

now HOUR

AND AT THE

THE VOICE OF PROVIDENCE
OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2014



Featured story on page 1:

Father of a Large Family

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Father of a Large Family**
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
- 3 Saint Joseph and
St. Bernadette Soubirous**
Paul Antoci
- 5 Benedict XVI Becomes
a PUSJ Member**
- 6 Works and Ministry at
the Shrine of St. Joseph**
Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC
- 8 Mailbag**
- 9 Go to Joseph!**
Sr. Rosemary Bell, DSMP
- 11 Suffering and the Cross**
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
- 13 The Rosary:
A Spiritual Medicine**
Fr. Silvio De Nard, SdC
- 18 An Election Year Prayer
for 2014**
Joseph Yekulis
- 21 Making Charity the Heart of
the World: Guanellian Lay
Movement, Part II**
Joseph Yekulis
- 24 Servants of Charity Missions**
*Communications Office of the
Divine Providence Province*
- 28 The Pious Union of
St. Joseph's Library**
- 29 Now and at the Hour
Readership Survey**

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

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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.

Father of a Large Family

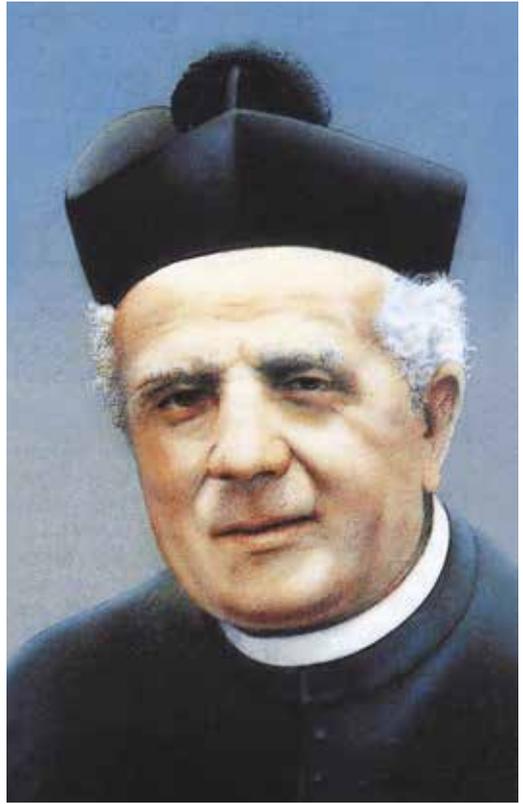
By FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SdC

St. Louis Guanella was born in Fraciscio (SO), Italy, on January 19, 1842, and died in Como, Italy, on October 24, 1915.

From his family, Louis learned many lessons he would later put into practical use in his ministry. Best of all, he learned that a loving spirit of sacrifice can work miracles. Louis was ordained a priest on May 26, 1866. His zeal for souls and his parishioners was

extraordinary. He prayed for them, fasted for them and served them in their spiritual and material needs. From 1875–1878, Fr. Guanella went to stay with Fr. John Bosco in Turin, Italy. Here, he also was able to observe the great works of charity carried out by Fr. Joseph Cottolengo. He wrote of his time there, “The Lord saw to it that I should meet Fr. Bosco and Fr. Cottolengo whom I admired and grew to love the more I learned from them.”

The dignity of the human person became a priority for Father Guanella. Often the elderly, the incurable, and the physically and mentally handicapped were left in pitiful condition by relatives who had no desire or knowledge of giving them this human dignity. For them he founded a congregation of religious women, called *Daughters of St. Mary of Providence* and a congregation for men called *Servants of Charity*. Father Guanella believed, spoke and acted on the premise that “The heart of a Christian who believes and feels cannot overlook the hardships and deprivation of the poor without helping them.” He became a Saint by following Jesus’ declaration, “As long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me.” St. Louis Guanella was canonized by Benedict XVI on October 23, 2011.





The funeral of Fr. Guanella in Como, Italy

Next year, on October 24, 2015, we will observe the 100th anniversary of his death. Beginning this October, around the world, in all the Guanellian establishments, many celebrations and observances will take place to mark this centennial. The official announcement was made by a joint declaration of the Superior Generals of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Servants of Charity. They started their message, addressed to the large Guanellian family in the world, with the salutation of St. Paul, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor I,3).

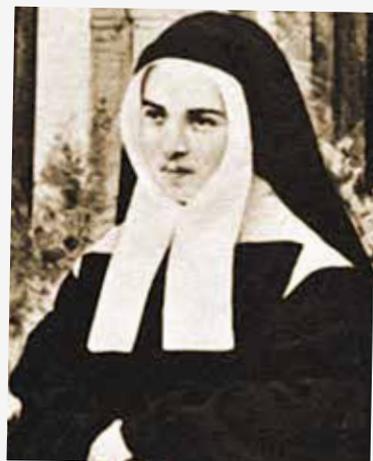
“With this salutation of peace, joy and salvation, we want to announce the coming centennial of our holy Founder, St. Louis Guanella’s birth to heaven. It will be a year of grace and blessings flowing from the Heart of Jesus to our hearts. It will be an acceptable time which the infinite mercy of God allows our religious family, so that we could intensely live, in communion with the Spirit, the centennial of our Founder’s birth to heaven. We are certain that he has watched over us for the last one hundred years. He promised us two days before his death that, ‘God will take care of you; Providence will help you. Yes, I love you, yes, I will pray for you, and how will I pray for you! For you I accept suffering; for you I even offer my life... I will never abandon you. I will pray for you in heaven; I will help and comfort you from heaven... I hope you all will follow me! Follow me by following this program: Prayer and Suffering! Prayers and Sacrifices!’ Proud to be his children and disciples, in this centennial year we want to thank the Lord for the gift of the Founder’s charism to the Church, for the opportunity he gave us to encounter his charism in our life and for giving us the grace to become witnesses of his spirit and charity. We pray that the Spirit helps us to appreciate and enjoy what he has prepared for each one of us on this happy circumstance of our history.”

