

## VI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Proceedings of the fourth day.

Sr Venicia, the moderator, welcomed the participants and introduced the work for the day which consists in the continuation of voting to elect the members of the GCC. She also greeted the members of the Pallottine family in Ireland on this the feast day of their Patron, Saint Patrick.

Donatella Acerbi, President, declared the Assembly in session and invited Fr Derry to lead the opening prayer which was the Breastplate of St Patrick.

Following the time of prayer, a roll-call of the members who were participating on-line was made.

The ten elected members of the General Coordination Council were elected in the following order:

1. Fr Gilberto Orsolin, SAC, Brazil;
2. Fr Rory Hanly, SAC, Ireland;
3. Sr Liberata Niyongira, SAC, Rwanda-Congo;
4. Mr Michal Grezca, Poland;
5. Sr Helena Pimento, CSAC, Brazil;
6. Ms Gabriella Acerbi, Italy;
7. Mrs Linda Barikmo, USA;
8. Mr Dominic Cherukara, India;
9. Mr Mark Brolly, Australia;
10. Fr Florent Eloundou, SAC, Cameroon.

### SUBSTITUTES

1. Ms. Brigitte Proksch, Austria;
2. Mr. Marek Kalka, Poland;
3. Ms. Rosita Cipolla, Italy.

The first part of the day's session concluded and Fr Roque thanked Michal for his work and skill in preparing all the technical instruments which made voting on-line possible.

The session ended with prayer and the President formally closed the session.

### **The evening session began at 17,00.**

Sr Venicia, moderator, introduced the session and the topic which Fr Derry was to present.

Fr Derry spoke of the development of our Pallottine family, and it was as if he had taken us by the hand and brought us revisit not only our past history, but led us into the memory of the heart, touching the many significant steps which were taken and the journey which was made together.

Furthermore, our speaker considered that he had been privileged in following the evolution of our Union. It was thanks to this role that he was able to draw from the fount of the writings of Pallotti; deepening his spiritual and apostolic knowledge of the Founder and of his dream for the Union. In addition to the writings of Pallotti he also had the opportunity to read and study other texts on the history and spirituality of the Union, such as the writings of the late Fr Francesco Todisco, and “The Charism of St Vincent Pallotti, Origin, Development and Identity”; he also acknowledged that access to the ACTA SAC was an important source for his research in preparing this paper.

Father Derry wanted to point out that in the Union of the Catholic Apostolate from its origins (1820-1846) the path taken was one taken together with others. In fact, when in 1854 the title of Catholic Apostolate was removed from the foundation and it was called the Pious Union of the Catholic Apostolate, there were many lay people who together with the few priests promoted various apostolic activities responding to all the needs of their time.

In 1844 Vincent Pallotti also managed to think of the Italian migrants who were arriving in London and he sent some of his companion priests to open a community and the church for Italians who did not speak English.

Regarding the development of the Pallottine family, the role that the Church played with the Second Vatican Council was very relevant. The Church invited all Institutes of Consecrated Life to return to the origins of their founders and this resulted in the Twelfth Extraordinary General Chapter of the Society in 1969.

In this context the Pallottine family began to take some steps together as they understood their history and what had been lived without a common “identity”. In this regard there were meetings, congresses and gatherings, general assemblies and chapters, and in and through all of this we came to regain possession of our common charismatic identity.

The various Jubilee events also had a positive influence in ensuring that steps were taken in walking together as a Pallottine family. Thanks to these shared paths, many other Pallottine realities linked to Pallotti's spirituality also felt the need to have a statute as an instrument of common spirituality.

The various stages of the process which led to the definitively approved General Statutes were outlined; research, studies, meetings and gatherings, at both national and international levels, which all came to fruition when the Church recognized the Union of Catholic Apostolate as an International Public Association of the Faithful.

This path, which was taken together in unity, bore fruit through the definitively approved General Statutes. The goal has been reached, however this should not stop us, rather we continue to work together in order that our Union have a resplendent “face” and Pallotti's prophetic dream be realized everywhere.

To succeed in making this dream a reality, it is necessary to enrich ourselves spiritually by assiduously being present in the Upper Room in order to grow in Apostolic passion for the Kingdom of God.