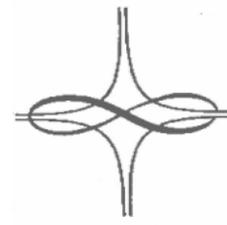


# IN VIA

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



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's Advent again! Where has the year gone (despite the trying isolations of covid – 19)? It truly has been a very unusual year for the world. My hope and prayer is that you have all survived well and are keeping your spirits up. If we remember that God is with us, even this will not separate us from Him.

We are late in sending out In Via because we had to postpone our CNCC meeting due to the virus. But we have not forgotten you. You remain in our prayers and thoughts. Hopefully soon we will be able to meet again in person, to share our experiences, to pray together, to celebrate mass together and share a meal together. We are family and need to gather.

Father George Neumann arrived safely in his new home in Limburg, Germany and is slowly settling in to the new routine and making new friends with his confreres. He did know a couple of the priests from his days in the novitiate. He will be well looked-after. Fr. Seifert sends his best wishes to all the UAC members.

I wish all of you a blessed Advent season, quietly preparing for the coming celebration of Christmas. I hope that you will be graced with God's blessings at Christmas – love and opportunity to be with family. May the New Year bring us relief from the virus, continued good health, closer friendships, and a deeper relationship with the Lord.

God bless,  
Maria



## **A Christmas Letter from Fr. Seifert**

*Dear Friends:*

*The weeks before Christmas find us frantically rushing around preparing for the feast, even during the corona pandemic. Christmas decorations and lights are to adorn house and tree, cards beg to be written, and gifts for loved ones are being prepared and wrapped with care.*

*We go out of our way to show people that they are precious to us and that we care. We experience that caring for someone precious brings us joy.*

*People who are alone are more aware of their solitude; broken relationships and lost friendships hurt more than at other times. We are longing for understanding and love, for harmony and peace.*

*The Holy Night invites and encourages us to open our hearts and to care for one another and to re-establish or deepen our human relationships.*

*But Christmas reaches beyond the merely human sphere, reaches beyond time and space of human experience. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Night: God is reaching out to us, entering human history in the incarnation of Christ. He is "pitching his tent in us" as John's original Greek text tells us. He is the message that God cares for us, He is God's most precious gift to us. In Him and through Him God has established irrevocably a loving bond with us. If we bend our knees in adoration, praising God's love, we are on the right path to find His peace.*

*Our Christmas preparations cannot be restricted to the decoration of home and tree and to the exchange of gifts. We have to find time for the people around us and meet them anew. We have to make ourselves available for an encounter with God in Christ. Christ is the centre of Christmas. He wants to pitch his tent IN us.*

*I invite you, your family and your friends to share the joy of the Holy Night with the all UAC members world wide. Share it with your parish family and welcome Christ's message of peace into your homes. Let us celebrate together God's goodness.*

*I wish you and your families a joyful Advent and a Christ-filled Christmas.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Fr. G. Seifert, sac.*

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## FORMATION FOCUS:



Hello Brothers and Sisters in the UAC,

As the world, and we as individuals continue our struggles with all the ramifications of living during a pandemic, we search for hope. At times that hope may seem exceedingly difficult to find. What better reminder of this hope than the Season of Advent.

Advent is a time of waiting, expectation and hope.

It is a time when we prepare our hearts for Christmas. We prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour. He is our hope.

In the words of Pope Francis, “Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. “Advent is the season for *remembering* that closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst,” says Pope Francis, “We often begin our prayers with the invocation: ‘God, come to my assistance.’ The first step of faith is to tell God that we need him, that we need him to be *close* to us.”

As I contemplate our search for hope, I also think about how can I . . . how can we . . . be hope for others?

Perhaps it is through reaching out to those in need around us; the isolated, the sick, the overwhelmed, the sad, the hungry, the lonely, the poor. We do not have to look far to find those in need. Sometimes the smallest gesture or act of kindness can mean more to someone than we may ever realize.

The beautiful truth is that in reaching out and bringing hope to others, we often find the hope that perhaps we thought we had lost.

St. Vincent Pallotti encourages us:

“To breathe God in and out.

To find God in everything.

**To reveal God to all.**

**To radiate the presence of God.”**

In the words of St. Vincent Pallotti, "Remember that the Christian life is one of action; not of speech and daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be done well."

In the words of St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

“Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

In song: Christ Has No Body Now But Yours (featuring Josh Garrels)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7ymxW3rndk>

During this season of Advent, as we await the coming of the Lord, turn our gaze toward, and place our hope in Him who is our Saviour, may God bless you and your loved ones with hope, love, joy and peace. May he keep you safe.

~ Isabel



An email was already sent out, but in case you are not aware, the link to the church in Rome, San Salvatore in Onda remains live. <https://rzym.aztv.pl/rzym.php>

[Most recently, an invitation was sent to all UAC members to participate in Adoration and Eucharistic Celebration \(December 2<sup>nd</sup>\) to pray for all the deceased members of the Union who succumbed to Covid 19 and also for those who are affected by this virus.](#)

[I encourage you whenever you are able, to participate in these invitations to come together in prayer and contemplation with our Pallottine Family from all over the world. We are truly blessed to have these opportunities.](#)

At San Salvatore, there are masses every morning at 7:00 am and evening masses at 6:00 pm followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

On Wednesdays, they have UAC mass at 6:30 pm preceded by Eucharistic Adoration at 5:30 pm.