(Fr. Alfonso Crippa, SdC & Sr. Serena Ciserani, DSMP)

St. Joseph and St. Bernadette Soubirous

BY PAUL ANTOCI, FROM THE
ITALIAN PIOUS UNION OF
ST. JOSEPH MAGAZINE
“LA SANTA CROCIATA”

What does St. Joseph have in common with St. Bernadette, the young girl to whom the Virgin Mary appeared in Lourdes in 1858? St. Joseph, as he usually does with his moderate lifestyle, is present and works together with Mary and Jesus for universal salvation.



Where there is Mary, there is also her husband, Joseph. The silent presence of Joseph near the Virgin Mary reveals to us the interior profile of his person. Pope St. John Paul II tells us that “the Gospels speak exclusively of what Joseph “did”; however, we do understand the climate of deep contemplation that enveloped him. Joseph was continually in contact with the mystery hidden throughout the ages and that took up residence under the roof of his house.”

Bernadette Soubirous left Lourdes in 1886 and was welcomed at the convent of the Sisters of Nevers. Far from her hometown and her family, she devoted herself to God in complete humility hiding herself forever. The invitation of the Virgin to pray and do penance would no longer continue at the grotto of Massabielle, but in the garden of the convent where she would spend entire hours of prayer in the chapel dedicated to St. Joseph.

She would be continually in contact with him with triduums and novenas, consecrating to him the Wednesdays and the month of March and officially choosing him as her father. To her fellow sister she said, “Do you not know, that now my father is St. Joseph?”. One day a sister was surprised to find her praying a novena to the Virgin Mary kneeling before the statue of St. Joseph. To her observations, Bernadette replied that “in Paradise there are no jealousies.”

Like so many other saints, she shows us St. Joseph as a teacher of prayer, “When

you realize that you are not capable to pray, go to St. Joseph,” she candidly affirmed.

St. Bernadette, St. Padre Pio, St. Louis Guanella, Blessed Mother Theresa and many other saints, commonly known for their devotion to Mary, were also heralds of devotion to St. Joseph. Pope St. John Paul II teaches us that “the souls more sensitive to the impulses of divine love have rightly seen in Joseph a brilliant example of the interior life.”

Also the burial place of Bernadette speaks of the presence of the “Patron Saint of a Happy Death” at the end of her life. She, to whom was granted the grace to see Mary, the Immaculate Conception, was buried in the chapel of St. Joseph where she frequently stopped to pray. There, her incorrupt body rested for thirty years, the same duration of the hidden life of Jesus in the shadow of the holy Carpenter. As St. Bernadette said, there is no rivalry or jealousy between the apparitions of Our Lady at Lourdes and the actions of her silent chaste spouse.



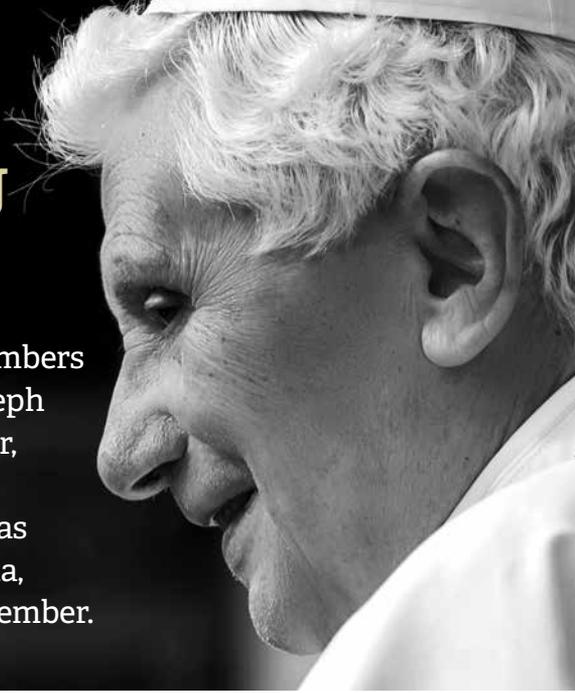
The Virgin invites us to pray and St. Joseph helps us to do it: this is the message of St. Bernadette. True devotion to Mary cannot be separated by a deep and profound devotion to St. Joseph. We look at him, in fact, to learn how to be true devotees of the Virgin Mary.

Our Marian devotion must mimic that of St. Joseph, first and true devotee of the Immaculate Conception: to venerate and love her with all of ourselves in order to receive from her Jesus, the hidden precious treasure.

Let us ask St. Joseph to make us partakers of his knowledge of Mary, the Immaculate Conception who appeared in Lourdes, and of his love for her.

Benedict XVI Becomes PUSJ Member

It is a great joy for all the members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph to welcome, as a new member, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Just after the Pious Union was founded by St. Louis Guanella, St. Pius X became the first member.

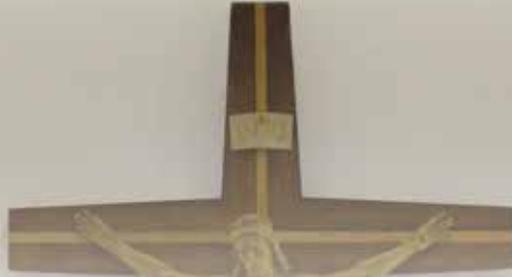


St. Pius X's name was Joseph Sarto. Now we have another Pope as a member with the same first name, Joseph Ratzinger. May 19, 2014 is a day to remember. A personal letter signed by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI arrived at the central office of the Pious Union in Rome announcing his membership. He also subscribed to the "Perennial Mass," committing himself, like tens of thousands of other priests, to offer a Mass once a year for the dying on an assigned date. It is a chain of spiritual solidarity so that at the time of transit to eternal life we are assisted by St. Joseph as he was assisted by Jesus and Mary.

The Pious Union of St. Joseph for the suffering and dying was born from the heart of St. Louis Guanella and elevated to a primary confraternity by Pope Benedict XV on June 15, 1917. The Guanellian charism follows Jesus' desire that "no one will be lost." The priests of the Servants of Charity, from the day of their ordination, are registered to offer the "Perennial Mass." St. Maximillian Kolbe urged all priests to join the Pious Union. Divine Providence wanted the heroic offering of his life in the concentration camp to be an example of this solidarity for all who are waiting the last call from God. In his letter, Benedict XVI wishes that "St. Joseph assist us in the last moments of our life as well as all the members of the Pious Union at the time of their passing."

