kept close in my heart the whole time because along with touching the hearts of **new members**, I believe in the importance of sustaining those who have supported us the last 24 years in the United States. We cannot thank you enough for all your dedication and loyalty to the Pious Union/Shrine of St. Joseph. It is your generosity that spurred me on to promote our mission to others!

I truly felt overwhelmed at the beginning of this trip because it was made known to me that EWTN Television is received in 144 different countries and viewed in 146 million homes. Those numbers boggled my mind and put quite a bit of “stage-fright” into me. I surely was nervous at the beginning of the interview and Fr. Mitch told me that he noticed it. To tell you the truth I am glad the butterflies were flying around in my stomach because it kept me on my toes to be attentive to his questions and to answer them with complete faith and confidence in St. Joseph.

Sharing our mission here at the Pious Union/Shrine of St. Joseph was exactly what I did. We all know that praying for the suffering and dying is a much needed intention these days. Each of us is affected by some level of suffering and if we stay faithful to prayer we will find comfort and consolation to deal with the suffering we encounter. Many times we feel that we do not experience an answer to our prayers but it is at those times that we need to ask St. Joseph for the strength to live with the questions within us. He who consistently lived with many questions along his path is a great inspiration and example for us to follow.

Fr. Mitch Pacwa is a very holy man who loves to interview people to learn more about the faith in their lives. The night before the interview I had supper with him along with Johnette Benkovic, host of Women of Grace, and Fr. Edmund Sylvia, chaplain of Women of Grace. I shared a brief description of our ministry of praying to St. Joseph, Patron of the suffering and dying and they were pleased to hear of our work. They agreed that many of our family and friends are suffering with day-to-day struggles and the only way through it all is with prayer. So my dear friends keep your prayer to St. Joseph close by and say it often.

Fr. Mitch made reference at the beginning of the show to a “soon to be saint” which was Fr. Guanella sharing his motto about “we who strive to live a good life must also look forward to dying well.” Fr. Guanella prayed to St. Joseph, patron of a happy death, and shared this devotion with all he met. And hence this is how the Pious Union started back in 1914 in Italy.

I am grateful to St. Joseph for opening the way of sharing our mission with so many more people who had not thought of entrusting him with all their cares. As I keep all of you in my daily prayers I ask you to continue to pray for the suffering and dying so comfort may be theirs.

Look for Susan Tassone, author of *Gregorian Masses*, on EWTN in October/November. She will be appearing on EWTN Live, Women of Grace and Bookmark with Doug Keck, and will be promoting the Pious Union of St. Joseph.



The Patronage of St. Joseph

BY FR. PAUL OGGIONI, SDC

St. Joseph, presented by Sacred Scripture as a descendant of King David, true spouse of Mary and father of Jesus according to the law of Israel, might have enjoyed an anticipated assumption into heaven, accompanied by Jesus on the day of His Ascension to the right hand of the Father.

After his death, a veil of oblivion covered Joseph. He was relegated to an almost non-existent role in the plan of salvation that God brought forth since the foundation of the world. The Gospels mention him solely as the **carpenter**. In time, the role of Joseph acquired more importance and understanding, giving him back the honor due a man who had served the Almighty with humility and fidelity in the plan of salvation.

The Church had begun her journey among obstacles and persecutions. She found her strength in the celebration of the Mysteries and the memory of her martyrs. Mysteries and Memories assured the faithful that their unity in charity and their faith in the Mysteries was the foundation of their bond to the host of saints, destined to remain with the Lord forever.

Then came the centuries of spiritual and theological struggle directed at identifying the clear elements of a common faith, uniting all those who profess those truths even today. Every Sunday we profess the same Creed when celebrating the Mysteries that were the foundation of the faith of the first Christian community.

We believe that St. Joseph died before the public ministry of Jesus. We know that the Blessed Virgin Mary accompanied her Son to Calvary and was re-united with Him, after His ascension into heaven.

Once theology became clearer and more defined within the Church and once spiritual masters and mystics taught, by their example, the right path to follow in order to reach full adherence to God and holiness, St. Joseph emerged from the silence where he had



been relegated. He became the model of simple, humble, active and effective holiness by which every faithful soul can be inspired and experience God's grace. Many Christians were inspired by St. Joseph to commit themselves to redemptive service in the midst of the community in which God had placed them.



