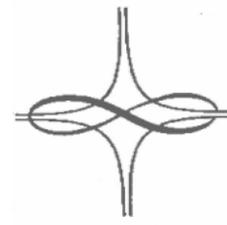


IN VIA

Union of Catholic Apostolate
Newsletter of the Canadian National Coordination Council
Winter 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the UAC,

Winter weather has played havoc with our plans for the CNCC meeting and so, this In Via is somewhat late in getting to you. Please know that you have not been forgotten and have remained in my prayers. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a good start to the New Year. May God shower us all with his many splendid graces and blessings.

This has not been so for our brothers and sisters in Australia, although I believe they are all safe. Now, with the torrential rains they are still not out of the disasters. They continue to ask for our prayers. From Cheryl's visit last summer, she has written us a lovely letter (enclosed later). She hopes to see some of us at Congress in August.

You have recently received emails about our mission project and the Congress.

The mission project is in the beginning planning stages. The sisters in Belize have had to tear down their convent because the building was no longer safe. They are currently living in a few rooms of the hospital, but this is not conducive to their way of life. So, they are starting to build a new convent, but only have limited funds. We are hoping to help out financially over the next few years. More information will be passed on to you as plans are finalized for activities.

The International Congress is from August 17-21, 2020. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet UAC members from around the world, to share and to discover what makes their groups come alive. Please reflect on your own situation and discern if you could attend. If there is a small group going from here, we could spend a few days after walking in the footsteps of St. Vincent Pallotti. As I said in the letter that went out earlier, it would be great if we could have numbers by the end of February. Please email me (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) or phone XXXXXXXXXXXX (leave a message if I'm not home and I'll get back to you).

Much of our calendar has been put into place for the year. Please check out the section "Mark your Calendar" and plan to join your brothers and sisters in the UAC for the events they have lovingly prepared for us all. Also, feel free to bring family members and friends.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Study Day on March 21 at St. Mary's in Red Deer, meeting any new members and renewing acquaintances of those we haven't seen for a while. Come join the family.

We are in the process of updating our members list again. Group representatives will do this in your meetings. If you are currently without a group, please forward your information to (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) – so that we can keep in touch.

Yours in Christ,
Maria

Union of Catholic Apostolate Retreat 2019

Theme: Authentic Call to be Good People, Good Christians and Good Apostles

What a blessing it was to be able to attend the UAC Retreat at Sanctum Retreat <https://sanctumretreat.ca/> October 18th-20th. The location was beautiful, peaceful, quiet and spiritual...a true retreat from the busyness of our everyday lives!

Father Paul Raj gave us much to ponder, reflect on, and pray about. The retreat was a beautiful opportunity to grow in our faith, ponder more on the teachings and example of our founder, Saint Vincent Pallotti, and reflect on the life and example of Jesus Christ. Time was spent in prayer and adoration, both in community, as well as individually. Celebrating mass together on Sunday was a perfect culmination to our spiritual journey together. Special thanks to our music ministry (Joan, Tom and Candace) for making our mass even more beautiful and joyful!

It would be impossible to try to fully describe or write about the retreat, as a retreat is meant to be experienced. It is a time to let God speak to you, as well as an opportunity to glorify God.

Instead I will share this prayer, for the **“Courage to follow Christ”** from our UAC Prayer Book. Perhaps a fitting prayer to go with the theme of our retreat.



Saint Vincent Pallotti,
you always sought the glory of God in everything.
Teach us to follow your shining example
so that we may glorify God
through the holiness of our lives
and the sincerity of our work.

Saint Vincent Pallotti,
you fought to renounce sin in your life.
Help us always both in our own lives
and in the life of our neighbour
through faithfulness to prayer
and through our apostolate of giving a good example.

Saint Vincent Pallotti,
you were consumed with apostolic zeal
for the salvation of souls.
Strengthen in us the desire to work together effectively
for the spread of faith and love,
so that the kingdom of Christ
may be spread all over the world.
Glory... As it was....