This is an invitation for all the faithful to become members of the Pious Union and an invitation to all priests to subscribe to the "Perennial Mass" for the suffering and dying.

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



Works and Ministry

at the Shrine of St. Joseph

BY. FR. PAUL OGGIONI, SdC

Every day there are people who come to the Shrine begging God to grant the favors that they care about through the intercession of the Holy Patriarch. Many write their prayers and supplications in the book of intentions. They are simple words that express the joy of being granted; the expression of their suffering for a physical illness and request for healing; the cries of their hearts, asking protection for children who have turned away from God; an expression of trust in the love and mercy of God who in His time certainly will fill their hope.

Every day we read these requests and present them to the congregation during the celebration of the Mass, confident that through the intercession of St. Joseph and Our Lady of Providence the devotees will receive the consolation they ask of God with full trust.

To the readers of *Now and at the Hour* and members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph for the Suffering



and Dying, we announced that we would like the sanctuary of St. Joseph to be more beautiful and welcoming. Now, pilgrims are welcomed by a stained glass rose window with the Holy Spirit that hovers in a blazing sky and spreading His gifts represented by the seven tongues of fire.

The large cross donated by a member of the Pious Union of St. Joseph hangs on the central wall, reminding us that we are safe because of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, who died for us on the cross. The Mass celebrated daily immerses us in this redemptive act, purifies us and makes us worthy of the merciful gaze of the Father. The Holy Spirit window reminds us of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that support us on our journey marked by many difficulties, trials and temptations. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit given to us that we can pick ourselves up and continue on the divine journey toward salvation.

Now we would like to complete the message that is proposed to the pilgrims coming to the Shrine. There are two windows on either side of the Cross that are empty and they are like wrong notes in a harmony. From the beginning, the Bible is full of apparitions of angels. The angels announced the incarnation and Jesus' birth, they consoled him in Gethsemane and they announced His resurrection. The angels have protected and accompanied the journey of the Apostles in the early Church. Now it seems that the angels have disappeared from our lives and our devotions. We need reminders that angels are our guardians accompanying us on the way of our life.

On these two windows we would like to portray angels presenting the Host and the Chalice, as you can see in the proposed artwork. Entering the Sanctuary everyone will understand the message; it is Jesus who saves us, the Holy Spirit with his gifts who sustains us; the Eucharist that nourishes us; the angels who accompany and defend us. This is what makes us sure we will reach Heaven.

There is also another project that is drawing toward completion. Rainwater has infiltrated and damaged the wall at the main entrance of the Shrine. We're tearing down and replacing it with a more solid and secure wall. To protect the entrance from rain, wind and snow, a vestibule has been added, so that the view of the Sanctuary will be more beautiful and complete.

The stained glass windows with the Angels will cost \$5,000, and the front wall of the Shrine and the vestibule will cost around \$100,000. However, we trust in Divine Providence and the generosity of the members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph and benefactors who support our ministry. Through these improvements we will also commemorate the 100th anniversary of the approval of the Pious Union of St. Joseph as an Arch-Confraternity of Prayer for the Suffering and Dying and the death of St. Louis Guanella, who founded it.

Thank you for your donation for the improvement of our Shrine. In our prayers we will implore that the Lord grants the graces you need and deserve for your generosity in honoring St. Joseph.

Mailbag

Pious Union of St. Joseph,

I want to begin a Life Novena - a Mass offered for each year of my life. Please offer a Mass for me for each year beginning in 1931 through 1940 (10 Masses). Please send an acknowledgment. I will, from time to time, send requests to continue this Life Novena.

Thank you,

Deloris

Dear Fr. Paul,

I am a California State prisoner and a devout Catholic member of a religious third order. Please pray for my family to have faith and convert to the Roman Catholic Church and for Pope Francis. Please offer a Mass for my deceased grandma, Dorothy.

I love you and thank you with St. Joseph,

Matthew

Dear Fr. Joe,

Thank you for your article, "The Changing Image of Benedict XVI," recently published in *Now* and at the *Hour* magazine, (Aug-Sept 2014). As you stated, "the people of God are starting to understand and love this holy man even more." Not everyone was kind in writing of Benedict XVI. Do you think some of the past criticism was due to an underappreciation of this man's intellect? I am so appreciative of his special background - heritage, education, abilities, accomplishments, etc.

What a dear soul he is to humankind. May others come to appreciate him, we pray.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us in *Now* and at the *Hour* this month.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Phillips

Dear Father,

I am grateful to receive your publication and will pass it on. I wonder if your priests could offer some Masses for our children. Some were married outside of the Church and all need spiritual graces. These are very upsetting times and I fear for their salvation if some catastrophe should happen suddenly. I believe the power of the Holy Mass is the best prayer of all. Thank you so much.

Gratefully,

Mrs. Shea

GO TO JOSEPH!

10 Years of Service

BY SR. ROSEMARY BELL, DSMP

Hello once again,

Before I go on I should explain to you why I started with Go to Joseph! My mother had a special devotion to St. Joseph but really what makes me always remember that phrase is the day I entered the convent some 46 years ago. I walked into the chapel of our Mother house in Chicago and saw these words “Ite ad Joseph” so I asked Sr. Rita Rose what that meant and she told me, Go to Joseph! Of course through her tears my mother told me to remember that. As you can see I do remember it and have told many others to go to Joseph whether in Spanish or English and he has come through for them.

Since coming to the Pius Union, from the beginning I’ve noticed that we have several quiet helpers preparing the sacred vessels, the wine & water and hosts for the celebration. Also on Wednesdays, the prayer and hymn cards are placed in all the benches for adoration and these quick change artists prepare the altar after morning mass for Exposition while Fr. Paul gives the children who are leaving their lollipops. Then when 4:00 comes around, the charcoal is lit and the kneeler with a rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet are placed before the altar and the Humeral veil is readied for the Benediction; all quietly done by these beautiful women. I also began to notice that Fr. Paul doesn’t always lead the rosary before Mass during the week; some days it’s Caroline and other days it’s Agnes who leads.



