

The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence celebrate the



1960 - 2020





"Those intimately charged with the care of people in need should exert themselves with love..."

"The love of our neighbor is a consolation of life."

- ST. LUIGI GUANELLA



MISSION STATEMENT

Following the loving example of Jesus, we, the Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence, embrace persons with intellectual disabilities with professional and compassionate care.

VISION STATEMENT

Rooted in the tradition of our Catholic faith and guided by Guanellian values, we maximize the potential of those we serve. Through the quality of our services, we promote individuality and belonging, ensure respect and dignity, and nourish spirituality and wellness, all within the supportive love of family.





SAINT LOUIS GUANELLA Founder of the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

Saint Luigi Guanella was born on December 19, 1842 in a small town in the Italian Alps near Switzerland. Ordained a priest on May 26, 1866, he served in parishes for nine years, then felt a prompting of the Spirit to help distressed and indigent children. He spent three years with St. John Bosco and considered going to the missions in South America. But his bishop summoned him to return to his diocese, where he awaited engaging in the works of charity to which he felt so deeply called.

Sent to Pianello, a little town on the shores of Lake Como, he met a group of young women living in community who were ready to dedicate themselves to the works of charity. Father Guanella prepared a small, simple home for them and some orphaned girls that would become the "Mother House" of the Daughters of St. Mary Providence and the Servants of Charity, founded in 1886 and 1908 respectively. Their numbers multiplied, as the congregations were known for compassionate care of those Guanella called "favorites" of Divine Providence: the incurable, abandoned, physically and mentally impaired, and orphaned in Italy and beyond.

Father Guanella sailed to America in 1912 and sent the Daughters in 1913 to begin work in Chicago with Ital-

ian immigrants. In 1915, he traveled to help the victims of a disastrous earthquake in central Italy in which 33,000 people died. This was his last labor of love, weakening him and hastening his death as a "martyr of charity" in Como on October 24, 1915. Father Guanella's heroic virtues and sanctity were canonically recognized, and Pope Paul VI declared him "Blessed" on October 25, 1964. Pope Benedict XVI canonized Saint Luigi Guanella on October 23, 2011, with the saint's intercession instrumental in the miraculous recovery of a Delaware County man in a coma from which his doctors said he would not recover.

Saint Guanella had an ardent desire to serve the needy and a profound faith in God as the provident Father of all. He felt called to serve in particular those with disabilities. Today the religious communities of men and women he founded are joined by lay people who seek to live the Guanellian mission by serving the fragile and abandoned of our world.

Edward J. Lis

Director, Catholic Mission Integration Catholic Human Services Archdiocese of Philadelphia



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

October 9, 2020

Mr. Fran Swiacki Executive Director Developmental Programs Division of CSS 20 E. Cleveland Avenue Norwood, PA 19074

Dear Fran,

With prayerful greetings and warm wishes, I offer to you, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, my sincere congratulations and heartfelt gratitude as the *Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence* celebrate the 60th anniversary of the opening of Don Guanella School.

So many "partners in mission" - priests, brothers, sisters, families, staff, volunteers, benefactors - have striven, throughout these sixty years, to follow in the spirit of their patron, St. Luigi Guanella, in supporting and serving persons with intellectual disabilities or, as Don Guanella would address them, as "treasures" and *buoni figli (good children)*. Much good has been accomplished in this ministry in service to the Church with particular witness to trust in Divine Providence, the dignity of the human person, a preference for those in need and family spirit- all hallmarks of the Apostle of Charity, St. Luigi. For all of this I am most grateful.

May God bless and be with the *Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence* for many more years in its service to the archdiocese as they are guided by the mottos of the Servants of Charity, *In all Things, Charity* and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, *In Your Providence is Our Hope*.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D. Archbishop of Philadlephia

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222 North 17th Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1202 • 215.587.3903 • fax 215.587.2479

October 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

PROVIDING HELP . CREATING HOPE

I write to all of you as cherished members of the Don Guanella community: dedicated staff, devoted family members, faithful benefactors, and of course our beloved residents. I join you in this wonderful commemoration -60 years of faith-based life and service together!