Though St. Joseph was already mentioned and invoked in some ancient Greek and Latin liturgies, it is only in the twelfth century that he is acknowledged as protector and intercessor to God for and by those faithful who are suffering physical pain, moral temptation, and spiritual trial. A long litany of invocations then came alive. In them, St. Joseph is shown as the one who followed God's will, and made the people feel close to him for his protection and intercession.

I would like to mention only four invocations that, today, better manifest his protection for us: *Pillar of family life; Comfort of the afflicted; Hope of the sick; Patron of the dying.* These titles are the echo of a strong faith of Christian people who recognize St. Joseph as a valid intercessor, a Saint who constantly watches over the Church's children as he had done with the Holy Family by protecting Jesus and the honor of his chaste wife, Mary, from physical, moral and spiritual evils.

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The Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 963) affirms that Mary “Is acknowledged and honored as the Mother of God and of the Redeemer. She is clearly the mother of the members of Christ. Mary is Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church.”

If we recognize in Mary this special mission of her motherly service in the Church, spouse of Christ, our devotion and faith help us to believe that St. Joseph watches over the growth of the Mystical Body of Christ, Jesus, to whom St. Joseph was predestined to exercise paternal authority.

The new millennium had inherited extensive changes that are throwing the values of our Christian doctrine

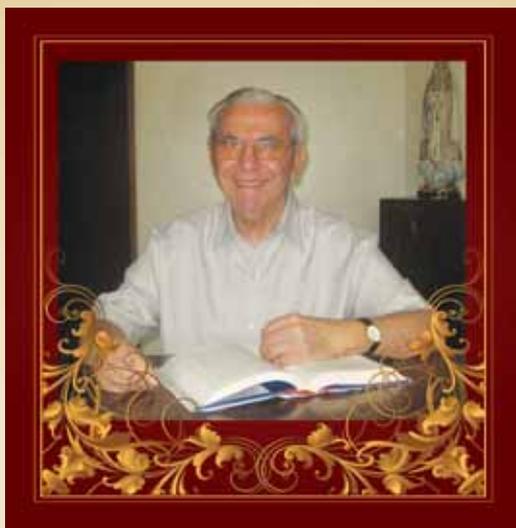
and culture into a deep crisis, like God’s presence for a harmonic development of society, the value of human life, the respect toward every human being, and the good of family

unity. Today we are experiencing a crisis of paternity that is undermining the foundations of our society. There is a world out there where a false freedom, individualism and morality of personal liking are changing the terms of our relationship with God, among ourselves, and with nature. They are weakening the ideal *God-Family-Country*, so present in the teaching of the Church and in the heart of the fathers of our country.



It is fitting then to persevere in praying to St. Joseph, in asking him to extend more than ever his protection of the Church, of the institution of the family, and of the country that is suffering social and economical hardship.

St. Joseph, our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly perils, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversities! Shield each one of us by your constant intercession, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may also be able to live piously, to die in grace, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



FATHER DOMINIC SAGINARIO, SDC 1930-2011

WITNESS OF THE LOVE OF GOD FOR ALL, ESPECIALLY THE POOR

Fr. Dominic, nicknamed Fr. Mimi, for many years was a regular contributor to our Magazine, *The Voice of Providence*. Our readers had the opportunity to realize how his writings revealed a soul in love with God, full of enthusiasm for Father Guanella's charism and attentive to the poor.

We will miss him and now we count him among our special intercessors in heaven for the members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph and for all the suffering and dying. This is how the Provincial Superior, Fr. Luigi De Giammbattista, SdC, spoke in the name of the Guanellian family about Fr. Dominic.

“Come you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you”
(Mt 25, 34).

Father Dominic must certainly have heard the voice of Jesus the afternoon of July 11th while he was seated at the desk in his room in Manila. Once again, with the promptness of the disciple who kept gazing on his Master and who faithfully followed His footsteps, he answered; “Here I am Lord.” We have to admit that his sudden departure left us confused and deeply saddened.

Many of us felt like we lost a loving father, a caring elder brother, a gentle and joyful friend, a teacher, a guide, a mentor.

“The sower went out to sow...the seed that fell on good soil bears fruit and produces a hundred, or sixty, or thirty times more” (Mt 13, 38).