Eventually I received an invitation to come to a meeting of the Ladies Guild, and when I arrived I recognized all of St. Joseph's helpers. They are an amazing group of women from all walks of life and all ages, and are genuinely in love with the Pious Union of St. Joseph. Like St. Joseph they work quietly making sure that the Shrine is always a place of welcome and prayer. March of course, is their busiest month taking care that the altars are readied with special attention to our beloved St. Joseph and preparing the St. Joseph table for the poor. They take turns attending to all the Pilgrims in the gift shop, and replacing the hundreds of candles lit near the altars of St. Joseph. Depending on the groups needs, they will also prepare a great brunch or a cup of good coffee and if lunch is needed the casseroles and crock pots appear with great varieties of



homemade goodies. Once a month the women will have a bake sale, and if you want something special you'd better buy it right away because after Mass it is gone! These same St. Joseph angels are also gardeners as I discovered one day in early spring when I saw them by the grotto cleaning away the winter deposits of leaves and dead vines and trimming, fertilizing and giving lots of TLC to the rose bushes at Mary's shrine. On the day of our living rosary and May crowning they gave a beautiful crown of fresh flowers to honor Mary, the spouse of St. Joseph, and actively participated in the living rosary. On Wednesdays you will find them taking turns keeping Jesus company during exposition and making sure He's never left alone. When a request comes in for some special prayers I will ask them to help me pray for this special request so that we can storm heaven together.

This year the Ladies guild celebrated their 10th anniversary and as always, they did so quietly, with a luncheon. They remembered their former presidents; Julie Thompson, Amy Parrish and Lana Senart and gave honor to the current president, Lori Galicki. But I think it's time we stopped being so quiet and someone shouted out, **“THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR PUSJ THESE PAST 10 YEARS AND MAY GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!”**



Suffering and the Cross

BY FR. JOSEPH RINALDO, SDC

Anywhere I meet people, sooner or later the conversation turns to the subject of how much suffering each one is experiencing in life. The questions are pretty much the same: why is God treating me like this? Why did God take my child? Why does God allow children in Third World countries to suffer so much? Why do bad people prosper? Questions of this type never end because we consider only the single episode. Sometimes we think the issue is isolated from the human experience or as part of the “plan of salvation” initiated by our Creator. There is no quick answer for these questions. Only faith can supply us with the true answer that makes us understand our suffering and additionally makes us part of the great mystery of the Cross.

The mystery of suffering, the problem of evil, as well as our resignation, willingness and choices are all connected to the symbol and the reality of the Cross by which we were redeemed.

The Principle of Christian suffering is an open secret. It is there, written for us by the evangelist Luke. "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" (24, 25-26). If it was right for Christ to suffer for the final possession of His glory, it is right also for us. We are members of His mystical body. The limbs must go the way of the head; the parts may not choose one way of going to the Father while the whole chooses another. What Christ endures, we endure; what Christ enjoys, we enjoy. There is only one difference: Jesus does it God's way; we, in a human way as man. Our experience of suffering is totally different from one another. Jesus' experience was reaffirmed with the full weight of His Resurrection. It was as a suffering Messiah that He was to be remembered; it was as a suffering Messiah that He was foretold; it was as a suffering Messiah that He was to be followed. "And when I am lifted up, crucified, from the earth, I will draw everyone to Myself." (Jn 12, 3) "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." (Mt 10, 38)

This is not to say that Jesus' teaching is just the Cross. Or that the Christian life is summed up in suffering. We have to keep in mind that our life is guided by Divine Providence. God is our Creator, our Redeemer and our Provider. God gave us free will. We can choose to reject our suffering as a punishment from a cruel God or accept it as part of God's plan for our salvation. But it would be wrong to accept sacrifices with passive acceptance. The attitude "no use doing anything about it" because God has decreed it that way is not healthy, nor is the "bite the bullet and don't cry out" approach.

Suffering and the Providence of God have to be understood in faith. Providence in relation to our suffering means that when we have to suffer we can safely assume that God has allowed this particular trial for our good and sanctification. God sees beforehand what is best for us, and we accept what He sends. God's Providence extends equally to pleasant things. He gives us the grace to enjoy; He gives us the grace to endure. The idea of a vindictive God, inflicting pain because He can, is sinful. God is love, wisdom and power. We are the object of His love; His wisdom gives us what is best for us; His power is there to help us. We have to understand why God sent His Son into the world to suffer, and how, by willingly suffering, we can share in the work of the Passion.

The more we pray and try to see Christ in others, the more we will appreciate the connection between God's love and our pain; between the Father's will and the Son's mission; between the Son's Passion and our own trials; between feeling sorrowful and possessing peace. Our Father in Heaven, your Kingdom come, your will be done, in your will is our peace and in your light we see light.

The Rosary

A Spiritual Medicine

BY FR. SILVIO DE NARD, SdC

It's Sunday, November 17, 2013. Pope Francis appears at his office window in the Vatican and says to the sixty thousand people gathered in St. Peter's Square,

“Now I would like to recommend a medicine for you. Some of you may be wondering, ‘Is the Pope now a pharmacist?’ It is a special medicine which will help you. It is a small box containing 59 beads on a string. This little box contains the medicine, and will be distributed to you by volunteers as you leave the Square. Take them! It is a rosary. The Rosary is spiritual help for our souls and for spreading love, forgiveness and brotherhood everywhere. Do not forget to take it, because it is good for you. It is good for the heart, the soul, and for life in general!”



I was not there and so I did not have the rare fortune to receive a Rosary from the Pope. But even before I was born, the Rosary was a daily feature in my home. Dad, mom, my brother, my little sister and I said the Rosary after dinner, every day, no matter what. In the months of May and October, we moved to the church to say the Rosary together with the other families of the parish.

I still vividly remember the warm evenings, the smell of roses, the peaks of the Alps already covered by fresh snow, the serene peace that little mountain boys like me were used to.

At that time I didn't know that the United States of America was around. I didn't know many things. But I knew how to say my Rosary. To be honest with you, sometimes I wanted to do something else. I wanted to play or go to bed after a long day at school or roam around steep hills and dark woods. But a Teutonic discipline was at home in my family.

I was taught to see God's will in the little situations of my daily life, even the recitation of the Rosary. The Rosary beads are always in my pocket. It is part of me, of my faith, my formation, and my family tradition.