Here are a few comments from other retreat participants:

Greetings UAC Family:

I felt truly blessed and Thankful to be able to attend the retreat with my UAC family and friends. I am so inspired to grow and to recognize my weaknesses, so that I may aspire to be a good Apostle of Christ in my day to day life. I found the talks and fellowship fruitful and impactful. ~ Joan Selent

*The UAC Retreat was an opportunity to Thank and Praise, and Love our gracious God in “complete freedom” and with full surrender. We, who attended, experienced the fullness of God’s love each moment. We were **bathed** in His beautiful infinite love; we **received** the healing goodness of His infinite mercy in the Holy Eucharist At Mass. **We were served** by The Lord, at this Retreat. What a Gift!! We became God’s children. **He cared** for us. He cared for our hearts, our souls, our minds. God spoke to us beautifully through His Instrument, Father Paul! What an incredible blessing!! We need only be the sheep of his pasture, his adoring flock; whom he loves. ~ Lorraine Oakes*

I felt so blessed to go on the retreat. I’ve learned to be more humble; the grace of our Lord is so merciful that I feel I’m not worthy of God’s graces. I will lead my life like Jesus did. I always know he is right beside us. The wonderful new family I have is indeed a true blessing. ~ God Bless all, Candace Schwarz



The retreat for me was a special time to relax with the Lord and in the company of good friends. To be able to spend those few days in such a peaceful place surrounded by nature helped to make this time just what was needed in my life. ~ Maria Domke

Our retreat at Sanctum was a much needed escape from our secular world. Sanctum, built out of a love for God, and a desire to please and serve God and mankind, provided us with a setting of true beauty and peace.

Taking time to be with our UAC members builds a bond and strengthens our commitment to St. Vincent Pallotti's vision for the union and Christ's mission for us.

Father Paul, you gave to us a wonderful and insightful way of walking with Jesus daily. God Bless you and we thank you. ~ Colleen McIntyre

Listen... is God calling you to participate in the next retreat in 2021?



CARITAS (Charity)

Latin – which means to love or more literally “to care”

C – Christian
A – Apostles
R – Responsibly
I – Invoking
T – Truth
A – Acceptance
S – Salvation

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

C – Christ’s
H – Humble
A – Apostles
R – Responsibly
I – Invoking
T – Trust
Y – In Yahweh (GOD)

CHARITY

Word copied from the Latin “caritas” but translating the Greek term agape. It designates a very elevated and pure love similar to the love of God for men and the love of Christians for God and their brothers. This word is not to be confused with the sense of almsgiving, or charitable work. The fraternal meals of the first Christians often followed by the Eucharist received the name agape (or feast).



FROM AUSTRALIA - TO ALL OF MY CANADIAN FRIENDS.

Dear Friends,

By now you may rightly think that I have totally forgotten you and wiped from my mind the wonderful opportunity I had of meeting you in April of this year. That is not the case! You may remember that from Canada I headed to Rome and then spent time in several African countries arriving back in Australia in late July – so now over three months ago. Not long after I arrived home a very close friend had a stroke and died a few days later, so, in addition to the various tasks waiting for me at home the death of my friend took me some time, before being able to move forward and start getting back into the usual swing of life.

Thinking of my time in Canada, there were several things that struck me about your UAC life and your dedication to living the charism of Vincent. The first image I have was walking into the rose garden at the Red Deer church and seeing our UAC symbol there on the tile. Somehow this spoke to me of your gift of reaching out – to your local church, your local community and beyond. Perhaps something very simple but that symbol indicated a community alive and active.

