

FINAL MESSAGE
Annual Meeting of the General Coordination Council
of the Union of Catholic Apostolate - UAC
30 August – 3 September 2020

Rome, 03 September 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from the annual meeting of the General Coordination Council of UAC to all of our members, communities and your families. With the approval of the Vatican Congregation, for the first time we gathered virtually via Zoom due to the pandemic with our representatives from Italy, Australia, Poland, India, Cameroon, Brazil, Ireland and the United States. We are pleased to share with all of you the great joy we experienced together during this meeting.

As we found ourselves in this specific situation, we realize how real the words of our Founder St. Vincent Pallotti became, which we want to recall today, imagining ourselves present in the Cenacle with Mary and Jesus and with each of you, our brothers and sisters:

"Wherever I shall be, I intend to imagine myself to be together with all the creatures in the Cenacle in Jerusalem where the Apostles received the Holy Spirit. I shall remind myself to renew this desire often. As the Apostles were there with Mary, so will I be in spirit with the most beloved Mother and Jesus." (OCCC X, 86)

The meeting was officially opened by Ms. Donatella Acerbi, UAC President, with words of welcome followed by an annual report giving attention to the fundamental issues of life of the Union. She called for spiritual unity with all the members of the Pallottine Family, and prayers through the intercession of St. Vincent Pallotti and those who are already in Heaven.

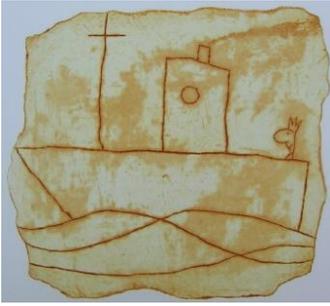
Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, SAC, the Ecclesiastical Assistant, emphasized the following topics to live our lives happy and fruitful in the spirit of Pallotti: deepen our spiritual life through the example of St. Vincent, live charity, especially in this time of pandemic, involvement in every possible way in the mission of those in periphery, missionary commitment, passion for the Gospel and God's people, deepen our understanding of the General Statutes spiritually, theologically, juridically and pastorally.

Listening to the reports from GCC Members, we are all very much aware of the difficulties that each and every one of you are facing during the time of this pandemic. Our UAC groups around the world have continued to work together in their communities to help with many social services which are badly needed, caring for the sick and the elderly, feeding the poor and needy, working with COVID-19 patients, running testing sites, and more. We extend our deepest thanks and heartfelt gratitude to all of you for sharing all of your gifts and talents with all. This is the true spirit of Vincent Pallotti in action. *May love of Christ continue to impel us! ... (2Cor. 5:14)*

Like St. Vincent Pallotti, we also want to live today in close relationship with God, in deep harmony with the Church, constantly expanding our horizons and opportunities. Thanks to the presence of the Holy Spirit, thanks to your prayers and to our unity of heart and mind. Our meeting was uniquely different but also beautiful, fruitful and enriching. May God help us together as Union to become an ever clearer visible sign of His love and mercy for every person who seeks His face, today.

Warmest greetings and prayer,

The Members of the General Coordination Council of the Union of Catholic Apostolate



ON THIS BOAT ARE ALL OF US ... IT IS A TIME
TO DECIDE TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

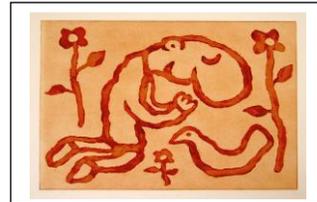
- (Pope Francis)

Let us take a moment to become conscious of God's presence by breathing God in and breathing God Out. Seeking God in all things and finding God in All things.

Reading:

When the patient man Job became impatient on his dunghill of suffering. God responded with something like "Life, death and resurrection is the way to operate, Job. Freedom is the field and love is the power. Can you think of a better way to do it, a better plan for creation? Like a Divine Sun, God draws us to growth through the deaths of change and newness of life, but like the sun, God is not just way out there." Every spark of insight, every touch of warm kindness that we enjoy flows from the burning furnace of wisdom and charity that we call God. The radiance of the fire of God's love, cast on the earth in Christ, is the atmosphere in which we live, move, grow and have our being. (Elizabeth Meluch, OCD, (11))

A minute of quiet reflection



Prayer: Michael Leunig "When I talk to you"

Dear God

We pray for another way of being, another way of knowing.

Across the difficult terrain of our existence, we have attempted to build a highway and in so doing have lost our footpath. God lead us to our footpath: lead us there where in simplicity we may move at the speed of natural creatures and feel the earth's love beneath our feet. Lead us there where step by step we may feel the movement of creation in our hearts. And lead us there where side-by-side we may feel the embrace of the common soul. Nothing can be loved at speed.

God lead us to the slow path; to the joyous insights of the pilgrim; another way of knowing; another way of being. Amen