Devotion to the Rosary is one of the most notable features of popular Catholic spirituality. Saint John Paul II placed the Rosary at the very center of Christian spirituality and called it "among the finest and most praiseworthy traditions of Christian contemplation."

We don't really know when the Rosary came about. Someone says that the Blessed Mother gave it to St. Dominic in 1214. Others say that the Rosary came alive by lay people requesting to pray as the monks prayed the Breviary. If you don't know, we priests recite the official prayers of the Church every day. It is called Liturgy of the Hours or, most simply the Breviary. It is divided into the Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, evening Prayer, and Night Prayer. They are to be recited five different times throughout the day. Within a month we recite all 150 Psalms in the book of Psalms in the Bible.



Fr. Silvio as a boy with his mother in the Alps.



In the middle Ages, when books were rare and expensive, the common faithful looked for a prayer that could have them united to the official prayer of the Church.

Someone in the Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, invented the Rosary, a prayer composed of 150 Hail Marys recalling the 150 Psalms.

They were divided into fifteen mysteries of the life of Jesus and Mary, composing three rosaries of fifty Hail Marys each. Pope John Paul II in 2002 added to the original Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries, the Mysteries of Light.

Pope Benedict XVI stated that the Rosary is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the faithful nourish for Jesus and his Mother. The Rosary is like presenting to God, through the intercession of Mary, a crown of roses, from which the term 'rosary' derives.

St. Louis Guanella, when traveling, used to recite one rosary after another. Once, a confrere traveling with him was so tired of saying them that, thinking St. Guanella was asleep, he stopped. St. Guanella opened an eye and replied, "Be nice to me, start another rosary. Can you?"

He wrote, "Let us approach the Blessed Mother and let us implore her to make us worthy of her divine Son's blessings. Let us go to the Mother, always to the Mother, because it is through the mother that a son approaches his father with more confidence."

Images courtesy of (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia) AP/LaPresse



fr. tony g. hidalgo

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Shrine
Mt. Caglago, Tabgon, Philippines



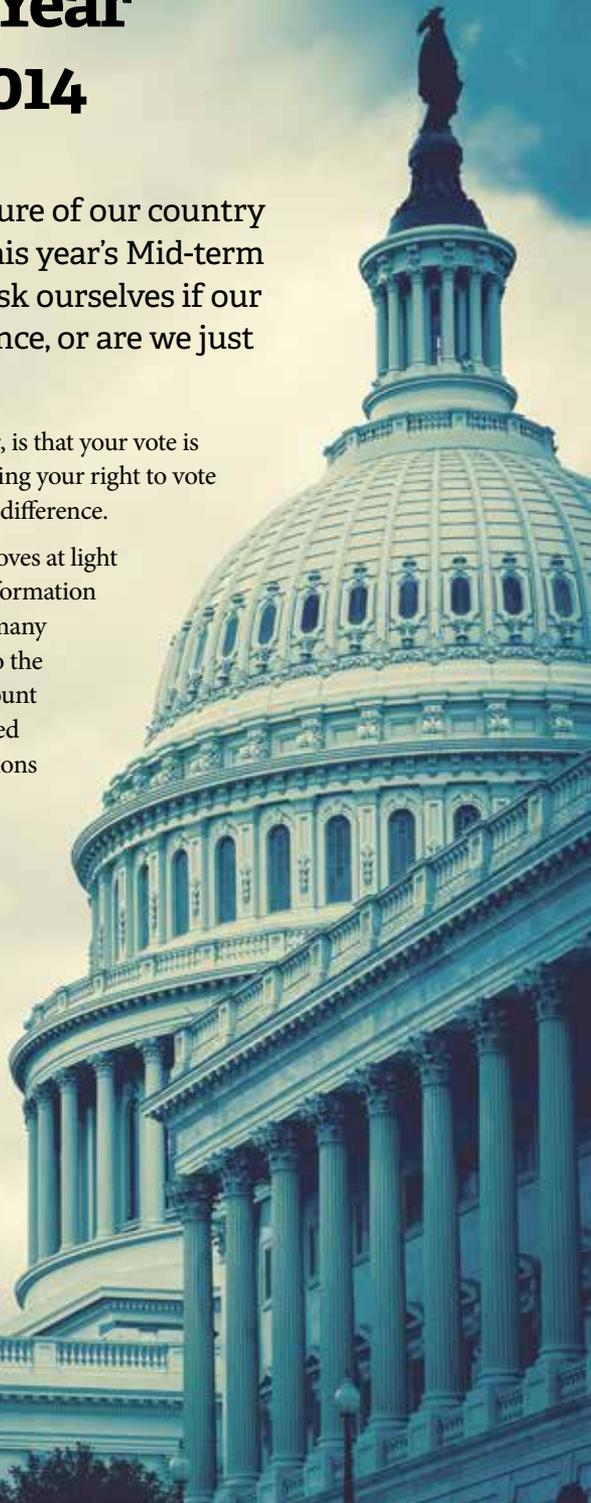
An Election Year Prayer for 2014

BY JOSEPH YEKULIS

As we contemplate the future of our country and our 50 states during this year's Mid-term elections, we continue to ask ourselves if our votes really make a difference, or are we just wasting our time?

The view here at *Now and at the Hour*, is that your vote is extremely important, and that exercising your right to vote is a civic duty, and really does make a difference.

In these modern times, everything moves at light speed, and we have access to more information than we've ever had before. But how many people are actually paying attention to the issues of substance? Has this vast amount of information made us more informed voters, or worse concerning the decisions we make? Do we take the time to really study the issues and candidates before we vote, or are we so caught up in social media, television, surfing the net, Facebook and Twitter, that attention to the daily issues of the world on a state, national, and international level has become non-existent—except for the political junkies who have a passion for politics?