Then of course there were the several occasions of great hospitality – staying with Maria who ensured that my time provided the opportunity of meeting with so many of you – as well as opportunities to experience the beauty of your country – certainly different from Australia. Lunch with Rita, Rick, Marion, Allan and Maria at Marion and Allan's home. Staying the night with Angelina and meeting so many of the Red Deer Group. The wonderful UAC cenacle day at Cochrane - I still have my candle and treasure it. Dinner with Maria, Rick, Rita and Josea back at Maria's home. I strongly believe that hospitality is a central part of our charism and I certainly experienced that when I was with you. There was also that wonderful sense of "being at home." This experience was repeated throughout my time in Rome and then Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Cameroon. There is something wonderful about the universality of our ability to be one family across so many cultures and feel that warmth and comfort when in a community living the charism of Vincent Pallotti.

Another strong memory is your conviction of living the charism as a strong group of lay people. I did not have the opportunity of meeting any of the Indian SAC priests, that was a shame but what I did see was your determination to carry on living your commitment. Surely that is a great gift and one that demonstrates the role of laity to be active, to take our own lead and make a difference in our church of today.

I mentioned my time in Africa, if you are interested, I have written of my experiences there, with a very short mention of Canada as well as a photo taken on the Cenacle day. You could go onto the International UAC website and read that if you would like. <http://www.unionofcatholicapostolate.org/my-time-in-africa-ms-cheryl-sullivan.html> Like Canada, Africa has certainly left a lasting impression on my soul, so all in all an incredible three months away from Australia.

Right now, as you would be experiencing autumn (sorry fall) we are going into summer. Mind you in Victoria where I live, spring is always a very changeable season – 33 degrees on Sunday and 13 degrees today. Still it is beautiful and today we are receiving some much needed rain. The roses are blooming – mind you the weeds are keeping up with them – maybe tomorrow will be some time for weeding. We in Melbourne have a public holiday – for The Melbourne Cup – yes, a horse race and we have a holiday! Many people can never understand that.

Again a million thanks for your hospitality and friendship. I know Australia seems like the end of the earth, but if any of you ever decide to make the trip know that there will always be a bed at my home.

Until then, let's continue to pray together that we live lives of love and compassion in the vision of our founder.

God Bless always,
Cheryl

FORMATION FOCUS:

Hello Brothers and Sisters in the UAC,

My name is Isabel Bolhuis, and I have been a member of the UAC since 2001.

I belong to the UAC group "Emmaus", in Red Deer.

In June of 2019, I was appointed as National Formation Promoter for Canada, and as such I am responsible for ensuring the initial and ongoing Pallottine formation of the members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate in Canada. It was not without some trepidation that I accepted this role. Please know that, placing my trust in God to guide me, I will work hard to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability.

I had the great joy of being able to attend the Meeting of National Formation Promoters in the Union, in Rome from September 18th – 23rd, 2019, with Maria Domke, our President. It was a true blessing to be able to meet, collaborate, break bread with, and especially to pray and attend mass with Pallottines from so many countries! It was a rich and varied time!

As stated in the General Statutes, Chapter 4 on Formation: "The nature of the life and apostolate of the Union require comprehensive initial and on-going formation for all the members because they participate in the mission of Jesus in the Church and in the world.

Given the mission of the Union (cf. arts. 12-16), the ability of members to collaborate with God and with all persons of goodwill is to be considered a priority." (GS41)

Once we have an updated list of UAC members, I hope to reach out to all groups or individuals, whether in person or by phone to find out how I can support and encourage ongoing formation.

In terms of upcoming Formation, I will be hosting a "**Come and See**" on **Thursday, February 27th, at 7 pm**. It will take place in St. Mary's Parish Centre in Red Deer. Please invite anyone you think might be interested in finding out more about St. Vincent Pallotti and the UAC. Consider accompanying them. Anyone who attends will also be invited to join us, if they wish, for **Study Day on Saturday, March 21st**.

I thought I would share a few links, which you might not be aware of, please take a look:

Below is a link to a **movie about St. Vincent Pallotti**. It is not the greatest quality, but it does give a good overview of St. Vincent's life and charism. It is about 57 mins. long.