God’s consoling word gives full meaning to Father Dominic’s vibrant life and peaceful death. He was the good seed sowed by the Lord in our land, in his family, in the Church, in our Congregation and, at the end of the day, in the Manila community, in the midst of our Filipino poor. Life was clearly perceived by Fr. Mimi as a gift to be shared, to be offered until the last breath so that others may “receive life and live in its fullness” (Jn 10, 10). Fr. Mimi knew and taught us that the seed, in order to produce fruit must go down, be hidden and buried in the soil. He had to die in order to generate life. His journey on earth was marked and characterized by a child-like simplicity, humble availability, detachment from earthly possessions and prestige, and tireless service in the fields assigned to him. His shining eyes and smile were like windows open to reveal the goodness and purity of his heart. Through his example, paternal advice, gentle and firm spiritual guidance, he helped many to welcome God’s grace and to treasure and make it bear the fruit of genuine life and holiness.



Fr. Mimi was a good seed, fertile soil and a tireless sower of the Gospel. He abundantly sowed the seed of the Gospel throughout his Guanellian priestly life as a writer, preacher, a theology professor, a spiritual guide, an animator and leader of the Province, a vocation promoter, a general secretary, a friend of the poor and a missionary.

Fr. Mimi’s heart burned with the same desire of Blessed Guanella to mirror and enflesh Jesus the Good Shepherd, the Samaritan, and the servant and missionary of the Father. He envisioned, encouraged and strongly contributed to the missionary expansion of the congregation by opening new and wider horizons to the Guanellian charism of charity.

“OUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH IS CHARITY. WE EXIST IN THE CHURCH AND ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF CHARITY. OUR NAME PROCLAIMS OUR IDENTITY. WE ARE THE CONGREGATION OF THE SERVANTS OF CHARITY.”

Thank you dear Fr. Mimi! From the home of the Father keep blessing and inspiring us to continue spreading seeds of hope and charity in the open field of our life and mission. Farewell Fr. Dominic! God is with you as you were always with Him.

Fr. Mimi left us as his spiritual testament; the memory of his good example as a joyful, generous and faithful Servant of Charity. Throughout his life, toward the sunset of his days and even up to the last hour before his serene departure for eternity, Fr. Dominic kept dropping his precious “pearls” in our hands:

“Our source of strength is charity. We exist in the Church and are sent into the world because of charity. Our name proclaims our identity. We are The Congregation of the Servants of Charity.” We are born out of charity. Our springs are in the Heart of Christ. We are fruit of the infinite love of the Father; we exist to become servants and witnesses of God’s charity. This is the key element of our Congregation’s and Province’s programs whether we deal with formation, prayer, mission projects, or fraternal relationships. This is the essence of our vocation. Charity is the precious stone that we should not lose or hide. If we lose charity, we lose everything. Our hands as well as our hearts will be empty. We must be aware of this and invest all our energies to become an image of God’s charity, to live, serve, celebrate and proclaim charity” (Rome, July 10, 2003, turning over his leadership to the new Provincial Council)

“Be worthy of your vocation. Put at the center of your heart the Gospel of Jesus. Do not aim at other ambitions than to give glory to God and to save souls, beginning with the least ones, the poor of the Lord” (Manila, July 3, 2011–Message to the Indian confreres celebrating the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the first Servant of Charity in India)

His last message as a Novice Master: “Sing...move forward, be a prophet.” (Manila, May 14, 2011).



Accompanying Jesus on a Visit to Our Neighbor

BY CATHY MARS

As a member of the Pious Union of St. Joseph, active at the Shrine of St. Joseph for many years, Cathy Mars, is a support to our Priests, an active and loving participant in works of mercy and an inspiration. Because Cathy so clearly responds to Christ's command to "love one another as I have loved you," we asked her to write about her life of bringing our Lord to sick and dying people.

"Jesus is our Peace;" "We love because He first loved us;" "God is love," These are vivid and provoking images, powerful thoughts to which our faith is grafted. It is important to ask ourselves: "How do I respond to these mighty aspects of our God?"

One way we can respond to the love of God, is by sharing His peace and love with our neighbor. We do this simply by visiting those who are unable to join their faith community, accompanying Jesus, who is, Himself, Love and Peace, to their homes, nursing homes or hospital rooms.