As we approach our national election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, there will be many issues that dictate how we vote, including;

- The Affordable Care Act: Its legitimacy, applicability, affordability, and constitutionality
- The flood of illegal immigration by unaccompanied children over our southern borders
- The Middle Eastern conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians
- Nuclear weapons in Iran
- Civil wars in Iraq, Syria, and Ukraine
- The slaughter of Christians, caught in the middle of these conflicts by extremists who are out to eliminate Christianity from the Middle East
- The \$17 trillion deficit in the United States' Budget
- A continuing economic recession nationwide
- Continued erosion of religious freedom from those who feel that religion no longer has a place in the town square
- Continued attacks on the Right-to-Life, whether against unborn children, senior citizens, or persons with disabilities
- Marriage between one man and one woman vs. same-sex unions

These are just some of the national issues we face in 2014, not to mention many others that each individual state may bring to your attention. No one here is telling you what to think or how to vote, because you have to decide these issues on your own. However if you're seeing these issues for the first time, it's time to educate yourself about current events, the state of the union and the state of your state before you enter the voting booth.

While this is not a Presidential election year, the Mid-term elections in 2014 will decide which party will control the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, several Governor's offices and state legislatures, and your county and local government

representatives. There are also many levels of taxation or bonding issues to be decided by your localities, so again, it's important for you to do your homework ahead of time, and not wait until five minutes before you vote to decide what to do.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides us with a list of “Do’s and Don’ts” during each election cycle, and cautions priests, parishes and Catholic organizations against participating in political campaign activity. The Conference places the decision making responsibility squarely on the shoulders of each individual, and asks us to be fully informed and educated on the positions that a candidate may or may not have. “Parishes and other Catholic organizations are encouraged to share the Church’s teaching on the relationships between Christian faith and political life. The Church’s teaching on political responsibility, human life, human rights, and justice and peace need to be shared more widely and effectively. Cards summarizing seven key themes of Catholic social teaching that can serve as guidelines for involvement in public life are available from the USCCB by calling 800-235-8722, (pub. 5-315).”

In closing, perhaps the best help in deciding who to vote for can come from God, as the USCCB offers up the following prayer:

“Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one in equality and dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your kingdom.

We pray for discernment, so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and His Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”



The Guanellian Lay Movement (Part II)

BY JOSEPH YEKULIS

In Part I of the overview of the Guanellian Lay Movement, we used *Making Charity the Heart of the World* as our guidebook to describe what the heart of the movement, created by St. Louis Guanella, was all about.

The article appeared in the April–May 2014 issue of *Now and at the Hour*, and was used as an introduction to the third branch of the Guanellian charism; the laity. As upheaval in the world continues unabated in 2014, attacks against Christianity continue to escalate. Priests, nuns, and religious are threatened, attacked, and killed in the Middle East and Africa, China, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam while Christian churches are bombed and burned. The situation has become even more extreme in 2014 through the efforts of radical jihadist extremists who are attempting to overthrow the Middle East, where two Christians were actually tortured and crucified in April of this year in Syria and an American journalist was beheaded in August.

While the extremist acts referred to here don't necessarily apply to conditions in our country today, they illustrate the point that Christianity remains under attack in other subtle ways. The Catholic Church in particular is singled out as an enemy of the radical left for its continued support of the "Right to Life," a marriage between one man and



one woman, and continuing the tradition of male priests in the Church. Expressions of Christianity, such as crosses in public and/or military cemeteries, continue to be scorned by a small minority of people who take the separation of church and state to the extreme; believing that any expression of Christianity is a violation of the doctrine of separation of Church and State, and totally inappropriate in the public square. Notwithstanding the First Amendment written by our Founding Fathers, that guarantees the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion.

Suffice it to say, there is a visible war taking place against Christianity and the Catholic Faith, and St. Louis Guanella had the foresight to understand many years ago, that he and his priests and nuns could not succeed without the help of the laity. Here is what *Making Charity the Heart of the World* says about the Movement; “Belonging to the Guanellian Lay Movement is essentially a choice of mind and heart. No membership card is needed, only a vital commitment. All men and women who appreciate the charism of charity can be members of the Movement:

- Those who want to follow the example of St. Guanella by simply serving the poor,
- Youth, volunteers, families, benefactors, friends and sympathizers,
- Those who are prompted to charity because of the education and formation received in one of the Guanellian Houses (Alumni),
- Residents of our Houses,
- Family members of our residents,
- Staff of our pastoral, missionary, charitable centers,
- Those who choose to live the spirit, charism and mission of the Founder in an official and public form by following a Rule and making a “promise” (Cooperators)
- And those who attach themselves to the Guanellian religious in order to live community life with them (Associates).”

The Servants of Charity need and invite YOU to be involved in their missions throughout the world. The life of a Christian is not summed up in words, but in deeds, and more laborers are needed to till the fields. Who is a Lay Guanellian today? Those in the community who volunteer their time to help make our Houses a home for our residents by planting gardens, painting rooms, planning barbecues and dinners, and performing music. The families of our residents who stay together by taking their loved ones home every other weekend, parish youth groups who come for a game of basketball, kickball or Uno, and benefactors who plan golf outings, dinner auctions and other events to keep our operations alive. Members of our Community Advisory Councils and Legacy Campaigns, Knights of Columbus members and Rotarians, donors of in-kind services such as auto mechanics, heating and cooling specialists, building contractors, and publishers. And finally, our many employees who are dedicated to the well-being of our residents; working day and night to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of St. Guanella's "Good Children."

The beginning of this article spoke of the attacks on Christianity to illustrate the point that we can no longer remain on the sideline as passive observers. Our faith is under attack worldwide, and the ranks of our priests, sisters and religious are getting smaller. If the charism of St. Louis Guanella and our own Christianity is going to survive in this world, each one of us should ask ourselves what we can do to make this world a better place to live. St. Louis Guanella is counting on all of us to keep his dream alive!

Making Charity the Heart of the World is available through the Guanellian Press. You may request a copy by using the enclosed envelope or send an email request to piousunion@pusj.org. For more information about becoming involved in the Guanellian Lay Movement in your area, email Joe Yekulis at joey@stlouiscenter.org.