As I reflect on my many years of coming to celebrate special occasions with you such as the annual Mass on the Feast Day of Saint Luigi Guanella, one word comes to mind: JOY. The broad smiles and joyful enthusiasm of Don Guanella residents as you sing and clap during the celebration of Mass always leaves a deep spiritual impression on me – this is the way that we all should pray! And the gentle, caring support evident on those occasions and provided every day by the direct care staff makes me appreciative of those who bring mission to life on a daily basis. I look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you once again this year.

May we all continue to follow in the footsteps of Don Guanella, who reminds us that "brotherly love is always a pledge of happiness on earth." Saint Luigi Guanella, pray for us!



Sincerely,

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James Amato, LSW Secretary for Catholic Human Services



October 14, 2020

To The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence:

This year, we are abundantly blessed to celebrate the annual feast day of St. Luigi Guanella, and also commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Don Guanella School.

Inspired by the life and ministry of St. Luigi, the Servants of Charity opened the school in 1960 to meet the educational needs of boys with intellectual disabilities (ID). It was the very first program wholly dedicated to this vulnerable population to eventually be administered by Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

This foundational moment quickly flourished and evolved into a growing and vibrant mission journey. A companion residential program for adult men with ID, which would come to be known as the *Cardinal Krol Center*, was founded on the same Springfield campus in 1976. Then in 1984, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, moved their residential program for girls and women with ID from Elverson to *Divine Providence Village*, also in Springfield. Recalling this religious heritage, we are grateful to continue to have two priests of the Servants of Charity as ministers in our midst, as well as two Sisters of St. Joseph who carry on the mission of the Daughters in the spirit of Father Guanella.



What has developed historically is a fruitful partnership in mission between these esteemed religious and our dedicated lay staff. Residential services were enhanced with a variety of supportive and therapeutic services, and vital programs such as Day Services, a sheltered workshop, Community Living Arrangements, Life Sharing, and the recent movement of Don Guanella to the community group homes emerged over the years to meet the changing needs of individuals with IDD. Serving the men and women entrusted to our care is a sacred duty and privilege that we have fulfilled for 60 years now, always conducted in ways that are deeply rooted in Catholic tradition and our Guanellian values.

Celebrating our dual anniversaries is a poignant reminder that our mission journey is uniquely special. Guided by the work of St. Luigi, we do not simply journey for others, **we journey with and accompany them**. We see ourselves as one with every individual living with ID in our communities, and we lovingly embrace them as family. The Constitutions of the Servants of Charity remind us that it was Don Guanella's wish that in all his houses, everyone would live together and form one great House of Providence, under the care of the one Father.

So let us rejoice today in our mission and its legacy. Let us give thanks to those past and present – the individuals in our care, along with their families, religious men and women, laity, friends, and benefactors who have been with us on this mission journey. Richly blessed by God, let us give profound thanks to Divine Providence.

Fran Swiacki

Director of Developmental Programs Division Catholic Human Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia



October 9, 2020

Dear Friends and Family of The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence,

In August of 2009, I entered the walls of the CK Center, having worked in another program serving persons with ID for 21 years. Yet there was something different here. What was that difference? LOVE. As I toured the buildings and cottages, I met many of the 131 residents, men with ID who seemed so happy and ready to tell me their story. I left that interview knowing in my heart that I wanted to serve these wonderful men.

Within the first weeks, I met Jim and Betty Rice, whose son Mike lived in the main CK building. As a new staff person, they gave me a diary so I would know how CK came to exist. I reread that document they gave me in order to capture what I would like to say on this 60th anniversary of Don Guanella Village.

To honor 60 years of service, we must recognize how we got here. It is humbling to think about the founding families and Servants of Charity, particularly Fr. Romano DiRuscio, whose combined perseverance ensured that their children from school age through adulthood would have a wonderful life. They established a Parents' Guild to raise funds for a new facility to foster lifelong education, growth and development for their adult children.