As believers, we form the 'body of Christ.' During every Mass we receive Jesus. We are then to 'accompany Jesus' into the world and to seek those who want to be present, but cannot come to the holy gathering. They may be imprisoned or unable to leave their homes; living in nursing homes, hospice care or a hospital.

"Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical on Hope, teaches us that being a Christian and hoping for personal salvation, involves a new dimension of love, a "love for all." "Christ died for all so that those who live might live, no longer for themselves, but for Him who for their sake died." (2 Cor 5,15). To 'live for Him' means allowing ourselves to be drawn into His being for others." Spe. Salvi 28.

Our parish bulletins list many opportunities for us to reach out and to visit our brothers and sisters in Christ. There are individual homebound visits, weekly group nursing home visits, usually with a Communion service and Rosary recitation, or Mass. Commissioned Eucharistic ministers may offer the Sacrament to those who are unable to be present for Mass. If you are not an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist in your Parish, you may become one. Your Priest will tell you how to go about it. You will serve God and be blessed by this experience, becoming a blessing to others.

We remember the words, spoken by Jesus on the cross, "I thirst." He thirsts for souls and souls are all around us. Slake His thirst. If, during a visit, you notice that the roommate is listening in, invite him to the prayer service being said right there in his room. Although, it is only Catholics who may receive the Blessed Sacrament, others may certainly be blessed by Jesus, present in the Eucharist.

Expand your call and be open. When Hospice House volunteer, Rick, was asked to sit with a dying man, the man's 19 year old son arrived and became distraught. Rick was able to embrace the grieving young man and was truly there for both father and son.

One parish started a rosary-making group at the local homeless shelter. The residents are not sick, but they are certainly suffering, without the security of a home. Rosaries are made and explained; we pray and then share the rosaries with others. It is always amazing how swiftly and joyfully this hour passes.

Now my dear friends, if you read this article to the end, let it be your call to become a visitor. You will be humbled and more. After many visits to an elderly man in the hospital, his family announced to me one day, "he can finally receive Jesus today." Tears of joy streamed down their cheeks. Imagine.

I encourage you to go out into the world and visit 'your neighbor.' You have been summoned! The one lying in bed, nailed to the cross, with needles, tubes, and breathing devices is surely Jesus. When we meet Him, God is truly present, and when we meet God, we are blessed. Together, may we all be God's blessing to our neighbor.







I Have Seen My Guardian Angel

BY FR. PAUL OGGIONI, SDC

It is October 24, 1987, the liturgical celebration of Blessed Louis Guanella, and the Servants of Charity and Daughters of St. Mary of Providence have planned a common celebration with the participation of the respective candidates to religious life.

It was the best way to honor the Founder and to renew our common commitment to serve the poor and the marginalized of Paraguay where a chronically corrupted government created large pockets of poverty and social disparity. The popular revolts were met with violent repression spreading hardship and fear among the poorest classes.

The local people appreciated the unselfishness of the Guanellian religious and their sharing in the discomforts of the poor. They still remembered the three Servants of Charity who died young, consumed by a self-giving that knew no limits in their charitable work.

October 24th was a stormy day. The roads were slippery, and the visibility very poor. On a curve, my driver lost control of the car and crashed into a eucalyptus tree. I flew out of the car, hit the ground hard and lost consciousness. A beer truck driver picked me up and laid me on the beer cases, where I traveled all the way to a hospital. The police report reached the local radio-station and announced that I had died because of head injuries. My confreres, along with the Archbishop of Asuncion, who were waiting for me, were quick to reach the hospital where they saw me still alive, though unconscious.

Little by little I got better and I recovered my physical and mental faculties. When the doctors discharged me from the hospital, I was still in pain, confused, hardly able to walk, and seeing double. Some people told me that my hour had not yet come. Some others said that Father Guanella was involved in protecting me on his feast day. Still others were sure that the Blessed Mother or other Saints were the cause of my survival. In a few days, I would remember who really saved me.



In the emergency room, I was deeply asleep. I saw myself lying in bed and watching my confreres, the sisters, and friends who were gathered there because of the car accident. Yet, everything there was strange. While I saw those faces bent over me, I too was with them watching the person lying on the



bed. That person was not me.

He was as tall as me, was unconscious, and covered by an electric bluish-green tunic, but I could not see his hands or feet.