Servants of Charity Missions:

Creating a Christ-like, Charitable and Just Society

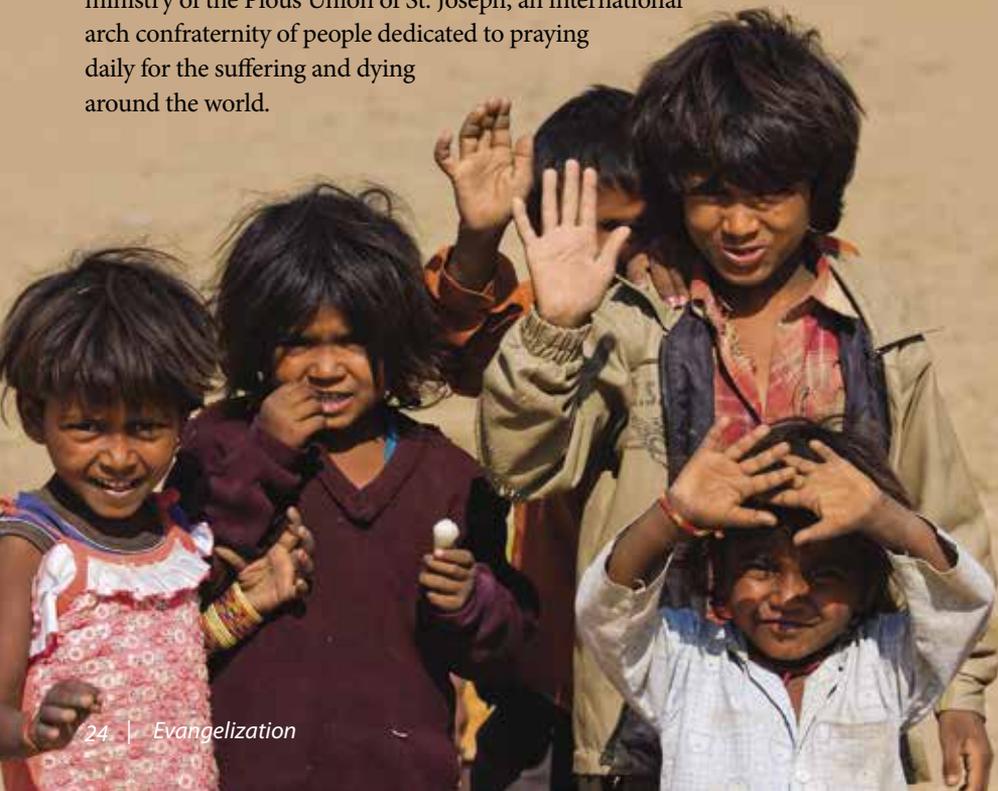
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE OF THE DIVINE PROVIDENCE PROVINCE

The late Fr. Jon Hardon, SJ referred to St. Guanella as a “modern apostle of charity” because of his belief that any act of charity toward another person was an incarnation of our love for God.

That love is expressed today in the congregations St. Louis founded; the Servants of Charity, Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, the Guanellian Lay Movement and the Pious Union of St. Joseph, which has included as members every pope since St. Pius X.

Today, five hundred priests and brothers serve in twenty-one countries around the world. The work of the Servants of Charity is divided into six provinces. The Divine Providence Province includes the U.S., India, the Philippines, Vietnam and Germany.

The Servants of Charity came to the U.S. from Rome in 1959. They effectively operate facilities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Michigan and Pennsylvania and one parish and school in Rhode Island. They also carry out the ministry of the Pious Union of St. Joseph, an international arch confraternity of people dedicated to praying daily for the suffering and dying around the world.





Twenty-five years ago, the Servants of Charity began ministry in the Philippines. Today, they operate orphanages for children with developmental disabilities, residential care facilities for adults with disabilities, free medical clinics, tutoring services, physical and occupational therapy programs, nutrition programs for the poor and prison ministry.

Though the Philippines is a largely Catholic country, religious education resources and teachers are sorely lacking. In 2011, the Servants of Charity embraced the task of evangelization by launching the Servants of Charity Catechetical Program (SCCP) to nearly 1,000 students and parents throughout the Diocese of Novaliches. In this ministry, the Servants of Charity apply their skills in caring for the developmentally disabled as well as traditional students.

The sole purpose of the SCCP is to provide faith instruction and formation opportunities. In the classroom setting instructors invite students into a relationship with Christ and to learn about his teaching. Education is individualized based on age and ability level of the students. Traditional students are introduced to the Sacraments, Sacred Scripture, basic elements of salvation history, prayers and liturgy of the Church, lives of the Saints, the dignity and value of all human life, vocations, service opportunities and ways to foster their own prayer life. The SCCP promotes Christian fellowship through celebrations of Catholic holidays and feast days of the Saints.

Servants of Charity seminarians receive the opportunity to begin teaching and evangelizing. This hands-on experience adds to their own formation as they prepare to become missionary priests and brothers.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, they provided weekly catechism classes to 1,137 students. Ninety-two of the students have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Fifty mothers of students also received weekly catechetical instruction. Classes took place in public schools, the Guanella Center and in several impoverished neighborhoods located near the Guanalla Center.

St. Guanella wrote, "Education is a matter of the heart." He knew the importance of teaching children about Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church.

The Servants of Charity began their ministry in India in 1992, at a parish in Cuddalore and have continued expanding their tent of charity. To address the educational needs of poor and orphaned children they started a project called Don Guanella Evening Schools (DGES). These seven schools, located in the southern Indian States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, operate on a minimal budget. They will feed, educate, and pray with over 700 students in the 2014-2015 year and, by God's grace will grow to serve over 1,000 the following year. What students learn greatly enhances their future employability and helps to break the cycle of poverty.

More importantly, the students of the DGES are invited to know Jesus Christ. The meaning of our lives is to know, love and serve God in this life so we can be with Him forever in the next.



“THE MEANING OF
OUR LIVES IS TO
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LIFE SO WE CAN BE
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IN THE NEXT.”



In 2009, the Servants of Charity sent missionaries to Vietnam. According to a 2013 study by the Pew Research Institute, Catholics make up merely 8.2% of the Vietnamese population. Thanks be to God, young men are already answering the call to give their lives in service and join the Servants of Charity. These men wish to bring Christ to their people and fulfill the mission of St. Louis Guanella: to care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, homeless children and the elderly.

Currently, the Vietnamese seminarians of the Servants of Charity must receive their formation in the Philippines, but expensive travel and cultural barriers make the process almost impossible. Determined to serve Christ, the Servants of Charity plan to build a House of Formation in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam that will create a sustainable future for the Catholic Church in Vietnam where seminarians can live, pray, study, profess their final vows and go forth to evangelize their people.