Although the ministry of Don Guanella Village looks quite different now from years past, we continue to love and cherish our mission to care for those who St. Guanella taught us to see as "treasures." As we celebrate 60 years of life and love in this community, we are filled with lasting memories and profound personal experiences that exemplify our core values and proudly continue our mission that started more than half century ago. Honored and gratified to be part of this exceptional legacy, I remain dedicated to continue this work with passion. Today we remember with gratitude those persons past and present who make up our Don Guanella history. St. Luigi Guanella referred to those individuals with special needs as good children and saw them as his brothers and sisters in Christ. He would rejoice to see his "family fully alive" here today. Let us celebrate our ongoing commitment to the mission of faith-based quality care for those we serve, expressed with our core values of Charity, Justice, Dignity, Excellence, Compassion, and live each day the motto of the

Servants of Charity – "in all things Love."

Patti Menszak Administrator Don Guanella Community Homes





October 13, 2020

Dear Friends and Family,

As we approach the feast of Saint Luigi Guanella and the 60th anniversary of the founding of Don Guanella School, I am struck by the amazing legacy left by our founder. In the face of opposition, he persisted with his life's work of supporting the marginalized, and being among the first to take special interest in persons with disabilities. He saw the God-given value and dignity of every person. His humility and trust in Divine Providence were the building blocks of the programs we see today.

In 1881, St. Luigi founded a religious congregation, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, with the primary mission to minister to those most in need. These brave and holy women came to the United States in 1913 and eventually started the program that led to what we now know as Divine Providence Village (DPV). We are also blessed to have two Sisters of St. Joseph continue the tradition the Daughters started. As the current DPV Administrator, I count it a privilege to be following in the footsteps of women so singularly committed to a life of service and care for the individuals we serve. I am also thankful to St. Luigi for planting the seed that led to the DPV community that we dearly cherish to-day.

I feel so blessed to be part of such a legacy. Our community embodies the core values of *Justice, Caring, Compassion, Dignity and Excellence* each day in the work we do. The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence are indeed a host of very special places where we go beyond providing excellent and quality care, and embody the Guanellian charism of genuine love for the men and women we serve.

As we celebrate this significant milestone in our history, my heart is filled with love for each of you as we continue the journey started so many years ago. May we faithfully and fruitfully walk together each day.



Gratefully,

Jean Calvarese-Donovan Administrator Divine Providence Village

JACKIE ABBOT Growing up with Don Guanella

"I started at Don Guanella School in 1961. I remember times spent in the chapel and receiving my sacraments. I remember Sr. Louise and lots of nice staff. I moved to Cardinal Krol Center and we had good times at the cafeteria, playing sports, activities, going to the movies and even selling Christmas things."

- Jackie

"When I think of Don Guanella, I think of the many Masses I've attended there. I think of the many people who have been and are in our lives. We are so fortunate and I am so thankful. I love when everyone sings in Mass 'God is so good'. To me that says it all".

- Maureen Infanti, Jackie Abbot's Sister





THREE DEDICATED STAFF – 120 YEARS OF SERVICE



Lynne Parkes (39 years) Candi Foell (43 years), and Colleen Henne (38 years)

I fondly recall saying yes to the invitation to join the team at Cardinal Krol Center Work Activity Center, and my first few days almost 43 years ago! Serving as a Widener University intern, I realized that I was called to work in the IDD field, and that I belonged at CKC supporting these men. I remember with gratitude the many individuals past and present whom I have had the privilege to serve, along with their families. Seeing them overcome challenges, reach milestones, and celebrate accomplishments inspired and motivated me throughout the years. We were very active when the men were younger, with fun bus trips to New York and Washington D.C., amusement park outings, cruises on the Delaware and Hudson Rivers, Family Unity Days, Christmas plays, variety shows, Feast Day celebrations, Ocean City vacations, and family barbecues. Amid many changes over the years, one thing has remained constant – the unconditional love that is felt every day. A special thanks to the Servants of Charity and Daughters of St. Mary of Providence for their continued support of and dedication to the individuals that we serve. Happy 60th Anniversary!