While watching him, I recognized a big broken wing on his left side. It took me awhile to grasp a bandage and dress his broken wing. At that moment I woke up, filled with great emotion. I was dressing the wing of my Guardian Angel. I became aware that he had protected me in the accident that had injured the entire left side of my body. The accident was not mortal because my Guardian Angel had become a cushion between me and the ground in order to mitigate the impact and avoid more severe consequences.



I recalled what my mother taught me long ago, “Pray to your Guardian Angel when you wake up in the morning.” On that morning, too, I had said my prayer to my Guardian Angel as well as the morning of the accident. He was with me until the time when he said, “The Lord had sent me to protect you because your hour has not yet come.”

It took me a few months to get back to normal. From Paraguay I moved to the Philippines and eventually to the United States and I always felt the presence and protection of my Guardian Angel.

In the United States I went to an eye specialist to examine my eyes, and an amazed doctor informed me, “Father, you are a walking miracle. Your retina has two big holes in it, yet your sight is normal! How can that be?” In his report to my doctor he wrote: “I found his more emergent problem could have lead to a total retinal detachment. Certainly it shows that someone is on his side.”

I believe that the Lord sent his Angel to guide my steps, to sustain me in my difficult moments, to protect me from dangers, and to accompany me along the journey of my earthly life until the moment when he will say, “Now, Paul, your hour has come.” I am not afraid of that moment, because my Angel will be there with me. He will open the door and will introduce me to the Heavenly Father.

Because of this, I pray daily, “Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God’s love entrusts me here, ever this day, be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.”

Gregorian Masses

What They Are and Why We Should Have Them Offered

BY SUSAN TASSONE

The Mass Heals!

We hear stories of people who have been healed in body and we are in awe! We seldom consider how much Jesus does to heal souls suffering on earth and more so the souls suffering in Purgatory, a place which none of us have seen and to which many of us could go.

We do not stop to think about the physical and spiritual healing through the Eucharist. Today, many are discovering how the Eucharist for the deceased also heals the living as they come into deeper relationship with Jesus. Dr. Kenneth McCall has over 1000 cases of emotional or physical healing occurring with clients by offering a Mass for their deceased loved ones. The Mass heals the living and the dead!

The power of prayer is grabbing the headlines. An Arizona journal reports that “intercessory prayer” produced measurable improvement in the medical outcome of critically ill patients. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the highest act of worship and the highest form of prayer. St. John Chrysostom says, “Christ is the victim that gives solace to the dead.”

So what are you doing for our dear deceased loved ones? Who do you miss the most? Who do you wish you could have done more for in their life? Who hurt you?

Who helped you the most spiritually or temporally? Have a Mass offered for them! The Council of Trent tells us, “The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Perpetual Sacrifice, is the greatest of all suffrages for the Holy Souls.”

A great avenue to have Masses offered is through the Missions. By offering your Masses through the Missions you are providing bread and wine for the Eucharist for a priest in mission countries. These offerings also help with liturgical expenses, books for seminarians, and ministries of the Church. These priests depend on your Masses as their lifeline. Can we help them? Can we help Christ continue His mission on and beyond this earth? And when we do help we are also being merciful to ourselves!

We have an opportunity to help our deceased loved ones and our missionaries spread the Gospel and bring the Eucharist to God’s beloved poor. And what a marvelous time to do this spiritual work of mercy! The Eucharist is the source and summit of all Christian life. Let us be missionaries of the Eucharist for the holy souls languishing in Purgatory.

What are Gregorian Masses?

The name is derived from Pope St. Gregory the Great who was the first to popularize this pious practice. St. Gregory relates in his Dialogues how when upon finishing the series of thirty Masses for the departed monk, Justus, he appeared to St. Gregory and told him he had gained entry into heaven on completion of the thirtieth Mass. The hallowed tradition has been declared “a pious and reasonable belief of the faithful” on the authority of the Roman Curia. Gregorian Mass is offered for ONE DECEASED SOUL...not a couple or family. Put specific instructions in your Will that Gregorian Masses be offered for your soul.

Does offering thirty Gregorian Masses always rescue a soul from purgatory?

Although the practice is approved by the Church there is no official guarantee. Still it is a custom that points to the power and efficacy of the Holy Mass and there are souls in purgatory who are in desperate need of our Masses.