Italy is 8 hours ahead of us, so the times in Alberta are as follows:

"Everyday morning" Mass - 11 pm (the night before it takes place in Italy)

"Evening" Mass - 10:00 am followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesdays - UAC Mass - 10:30 am

preceded by Eucharistic Adoration at 9:30 am

**Note:** You can click on the link to San Salvatore at any time.

I often like to “go” there just to pray when it is nighttime in Italy. Even though the lights are not on in the church, you can still see inside. I find it a very peaceful place to “go” and pray or spend time in quiet contemplation. It is also especially beautiful if you happen to “be there” when the sun comes up!

**I continue to include the following links for easy reference:**

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

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

**Note:** scroll down to near the bottom of the Home page, to 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.

The **Catholic Apostolate Center in Maryland** has a lot of Resources and information, including videos you may be interested in taking a looking at:

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

## **Homily for healing of members of the Pallottine Family**

December 2, 2020 – Church SS Salvatore in Onda

Cari Fratelli e Sorelle dell'Unione dell'Apostolato Cattolico

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Pallottine Family all over the world,

A very fraternal welcome to all the members of the Pallottine Family from the spiritual centre of the entire Union of Catholic Apostolate. Welcome to all those who are present here today in our Church and welcome to all those who are accompanying us through internet. In view of communicating with as many people as possible, I preach this homily in Italian and English, part by part.

It is a matter of great joy that the entire Pallottine Family is united together today in prayer for our sick and deceased members, the victims of Coronavirus pandemic. We remember and pray for all those who are afflicted by pandemic, spiritually, psychologically and materially. Naturally, our heart goes out not only to the Pallottines but also to all people, especially the elderly, children and the most vulnerable persons in the society.

I appeal to all the members of our Pallottine Family, those who are participating in this moment of prayer and worship and those who are engaged in other pastoral activities, to raise your hearts in humble supplication to God to heal our members and all the people in the world from this deadly pandemic. May the Lord in his mercy grant eternal peace to all our members who lost their life due to Covid-19. We pray to God through the intercession of our holy Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, on whose altar we celebrate the holy Mass today. We seek the intercession of Blessed Elizabeth Sanna, the handicapped mother, who understands what it means to suffer from poverty and loneliness. May our blessed Pallottine martyrs intercede with God for courage and serenity to meet with the present-day challenges.

There are two fundamental Christian virtues that we need at this difficult time: unflinching hope, rooted in a profound faith in God and the spirit of solidarity based on fraternal charity. These are the two virtues pointed out by Pope Francis during the Fifth catechesis on the Covid-19 pandemic, "To heal the world" in the light of the Gospel, the theological virtues and the principles of the Church's social doctrine". The Holy Father said: "In the midst of crises, a solidarity guided by faith enables us to translate the love of God in our globalised culture, not by building towers or walls..., but by interweaving communities and sustaining processes of growth that are truly human and solid...In the midst of crises and tempests, the Lord calls to us and invites us to reawaken and activate this solidarity capable of giving solidity, support and meaning to these hours in which everything seems to be wrecked. May the creativity of the Holy Spirit encourage us to generate new forms of familiar hospitality, fruitful fraternity and universal solidarity".

Thus, as Pope Francis mentioned during his fifth Catechesis on "heal the world" in this time of pandemic, it is the time to destroy the walls created by human prejudices and limitations, and to build up solid human communities, rooted in fraternal solidarity guided by faith, thus translating the love of God into concrete actions of charity. The social teaching of the Church believes in the dignity of all human beings, whether they are rich or poor, white or black, leaned or ignorant, male or female. What we require is the creativity of the Holy Spirit that prompts new forms of hospitality, fruitful fraternity and universal solidarity. The end result of such a way of being human and Christian in today's world would be the evolving of a new humanity, the creation of a more just society leading to a civilization of love. This would be the foundation of our unflinching hope for a new horizon.

Today's two readings are amazingly beautiful and relevant to the occasion. They also touch upon the two Christian virtues that we need so urgently: the unfailing hope rooted in faith and fraternal solidarity based on charity.

The first reading from the book of Isaiah is full of expressions of hope.

"The Lord God shall wipe away tears from every face, and the reproach of his people he shall take away from the whole earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.

And they shall say in that day: Lo, this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord, we have patiently waited for him, we shall rejoice and be joyful in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:8-9).

The responsorial psalm, like the first reading from Isaiah, radiates full of hope and joy:

He has set me in a place of pasture. He has brought me up, on the water of refreshment:

He has converted my soul. He has led me on the paths of justice, for his own name's sake.

For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evils, for you are with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they have comforted me.

You have prepared a table before me against them that afflict me. You have anointed my head with oil.