Candi Foell

ATF Director, Day Programs







I do not possess words that can adequately express our appreciation. "Heartfelt Thanks To Everyone" at Don Guanella and Divine Providence is insufficient.

The individuals of Don Guanella and Divine Providence have taught me lessons about authenticity, resilience, love, and joy that I will carry with me throughout life. "My 30 years at Don Guanella Village has provided me with relationships that have and will continue to bless my life."

> - Ginny Fisher, Administrative Professional



Carmen Lawrence, Ginny Fisher (30 years), and Gloria McCrossin (35 years)





Phillies pitcher Tug McGraw attends a Christmas party at the CK gym sponsored by the Delaware County Italian Club









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HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY DON GUANELLA VILLAGE!

I smile when I think back on the rich history of this special place, where a deep commitment to care and heartfelt dedication to serve was embraced by all. So much life-giving activity occurred on the lovely campus: residential programs, day programs, a school program and a summer camp administered by the Servants of Charity along with so many lay men and women as collaborators. Their unfailing devotion to the mission was always at the forefront, and continues today in new and exciting ways spread across many communities in our region.

I have so many happy memories. I smile thinking about the Sisters dutifully scrubbing the floors, wanting only the best for those they served. I remember watching Sr. Ida riding the dumbwaiter that carried the laundry up and down, and Sr. Florine singing and playing her guitar for the little ones. Fr. Sante always with a smile and a van filled with goodies from the local community merchants. I remember the excitement at the groundbreaking of the four cottages, the Philadelphia 76ers and Harlem Globetrotters playing in the Don Guanella gym, Chris Burke graduating and becoming a famous actor, and the inspiring relationship and collaboration through the years with Special Olympics.



The years pass quickly and

much has happened since those early days, and it fills me with great joy to see what has remained constant through it all: the passion felt by an entire community to make a difference in the lives of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. This passion and deep commitment has taught us all how important our service was and is.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Denise Clofine

Administrator, St. Edmond's Home For Children



OUR PRESENT - OUR FUTURE - NOW AND ALWAYS

Trusting in Divine Providence

For all of us, Saint Luigi "Don" Guanella is both a guiding example and a wise mentor. Don Guanella's

Pictured here is Chris Burke, a resident at DGV for eight years who is now well known for playing the

whole life was marked by a deep trust in Divine Providence. That trust in God's providential care for his "good children" continues today and will endure for future generations.

Did you know that **March** is **Disabilities Awareness** month and that **October** is **Down Syndrome**

Awareness Month? The key word for these two months and indeed every day of every month should be AWARENESS ... an awareness of the "diff-abilities" (special and unique abilities) that all the men and women whom we serve at The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence so beautifully embody.



character "Corky" Thatcher on the television series "Life Goes On." Chris is now a poignant and power ful spokesman for the National Down Syndrome Society. His words resonate with us today:

> "It's not about celebrating disabilities, it's about celebrating abilities."

In order for our men and women to become who God meant them to be, they need a sacred and safe environment where they can celebrate who they are, while living and growing within a family of dedicated staff, committed volunteers and donors, and their fellow DG and DP participants.



Our Communities bring our men and women together for so many fun and enriching events. The Spring Formal, Christmas celebrations, and Challenger Whiffle Ball League games held at Cardinal O'Hara Highschool are a few of the many ways that our DG and DP men and ladies enjoy activities. Sister Sue, Sr. Mary, Fr. Amal, and Fr. Dennis ensure that the spiritual life of ALL of our participants remains a priority and is celebrated DAILY! Our goal is always to help each person reach his or her maximum God-given potential.

Disability is the Inability to see the Different Possibility.

We have countless stories of our men and women being blessed by our compassionate care inspired by Divine Providence, which empowers them to reach new possibilities for happiness and fulfillment. We are thankful that such stories are part of our 60 years of following in the footsteps of Don Guanella. Ad multos annos! (To many more years!)