The Church of St. Gregory in Rome houses a beautiful altar with inscriptions that record key events that took place there. Upon three relief panels the Latin text proclaims: Left: St. Gregory has freed the soul of this monk by thirty masses. Middle: The suffering Jesus Christ is seen here by Pope Gregory celebrating (Mass.) Right: In this room Pope Gregory celebrated Masses to release souls from Purgatory.

As you can appreciate, few priests by reason of their work are free and able to offer the 30 consecutive Masses of the Gregorian series without interruption. Therefore, it requires extra time to arrange to have Gregorian Masses scheduled, as this cannot usually be done in a place where there are only a few priests. This is why they are usually offered



Altar at the Church of St. Gregory in Rome

through the “Missions.” The customary offering for the uninterrupted series of 30 Masses celebrated on consecutive days is at least \$150.

And remember to have Masses offered for yourselves, special occasions or intentions, and for the Holidays. It is a refreshing surprise to give someone the gift of prayer! St. Anselm tells us that those we hear or have offered during life are more profitable than those offered for us after death. In this way we shall not be at the mercy of those who remain behind. There is much truth in the proverb which says: “A candle placed before us gives more light than ten candles placed behind us.”

Only by the means of the Mass can we nourish the hope of being received into Heaven immediately after death, without having to pass through the cleansing rigors of purgatory.

**To request Masses or Gregorian Masses to be said please contact:
The Pious Union of St. Joseph, 953 E Michigan Ave, Grass Lake, MI 49240.**

OCTOBER 23, 2011:

Saint Louis Guanella

REFLECTION BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

For the Guanellian Family and for the whole Church the Canonization of Fr. Guanella is a time of joy and gratitude.

With the same joy and gratitude of the Blessed Mother when she received the announcement that she would be the Mother of Jesus, we rejoice and give thanks for the Glorification of Father Louis Guanella.

There are many reasons for joy and gratitude:

- There are constantly new saints in the Catholic Church, always enriching and renewing the holiness of the mystical Body of Christ.
- By declaring Father Guanella a Saint, the Church confirms and upholds his charism and his mission in the Church and the world.
- The Guanellian family is rewarded by the Church for their work of charity by witnessing the love of God for all, especially the poor.
- The Guanellian Family is also assured that the fidelity to the mission and charism of their holy Founder leads to holiness.

Let us rejoice and be glad: Our Founder is a Saint in Heaven inspiring many to be saints on earth.

Saint Louis Guanella, apostle of charity, you spread the treasures of your heart to the poor and suffering, whom you dearly loved, in a world filled with hatred and selfishness. Obtain for us from Divine Providence an ever increasing love for God and our neighbors. Obtain for us also the favor we are asking for... and the grace of final perseverance. Amen. St. Louis Guanella, pray for us!



Fr. Louis Guanella

A Man, A Saint

GUANELLIAN AUTHORS

The saints are living pages of the Gospel of Jesus who is newly incarnate in every epoch. They are credible witnesses who were able to combine the proclamation of the Word with concrete action. Their holiness is rooted in their awareness of being known and loved by God in the profound intimacy of their being and in allowing their hearts and minds to be opened by the grace of the Spirit that shone from the passion of the ideals that motivated their steps.





In the firmament of holiness, every star shines with its own reflected light. Benedict XVI, in his homily on the Solemnity of All Saints 2008 spoke of the Church as a “botanical garden”, where the Creator spread the variety of colors of holiness on the luminous faces of the saints. With eyes illuminated by faith “the world appears like a garden where the Spirit of God,” the Pope said, “created with amazing fantasy a multitude of men and women saints, of all ages and social conditions, of all languages, peoples and cultures. Each one is different from the others, with the uniqueness of their own personality and of their own charism.”

A Man, A Saint

Faced with the creative and multifaceted personality of Fr. Guanella, identifying his spiritual and specific charism is not simple; but we can follow the tracks that lead to the heart of his holiness. Its focal point lies in the way he related to life. In him, as in all the masterpieces of holiness, two dimensions were interwoven; the vertical and the horizontal. The vertical dimension is represented by his relationship with God; a relationship lived in the recognition of His fatherhood and in his own filial attitude, in his awareness that *“It is God who does.”* Paul VI expressed it well in the speech for his beatification, *“Everything is God’s; the idea, the vocation, the capacity to act, the success, the merit, are all God’s and not man’s.”*

The horizontal, social dimension, of which the fabric of Guanellian holiness is woven, derived from his feeling that he was a “collaborator of God,” which led him to relate with every one of his needy neighbors, practiced in the style of the Good Samaritan in

the light and spirit of the Gospel Beatitudes. None of the states of frailty or poverty of men and women were foreign to him, because in each person he recognized the dignity of the Son of God and brotherhood.