By his recent trip to Asia, Pope Francis has proved that the faith is alive and strong in Asia and there is need for many good shepherds to guide the growing flocks.

The Servants of Charity need the help of many generous people to complete their work of charity in the far reaches of the world. If you would like more information about any of these projects please contact Fr. Joseph Rinaldo at 734-475-8430 or via email frjoe@stlouiscenter.org.

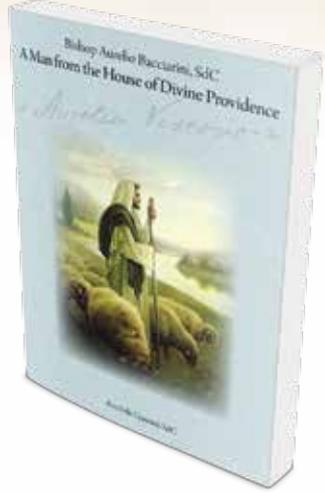
If you feel compelled to donate to the missions, use the envelope in the center of this magazine and write missions on the memo line of your check.

The Pious Union Library:

Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini, SdC

A Man from the “House of Divine Providence”

Venerable Bishop Bacciarini’s biography is the latest addition to the Pious Union Library. The life of Bishop Bacciarini is as dynamic as any can be. Born in Switzerland to a poor family, he became a little shepherd as early as seven years old. He grew up learning to love God, nature and the poor. These qualities led him to the seminary where his spirituality grew even faster. After ordination, because of his qualities, he was assigned to teach in the seminary. There he became acquainted with Fr. Louis Guanella and his homes for the poor, the elderly and the orphaned or abandoned children. Fr. Aurelio joined Fr. Guanella and became the first Pastor of the Basilica of St. Joseph at Trionfale, where the Pious Union of St. Joseph, patron of the suffering and dying, was born from the heart of these two saintly priests. After the holy death of Fr. Guanella, Fr. Bacciarini was appointed Bishop of Lugano, Switzerland. The legacy of Bishop Bacciarini is love. He loved his people, especially the poor. He loved the Sacred Heart of Jesus and built a shrine to increase the faithful’s devotion. He loved the Church and the Pope. He loved Fr. Guanella.



His life was marked with sacrifices and sufferings. He embraced the mystery of suffering like Jesus on the cross and by following the Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux. Venerable Bishop Bacciarini is a master of love, suffering and holiness. Good reading! But most of all, I wish you good loving.

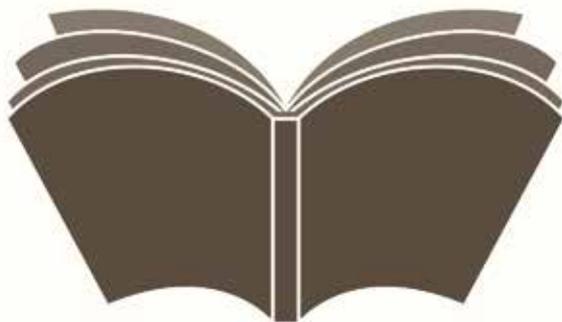
A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style.

Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC



Now and at the Hour

2014 Readership Survey



We, at *Now and at the Hour*, value your input as a part of our faith community. Contained within this issue is a readership survey that we will use to help us to evaluate how we are serving the needs of our readership, as well as what we can do to improve each issue to meet your needs.

If you can spare five or ten minutes of your time, please complete our survey on the following page, and return it to us in the envelope that we've provided you in the center of our magazine. Your stamp serves as a donation to the health of the Pious Union of St. Joseph that allows us to continue in our mission of evangelization for Jesus Christ.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping to make *Now and at the Hour* the best publication it can be.

In Christ and with the intercession of St. Joseph,
The Staff of *Now and at the Hour* Magazine

Thank you for completing this survey from *Now and at the Hour*. Please use scissors to cut this page from the center of the magazine, fold insert into the mailing envelope with a first class stamp, and drop into your nearest U.S. mailbox.

1 About how much of *Now and at the Hour* do you usually read?

- All of it Half of it One or two articles None of it

2 What types of articles do you find most interesting to you?

- Articles about the Catholic Faith and St. Joseph
 Articles about the Missions in Asia
 Articles about Current Events and Catholic Perspectives

3 Please list any other types of articles that would be useful to you.

4 Have any articles in *Now and at the Hour* led to changes in your spiritual life for the better? If so, please name them or describe the subject matter.

5 In general, what is your opinion of *Now and at the Hour*?

- Great magazine Average magazine
 I don't really care for it, take me off the mailing list!

6 Which of the following demographic ranges describe you as our reader?

- 18–44 45–64 65 or older
 Male Female

7 How do you prefer reading your published materials?

- Traditional hard copies mailed Emailed through the Internet

8 Would you be willing to help reduce our costs by accepting email copies?

- Yes Email address: _____
 No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, and may God bless you!



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Be a Promoter!

Spread devotion to St. Joseph, Patron of the Suffering and Dying

Share this copy of *Now and at the Hour* with your Pastor. Let him know that we will gladly send several copies to him for parish groups or individuals.

Do your relatives and friends want to pray for others? Are they interested in becoming members of the Pious Union of St. Joseph? Print their names clearly below and we will send them an invitation.

Name

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State

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Name

Address

City

State

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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:

Sacred Heart Church

Fr. Silvio De Nard
118 Taunton Ave.
East Providence, RI 02914
tel: 401-434-0326
vocations@servantsofcharity.org

Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

Sr. Brenda McHugh
108 Ridgeview Ct.
Grass Lake, MI 49240
sisterbrendam@gmail.com

Pious Union of St. Joseph

Fr. Sathesh Alphonse
953 E. Michigan Ave.
Grass Lake, MI 49240
tel: 270-556-7789
vocations@servantsofcharity.org



Prayer for Vocations

Pray, we beg You, O holy Mother of God, that religious vocations to this work of mercy may be multiplied, and that those who are called to help may be eager to respond for the greater glory of God, your honor, and the relief of many who suffer in misery and abandonment. Amen.



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



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

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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