Kevin Barr

Director of Development

March 2014 - the first Don Guanella Community 24 October 2008 - Justin Cardinal Rigali celebrates Home is opened in Downingtown. Mass on the feast day of Blessed Luigi Guanella at July 2014 - the first Don Guanella the the Don Guanella Village campus. Home on parish grounds is opened at Notre Dame Parish in Swarthmore. 23 October 2011 - Blessed Luigi Two other homes, on the grounds of Guanella is canonized at St. Peter's Our Lady of Charity Parish in Basilica in Rome and is now Brookhaven and St. Dominic Parish designated as Saint Luigi Guanella. in Philadelphia, will open in 2015. 2010 2011 2012 2014 2008 October 2012- an announcement is made that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will sell the Don Guanella Village property and 11 September 2014 plans are begun to transition from the Archbishop Charles Chaput campus setting to community settings. blesses the new day program located at the former Our 26 September 2010 - Don Guanella Lady of Fatima School in Village celebrates its 50th anniversary. Secane. 14

Jim and Tina Gula, with help from their daughters, have been tireless in their support of The Communities of Don Guanella and Divine Providence. In particular, Jim and his family co-founded the Challenger league and have been deeply involved for more than 25 years. Their great generosity contributed toward the building of the Cardinal Krol Homes mini-campus in addition to their sustained philanthropic efforts throughout the years. They have truly been instruments of Divine providence and for this we are deeply thankful.





Fr. Dennis, Tina and Jim Gula, and Sr. Kathleen Schipani at the dedication of the Cardinal Krol Homes in Springfield

23 October 2015 - the **Cardinal Krol Homes** mini-campus is blessed by Bishop John McIntyre and the last of the men will transition from the Don Guanella Village campus to these homes by December.

- Father Dennis



Mark Wiggins sharing a moment with Bishop Timothy Senior at the 2019 Don Guanella Feast Day Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Secane

> 26 July 2015 - the 55th anniversary of Don Guanella School is celebrated with a Mass and festivities; it is also a Mass of Thanksgiving as the campus will close by the end of 2015.

2014

2015

15 September 2014 -Administration offices transition to the former **St. Gabriel's School** site in Norwood. September 2015 – Several residents, family members, and staff joyfully greet Pope Francis as Philadelphia hosts **The World Meeting of Families**.



2016

ENHANCING WELLBEING & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

After over 40 years in management roles, a part-time PRN nursing position sounded great to me, and the warm and happy environment at Don Guanella convinced me that if offered the job I would accept it. After orientation, I told Father Dennis he would be "stuck with me for a while." I have been working with the men for 17 years now, and am frequently asked how much longer I'm going to work. I probably will expire before I retire; thinking about leaving these men would be like leaving home and not seeing "loved ones." This is not a job but a BLESSING, and as long as God gives me good health and mental acuity, I will continue this journey. This isn't just what I do for the men, it is even more what I receive and have learned from them. I truly love these guys, and we have a great rapport. Pre-pandemic when I entered the group homes I would receive handshakes, smiles and hugs from all the men. Now I tell them since we can't do that, "I will give you

kisses" – Hershey Kisses, of course! I'm there for their medical needs, but also to go for walks, pray the Rosary, bake cakes, make cookies/candy, and have snack time together. We have a special bond, and I have the best Benefit Package ever. I think I'll stay "a while!"

Mildred Donato, RN



Men from DG's Fairview Home saying the rosary with nurse "Millie"



May 2017 - Challenger Wiffle Ball League moves from the Don Guanella field to its new home at nearby Cardinal O'Hara High

April 2019 - Fr. Amalraj Sawarimthu, SdC joins The Communities as Pastoral Associate.

1 July 2019 - Don Guanella and Divine Providence Village formally merge to become **The Communities** of Don Guanella and Divine **Providence**. The Communities continue to promote person-centered planning and a continuum of care, including **Life Sharing** and **Community Living** residential programs. Four new CLA's open between 2016-2020.

2017

School.



2020











IN MEMORIAM

As we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the opening of Don Guanella School, many memories flood our minds, including prayerful remembrance of those cherished members of the Don Guanella family who have since gone on to be with the Lord.

We remember first and foremost our beloved deceased residents and program participants and how richly they blessed and graced our lives. Don Guanella was fond of calling persons with intellectual disabilities *buoni figli (good children)* because, as he stated, they maintain their baptismal innocence and are close to the heart of God. For me, these dear brothers and sisters have taken the "express train to heaven" and are now our intercessors before God, ready to now assist us, just as we had for them during their lives.

We also bear in mind our many family members who have died, honoring them for their love, care, commitment, dedication, and advocacy for their loved ones, thereby paving their own road to heavenly glory. Finally, we give thanks for the many staff, volunteers, benefactors and friends who supported us along the way, and who have left our company; we pray for them in the knowledge that they exemplified in their lives the words of Jesus: *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."* (Matthew 25:40).

In this 60th anniversary celebration, we fondly remember those who have gone before us as we pray: "*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*"

Fr. Dennis Weber, SdC Director of Ministry and Mission

SERVANTS OF CHARITY Who Served at Don Guanella Village

Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC Fr. Pravin Vinodhraj Ambrose, SdC Fr. Salvator Bisaccia, SdC Fr. Anthony Cavaleri, SdC † 2010 Fr. Louis De Giambattista, SdC Fr. Silvio De Nard, SdC Fr. Romano Di Ruscio, SdC Fr. Peter Di Tullio, SdC Fr. Louis Frangi, SdC Bro. Natal Galvini, SdC Fr. George Giampaolo, SdC Fr. Joseph Legnani, SdC † 1986 Fr. Umberto Mellare, SdC † 1998 Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC Fr. Germano Pegoraro, SdC † 2007 Fr. Sante Piacente, SdC † 1995 Fr. Emilio Rezzonico, SdC † 2005 Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC Fr. Paul Saltarini, SdC †2007 Bro. Sante Satalino, SdC † 1992 Fr. Amakraj Sawarimuthu, SdC Fr. Cecilio Silguero Avalos, SdC Fr. David Stawasz, SdC Fr. Fortunato Turati, SdC Fr. Dennis Weber, SdC Fr. Matthew Weber, SdC

Fr. Craig Wilt, SdC

DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY OF PROVIDENCE Who Served at Don Guanella Village

Sr. Joanna Bulanti, DSMP

Sr. Margaret Culpo, DSMP	† 1986
Sr. Gertrude Erne, DSMP	
Sr. Rosetta Fontana, DSMP	† 1983
Sr. Mary Gibin, DSMP	† 2004
Sr. Mary Rose Granahan, DSMP	† 1992
Sr. Caryn Haas, DSMP	
Sr. Bernadine Kauffman, DSMP	
Sr. Gertrude LaBarbera, DSMP	
Sr. Florine Licavoli, DSMP	
Sr. Marcella Maggio, DSMP	† 2009
Sr. Ida Mancini, DSMP	† 1984
Sr. Therese McLennon, DSMP	† 1994
Sr. Mary Josephine Pucci, DSMP	
Sr. Gianna Spizzirri, DSMP	
Sr. Louise Warner, DSMP	

Sr. M. Patricia Whyte, DSMP









GUANELLIAN VALUES

Trust in Divine Providence Charity and Justice:

God lovingly provides for the needs of all.

Respect Life Dignity and Excellence:

Our God - given dignity makes each of us a person of value and worth.

Prefer the Poor Justice and Compassion:

The marginalized and the vulnerable deserve our special care and concern.

"Family Spirit" Compassion and Charity:

All people are members of the one family of God.

"In All Things Charity" Charity:

All we say, think and do begins and ends with Love.

Eucharistic Spirit Charity, Justice, and Excellence:

We are the Body of Christ called into communion with God and one another.