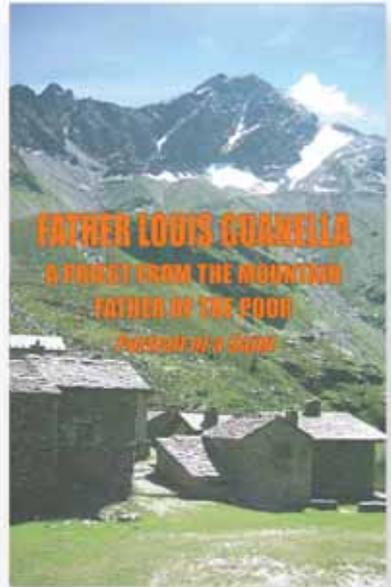
Paul VI, in his acute and masterful speech on the day of the beatification, portrayed these two major directions in the filigree of Fr. Guanella's life: an intimate path, modestly guarded, and a more visible route marked out by the flourishing of his works of charity. The religious direction drove him on towards God's panorama *"to interpret, to execute and honor God's will."* His prayer was assiduous, his asceticism constant, an ever more intimate communion with God the Father, plunging to the abyss of humility until he could say truly, *"It is God who does. Honor and glory to Him alone."*

Paul VI defined the lungs of his spiritual breathing in this quest for communion: tension and relaxation. The tension was his concern with spreading the Kingdom of the Father, which Paul VI characterized as, *"Perseverance, tenacity, energy, courage, a spirit of heroism, sacrifice."* The relaxation was the broad, deep breath that opened the sails of the soul to the wind of the Spirit and with trust, allowed him to be guided by God. When God is at the helm, said Pope Montini, *"Nothing is fearful," "trust is the true strength," every great work can be undertaken with "the security—to the utmost risk— that Providence will not be lacking."* For Fr. Guanella, *"strong, positive and loving trust"* in God's Providence was the lynch-pin of his holiness and of his extraordinary and fruitful activity.

Indeed, we offer here the aspects that make him feel close to us, even today; the aspects that can encourage us to follow in his footsteps, comforted by his witness, on our own personal and communal path to holiness in the world and the Church today.

This excerpt is from the book *Father Louis Guanella: A Priest from the Mountain, Father of the Poor, Portrait of a Saint*, pp. 42-44.

Portrait of a Saint is available through the Pious Union of St. Joseph. Send your request and donation of \$7.50 each to 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240. Call the office at 517-522-8017 for more information or for purchasing quantities of more than ten copies.





Meditation on the Divine Providence of God

BY FR. JOHN HARDON

Throughout the Bible, if there is one sustained theme; it is trust in God: be not anxious, do not worry, be not despondent, be not desolate, trust, have confidence. And Christ's crowning exhortation, "*Do not be afraid, I have overcome the world.*"

However, there are two sides to Divine Providence; the one we have seen; just remind ourselves; Providence is, emphatically is, the foundation of our virtue of hope. We

are confident that because God loves us he will provide; hence, providence, he will provide whatever we need to do His will, provided we honestly want to do it.

Providence on that first level is trustful confidence on our part that the Lord will provide all the means we need on earth to reach heaven in the life to come. However, providence is not only the foundation of our hope, which it is, it is also the foundation of our Faith. Our Faith, as lived out in this world. And that is the scope of our meditation now.

In order to grasp something of the profound revealed meaning of Divine Providence as the bedrock of our Faith to be lived out I would like to cover the following points, and I am numbering them as I go along.

First: In order to reach heaven, we need supernatural grace from God, better, supernatural *graces*, because we need them constantly.

Second: In His ordinary providence God communicates his supernatural graces through what we call the external graces that envelop our daily lives.