Faithful Radical St. Vincent Pallotti:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFHOrvgUgZo>

The link below is **the UAC website from Rome**. It is a great resource as well as a way to connect with Pallottine news from around the world:

<http://www.unionofcatholicapostolate.org/>

Note: if you scroll down to near the bottom of the Home page, you can take a virtual tour of SS. Salvatore in Onda; the church where St. Vincent Pallotti is enshrined. You can also take a virtual tour of the Museum and Room of St. Vincent Pallotti.

Below is a link to the **Catholic Apostolate Center in Maryland**. It has a lot of Resources and information, including videos you may be interested in taking a looking at:

<https://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/>

The link below is to a **video giving a good overview of St. Vincent Pallotti and the UAC**. It is only about 17 minutes long:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwogDo9tU&t=2s>

I close with the words of our Rector General, Father Jacob Nampudakam SAC, in Rome, "*The core of the vision of our Founder was that we become and help others to become genuine, authentic apostles, following the entire life of Jesus. Therefore, formation takes place only when we constantly fix our eyes on Jesus, his life and apostolate. The experience of the infinite love and mercy of God in the person of Jesus, Apostle of the Father, is the starting point of our spiritual journey. St. Vincent will be the companion on our way.*"

May God bless each of you as you continue your spiritual journey,

~ Isabel Bolhuis



UAC Missions Work: Fundraising Committee

Main Objective:

We are hoping to raise money, in order to support the sisters in Belize to rebuild their convent. This came about after the UAC had begun to search for a mission to work on as a Canadian UAC group - while we do things individually, and occasionally as small group, it would be helpful to take it to the next level, unifying the groups and helping us to grow and work together.

2 desires: Build Community (UAC and otherwise) and Fundraise

Next Meeting: March 15 @ 3 p.m. --- ALL ARE WELCOME: ALL BELONG

The Borle Residence (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX)

Agenda: Brainstorming some small activities we can begin to implement; that will build community.

Questions or for more information, please contact Rachel Hollman (<XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>) OR
XXX XXX XXXX



Please pray for the following:

- Kevin Coyle - the son of Bill Coyle and Margaret's brother who is currently undergoing medical tests.

Please keep in your prayers all our ill members, those who are house-bound and our deceased members.

May God show his infinite love and compassion at this time through the intercession of Our Lady Queen of Apostles and St. Vincent Pallotti.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 27 – Come and See 7 pm at St. Mary's in Red Deer

March 20 - Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's in Red Deer

March 21 - Study Day in Red Deer at St. Mary's 9:30 am Registration Theme: Lord of the Harvest

April 25 - Cenacle in Edmonton at Sacred Heart Church where we will learn about our Indigenous Peoples and their spirituality. More information to follow.

April to October - Praying the rosary in the Rosary Garden in Red Deer at St. Mary's, rain or shine. We will gather the last Wednesday of the month at 1pm – April through to October. All are welcome!!

Easter time – Via Lucis celebration in Red Deer. More information to follow.

August 17-21 - International Congress in Rome

September 12 – CNCC meeting for group Reps at Dave's

September 27 - Family Eucharist in Calgary at St. Boniface Church. Mass at 5:00pm followed by potluck supper.

October 17 - UAC Retreat in Red Deer at St. Mary's. More information to follow.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions for *In Via* are welcome from all members of the UAC. Below is a list of categories that will be considered for publication. Please note that the editor has the discretion to use, omit or delay submitted material based on editorial guidelines prepared by the Canadian National Coordination Council, space limitations, or appropriateness of the submission for that particular issue.

Categories

Group activities

New members or groups

Quotes

Articles

Poems

Recipes

Reflections

Pictures

Content

Submissions should be no more than a 1/2 page in length and are subject to spelling and grammar checking. The editor may downsize the submission if deemed necessary for space consideration. Content should have a spiritual, educational or community-based focus. Pictures are always welcome. Submissions can be sent directly to the editor.

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Editor: Yolanda Richards XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX