GUIDELINES FOR THE SIX-YEAR PERIOD 2026/2032
II WORLD ASSEMBLY
OF THE GUANELLIAN COOPERATORS

IN THE UNITY OF LEADERSHIP

IS THE KINGDOM OF PEACE AND CHARITY

(OEI), vol. IV p.1158

Unity of leadership is one of the fundamental conditions for our Guanellian Family to grow in a harmonious and fruitful way. It implies a profound convergence and a shared sense of the journey, a bringing together of the different energies towards the same horizon. It is born first of all from the clarity of the goal, a perspective capable of arousing personal adhesion that allows us to overcome differences and achieve communion. It presupposes a unity of leadership that knows how to guard the common direction, interpret situations, harmonize forces and maintain motivation. It also means entering into a dynamic state of co-responsibility because we all recognize ourselves as pilgrims on the same path, belonging to a common history, called together to participate in the same mission. It requires continuous work of communication, listening and dialogue that strengthens the sense of belonging, a mutual trust that warms relationships. It is a continuous journey that requires us to reinterpret the common direction in the light of new challenges, without losing the original inspiration.



"Many brothers joined together, constitute a fortress impenetrable to enemies, to those who belong to the world, to the flesh, to the devil."
(Luigi Guanella, OEI vol. IV p.974)

1. STRENGTHEN THE SENSE OF BELONGING

1.1 Reviving vocational identity

A strong identity is the basis for fidelity, growth and mission, it must be sustained first of all by prayer and sacramental life.

To identify suitable ways to help Cooperators to strengthen their Guanellian lay vocation in the Universal Church and belonging to a charismatic Guanellian Family.

Care will be taken, among other things, to enhance the Promise as a central moment of the Cooperator's journey, to spread the testimonies of the lives of significant cooperators and to devise a common symbol on a global level that visibly expresses our unity.

1.2 Building an organic path of formation and accompaniment

Human, Social, Spiritual and Charismatic formation must accompany our personal and Association's growth.

Care should be taken to draw up the Formation Plan, as indicated in the Statutes, providing in particular for programmes for the initial formation of aspirants, the ongoing formation of cooperators, and the formation of formators and leaders.

1.3 Growing up as a "well-organized family" (SLG)

Before being an organization, we want to be a family, which is why we must take care of, improve and strengthen relationships at all levels.

Care will be taken to: encourage opportunities to meet, get to know each other and support each other through constant sharing of experiences, formation materials and good practices; and dialogue between groups, local and national coordinations, Provincial Councils and World Councils, using the available communication tools.

"It is not contrary to humility—but rather in keeping with it—to desire great things for the greater glory of God. The members of the Little House must direct the affections of their minds, the desires of their hearts, and the very best of their works toward this end." **(Luigi Guanella, OEI vol. IV p.28)**

2. PROMOTING PARTICIPATION

2.1 Living co-responsibility

The growth of the Association and of each individual Group depends on each of us; we must move from simple spectators to protagonists, living our role responsibly.

Care will be taken to encourage greater participation of the Cooperators in the life of the Association at various levels, and to study forms of self-financing to support its activities.

2.2 Developing a worldwide communication network

Communication must be considered a fundamental tool for strengthening communion and occasions for sharing.

Care will be taken to implement a worldwide communication system using the digital platforms that technology makes available.

2.3 Participation and Communion in the Guanellian Family

With the DSMP and SDC, we are bearers of the Charism, we must together guard it, live it and offer it.

Care will be taken to promote occasions, such as community moments of planning and formation, for greater involvement of the Association in the life of the Guanellian Family, in communion with religious men and women, with respect for mutual autonomy.

"Long is the path that remains to be traveled, and great is the work that remains to be done… May the spirit of charity spread through all hearts, so that there may be no one who does not cooperate in the salvation of the poor."

(Luigi Guanella, OEI vol. V p. 765.766)

3. ANIMATING THE MISSION

3.1 Participation in the Church and Collaboration with Other Entities

Being like yeast in the Church and in the local community is part of our commitment to spread the spirit of charity.

Care will be taken to support and promote the active presence of the Association in the various occasions with the Church at all levels, and to create a network with other charitable, cultural and institutional organizations.

3.2 Involving operators and the new generations

The future of the Association also depends on the quality of the relationships that we will be able to establish with the staff of our houses, parishioners and with young people.

Care will be taken to offer formative tools to spread knowledge of the Guanellian charism, and possibly to propose membership of the Association, to the staff of the Guanellian houses, parishoners our pastoral centers and to young people.

3.3 Opening up to the new challenges of poverty

Our maturity as an association will be measured by our ability to make charity present, credible, and generative within the various contexts of the world.

Care will be taken to support the search for new ways of being present alongside the poor and fragile people, in response to the needs of the different regions, translating the charism into creative and concrete gestures of charity and missionary action.