And your mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And that I may dwell in the house of the Lord unto length of days (Psalm 23:2-6).

"For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evils, for you are with me" – this is the foundation for our hope that God will guide our history and destiny and bring good out of every difficult situation. "Do not fear" is a constant theme in the Bible. As we are living in the season of Advent, we do not fear because Immanuel, God-with-us is ever present in our human history, to save us.

The Gospel passage that we have heard today presents three elements: the habit of Jesus to withdraw to the mountain to be united with his Father, his mission of healing people of all infirmities and his compassion for the hungry people, leading to the miracle of the multiplication of the seven loaves and the fishes. These are the three elements that can illumine and guide our lives too during this pandemic: prayer, healing and concrete acts of mercy.

Going up the mountain and coming down the mountain have been two fundamental movements in the life and mission of Jesus. Jesus went up the mountain at the most significant moments of his life to be united and to be strengthened by the presence of his Father. Likewise, we are all called to go up the mountain as frequently as possible to contemplate the infinite love and mercy of God. Without prayer and contemplation, we will be lost. We will never find the inner resource to carry our daily cross. Therefore, the question is: are we men and women of prayer or are we all only busy persons filled with the daily worries of life? The second movement is that of coming down the mountain to respond to the cries of the people, filled with a spirit of compassion. This is also the true meaning of Christmas – the Son of God, becoming one of us, to take up our infirmities and give us the fullness of life of God.

The Gospel passage says: "And there came to him great multitudes, having with them the dumb, the blind, the lame, the maimed, and many others: and they cast them down at his feet, and he healed them. So that the multitudes marvelled seeing the dumb speak, the lame walk, and the blind see: and they glorified the God of Israel. And Jesus called together his disciples, and said: I have compassion on the multitudes, because they continue with me now three days, and have not what to eat, and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way". We too need compassion

for the suffering people today: for the elderly persons who die alone, the families left behind without a father or mother, the medical doctors and nurses working day and night to save lives, the children having nothing to eat because their parents lost the work. We need members in our Religious Communities with the spirit of compassion to recognise that there are people going to bed hungry while we have food; we need priests who can respond to the spiritual and psychological hunger of persons and be willing to risk their own lives for the flock.

Brothers and Sisters, this time of pandemic is a great opportunity for a spiritual conversion. Following the example also of our Founder, St. Vincent, it is a call to us to become more prayer-centred, contemplative and mystic persons. It is also the moment to become compassionate persons who will not live a self-centred life but will try to become food for the hungry, water for the thirsty and health for the sick. This was the mission of Jesus, this was the mission of St. Vincent Pallotti. To become all things to all persons, following Jesus, the apostle of the Father.

As members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, this is the spiritual and apostolic heritage that we have inherited from our Founder. The life of the Union must be marked by the Christian virtues contained in today's readings: the spirit of prayer, unfailing hope rooted in the profound faith in God, and the creativity of the Holy Spirit leading to universal fraternal solidarity with the poorest of the poor. The Union of Catholic Apostolate is not just a theological or juridical concept: it is Gospel lived in the day to day life of every one of us; it is the love of Christ in action.

We conclude with this prayer of Pope Francis to Mary for protection from Coronavirus:

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,  
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.

Fr. Jacob Nampudakam SAC  
Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Union  
2 December 2020

## Scottish Shortbread – Margaret Coyle

1 cup butter  
½ C icing sugar  
2 cups all-purpose flour



Combine flour and sugar. Cut in the butter till mixture is mealy. (can be done In a food processor – just be careful not to overdo. Pour into a bowl.) Mix with hands until a lump is formed. Press into an ungreased pan. Prick all over with a fork through to the bottom of the dough. Bake at 300 F – approximately 20 mins until golden in color. Remove from oven and **immediately** cut into squares.

\*\* This recipe was passed down from Margaret’s grandpa to her mom, and then on to Margaret. \*\* ENJOY!!

### **Book Review**

**Jesus, a Pilgrimage** was written by James Martin, SJ.

In a very easy to read manner he tells of his pilgrimage throughout the Holy Land, visiting many of the places Jesus lived and worked in. He gives his impressions of the locale, reflections on how they affect him and how they are today. Though I have not been to Israel, this book gave me a great feel for the country and helped me to visualize many of the places in the Gospels, as well as “seeing” Jesus in a very practical way.

Fr. Martin has written other books that give us more food for thought and other insights into the life of the Catholic person. Two further books are: **Between Heaven and Mirth** (in which he looks at various Bible stories to show that there is joy, laughter and humour in Scripture and should be in our lives too) and **My Life with the Saints** (in which he explains how the saints have helped guide him throughout his life; saints from long ago as well as more modern ones).

Submitted by: Maria Domke



Please pray for the following:

- Kevin Coyle - the son of Bill Coyle and Margaret's brother

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

**Looking forward to the end of Covid 19 so that we can begin to fill this box with many opportunities to gather once again!**

### ***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

Quotes

Poems

Reflections

New members or groups

Articles

Recipes

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.

***In Via*** is published by the Canadian National Coordination Council.

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