Third: These external graces are nothing mysterious. They are all the creatures that God puts into our lives; get that verb, *puts*; all the creatures that God puts into our lives and that he wants; these are the creatures, to be the means for our obtaining the supernatural graces we need to be saved and sanctified.

Fourth: While all the creatures that enter our lives are meant to be channels of supernatural grace, all of them, question, all of them, exclamation mark; not all, however, are meant by God to be sources of grace in the same way.

Fifth: As a result, our task in life, frankly, our main task in life, is to examine these creatures; look at them, study them... be very courageous in sifting these creatures in order





to find out how, that's the key adverb, how God wants me to use the creatures in my life as channels of His grace.

Sixth: And here we will be in very familiar territory. Some of these creatures, all meant to be graces, all of them, but some of these creatures are to be possessed and enjoyed. Others are to be, you know the verb, endured. Still others, put there by God, but they are to be removed. And finally, some creatures God puts into our lives that we might, though we don't have to under pain of sin that we might surrender. In other words sacrifice, in order to show our love for Him.

No one is saved without Divine Grace. One of my favorite definitions of grace, when over the years I've been teaching a supernatural life: grace is that which we need beyond what we have to reach our eternal destiny; grace is that which we need beyond what we have to reach the eternal destiny for which we were made.

That which we have we call nature. That which we need we call grace.

On the board, depending on what level I'm teaching, I would put $n + G = H$: n standing for nature, G for Grace and H for Heaven.

Nature is all that we have when we come into the world; ourselves, the world around us, all of that is nature. But none of that is sufficient to get us into Heaven; to believe that is to be a Catholic; not to know that is to be an unenlightened Catholic. That's simple and has been defined so many times by the Church it is simply, bread and butter for the nourishment of our supernatural life. We need grace. In fact, that's what the adjective *supernatural* means. What is supernatural? Well, what do you think? That which is super... then, pause and take a breath, natural. Everything above, beyond, more than, we ourselves; all the whole wide world can of itself provide us is nature, and that cannot get us into heaven.

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The Sweet and Dear Paternal Image

On October 23, 2011, Blessed Louis Guanella will be canonized at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. For this occasion we are pleased to offer our readers a masterpiece written by Fr. Leonardo Mazzucchi. He was a true son to Father Guanella who saw him growing from the time he was a child until he became a priest and joined Father Guanella's mission.

Fr. Leonardo wrote Father Guanella's story in a book entitled, *The Life, the Spirit and the Works of Father Louis Guanella*.

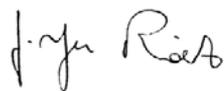
This is more than a biography. It is more than a sequence of events and places and people. It is a revelation of a son who speaks with love, with longing and pride about his father.

Fr. Leonardo wants to tell the members of the Guanellian Family who this Father was and why he is worthy of being called "Father" by so many and why he is a saint.

Fr. Leonardo showed with his life and deeds that he followed in the footsteps of his "Father" and why he always carried in his heart "the sweet and dear paternal image of Saint Louis Guanella."

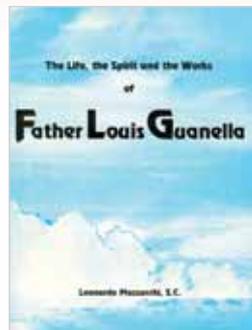
I read this book many times, and I invite you to discover the mystery of a son talking about his father.

Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



The Life, the Spirit and the Works of Father Louis Guanella is available through the Pious Union of St. Joseph. Send your request and a donation to The Pious Union of St. Joseph, 953 E. Michigan Ave., Grass Lake, MI 49240. Call the office at 517-522-8017 for more information or for purchasing quantities of more than ten copies.

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



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE OTHERS?

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

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

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

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

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Shrine of St. Joseph Sacraments and Hours of Devotion

Mass times: Sun 10:00 a.m. • M, Tu, Th, Fr and Sat 11:30 a.m.

Wed 8:30 a.m. followed by Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

Benediction: Wed 4:45 p.m. • Divine Mercy Chaplet: Wed 4:30 p.m.

Holy Rosary: Before Mass • **Stations of the Cross:** Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Anointing of the Sick: First Saturday during 11:30 a.m. Mass and when requested

Confession: Before and after Mass, upon request

To receive the Monthly Shrine Bulletin and all special event mailings, please contact the office at 517-522-8017 or send email to piousunion@pusj.org

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