



## 10th anniversary of don Luigi Guanella's canonization

### Dear Confreres, Sisters Cooperators and Friends,

23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October mark this year two dates of joy for the entire Church and for the Guanellian Family. We are very happy to celebrate all over the world the 10<sup>th</sup> canonisation anniversary of St. Louis Guanella, our Founding Father. Lately we have been going through many difficulties and limits, caused by the pandemic situation, but now we feel the duty, as an impulse of liberation, to express the hymn of gratitude and praise to the Lord who has freed us and saved us.

The Guanellian Family, through the General Councils of the Daughters of Saint Mary of Providence, of the Servants of Charity, and of the Guanellian Cooperators, invites all to this joy and happiness, seizing the opportunity given by the memory of the particular gift of grace given by the Church ten years ago, through the human and spiritual witness of St. Louis Guanella.

His life was a continuous journey of love for God and humanity, by giving himself in a special way to the most in need of this world, to pass on to them the fatherly love of Our Father who is in heaven.

The public recognition of his holiness by the Church is particularly meaningful to show the world that it is possible to establish the kingdom of God among men, even among the least in our present society.

I believe all of us still keep in their heart and mind that 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2011, when in the solemn St. Peter's Square, full of crowds, Pope Benedict 16<sup>th</sup> pronounced the liturgical words of the canonisation: *"In honour of the Most Holy Trinity, having heard the advice of many brothers in the episcopate, we declare and define saint the blessed Louis Guanella and we inscribe him among the saints and we order him to be devotedly honoured among the saints in the whole church"*.

In his homily for that memorable celebration, Pope Benedict 16<sup>th</sup> underlined:

- *"Thanks to his deep union with Christ, by contemplating his love, don Guanella, guided by Divine Providence, became fellow and teacher, consoler and supporter for the poorest and weakest. [...] Today we want to praise and thank the Lord because in St. Louis Guanella he gave us a prophet and an apostle of charity. In his witness, so full of humanity and of attention for the last ones, we see a bright sign of God's presence and beneficial action: the God who defends the stranger, the widow, the orphan, the poor who has to give up his cloak, his only shelter for the night (Es 22: 20.26). may this new saint of charity be for all of us, a model of a deep and fruitful union of contemplation and action, as he lived and practiced"*.

We like to recall also the ending of Pope Benedict 16<sup>th</sup> homily:

- “May St. Louis Guanella obtain for us to grow in friendship with the Lord, to be in our time carriers of the fullness of God’s love, to promote life in all its manifestations and conditions, and to make our human society more and more the family of God’s children”.

Ten years have already gone by, and we feel obliged to ask ourselves: what can we do, to live well the charism we received as a gift from the Holy Spirit?

We would like to suggest, for the entire Guanellian Family, some values to cherish more in our communities and in our families:

- ❖ The confidence in Divine Providence, remembering the Founder’s words “*It is God who acts*”. We are only instruments of his bounty, of his merciful love.
- ❖ Give daily time to prayer and Eucharist, as the food for our faith and mission.
- ❖ To continue studying more deeply don Guanella’s life, and to translate his charism and spirit in a lay form.
- ❖ To move on united, as brothers and sisters in the Guanellian Family, sharing God’s grace, the energy of the work for the poor and the possibility, together, to enlarge the tent of charity throughout the world.

Dear Guanellian Family, the Founder, in his time, gave a beautiful and rich witness of these values. Now it is our turn! This is the time God gives us, to continue enriching the world with his merciful love for all.

May the bond of charity, so meaningful for don Guanella, be the foundation of all we will be able to say and to do as a Family.

The celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be meaningful and important if the world will realise that the Works of Don Guanella has *a great history still to be accomplished, looking to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things.* (VC 110).

This, my dears, will be the message that can rub off on the whole world, promoting it to charity! Let us continue to pray and to work so that, as St. Louis Guanella desires, “*the spirit of charity may be diffused in every heart*” and nobody will be “*unwilling to cooperate to the salvation of the poor*”.

This is our wish to all the Guanellian religious community and families spread in the five continents.

23 October 2021

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