



UAC NEWSLETTER

N° 0 July 2001

Dear Friends,

With this issue the *UAC NEWSLETTER (of the Union of Catholic Apostolate)* begins its official journey, as an agile instrument of information, with the scope to be the natural organ of contact between the Secretariat and all the members belonging to the Union of the Catholic Apostolate in the world. **To fulfil such a demanding task, a reciprocal collaboration is required by which we can set up a net-work of useful contacts, which will enable us to know the reality of the UAC in your country.**

For a wide-spread diffusion of this Newsletter, it would be appropriate to activate its circulation at the local level in a way that is simple and immediate.

The one who is writing to you is Patrizia Modica, called to collaborate in this office, with the task of coordinating the activities of the Secretariat of UAC. I am graduated in foreign languages and literature and one of my most significant professional experiences has been the participation at the preparation for the Great Jubilee Year 2000, in the ambit of the *Communication and Documentation Office* of the Central Committee of the Great Jubilee.

Today I am happy to be part of the great Pallottine family and I thank you for believing that my experience could be useful to the development and growth of this Secretariat. For this, I request the collaboration of all of you, by sending to me, through **e-mail, fax or post**, all the useful news related to the activities in the world of UAC in your country, and thus we will be able to respond to the demand for a wider communion between us, which will, in turn, favour the knowledge of the diverse activities undertaken, and the coordination of the same for a more effective apostolic action.

This Number Zero of the Newsletter will be translated to English language only, but from the next issue onwards we are certain of preparing the translation into other languages as well.



The General Council of Coordination continues to meet regularly. The most recent gathering of Saturday, 2 June, 2001, in the SAC Generalate in Rome, took place on the feast of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, Patroness of the Union. All the members of the General Council of Coordination assembled around the altar of our dear Founder for a solemn Eucharistic celebration and to implore the graces and blessings on the entire Family of UAC.

The morning session was dedicated to the presentation of the definitive draft of the *Juridical Motivation* by Fr. Hubert Socha. He went through the document rapidly, distinguishing the parts that have remained unchanged and the parts that could be modified, availing himself of the suggestions of other experts in this field, in the context of UAC.

In the month of September 2001, this important and precious Document will be presented once again to the *Pontifical Council for the Laity* (PCL) with the intention of procuring a convincing response to the letter of 4.09.1999, and to continue the open dialogue that is in progress since two years. As regards the documentation of the elements belonging to the very identity of UAC is concerned, we want to demonstrate that it is exactly the PCL that is the competent Office to give the approval to the General Statutes of the Union.

Having finished the discussion on the Motivation, the Commission that was given the responsibility to draw up the *Guidelines for the Formation* presented the second draft of their work, which was very much appreciated for its formulation and articulation. As soon as the preparatory phase is concluded, this document will be sent to all the National Coordination Councils.

- The General Coordination Council was pleased to approve the Statute of the National Coordination Council of Switzerland *ad experimentum*.

- The National Coordination Council in *Randa/Congo* was recently constituted.

- Another point discussed in the meeting was the *General Congress* of the UAC (cfr. *General Statutes of the UAC*, n. 67), which was already given a thought in the previous meeting. In the present sitting, the theme, the place and the time were deliberated upon. We will be soon giving you information on these details.
- St. Vincent Pallotti, with his immense sense of universality, is known also in Nigeria where the diocesan magazine “Agape” has been publishing interesting articles on Pallotti.
- The meeting came to a conclusion with another intervention by Fr. H.Socha regarding his interesting work on the Pallottine *Procure*. In this text he exposes the fundamental reason for the Catholic Apostolate and the identity of the *Procure* in the original idea of St. Vincent Pallotti. Certainly it will make a valid contribution towards the promotion of the spirit of the universal apostolate and in the understanding of the analogy between the *Procure* and the actual Councils of Coordination. Whoever is interested in having a copy of it can have it eventually in Italian or German, as soon as the document is ready.
- Mother General Ivete Garlet, while greeting all those present in the meeting, also asked for a special prayer for the next General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, which will commence from 15 July to 15 August, 2001, at Porta Maggiore, Rome.

Historical Excursus of the Document of the Juridical Motivation

8 March 1999: The General Statutes of the UAC is submitted to the PCL with the request for approval.

4 September 1999: In the letter of response, the Secretary of the PCL, His Excellency Mons. Stanisław Ryłko, presents the reasons why, from the study of the General Statutes of the UAC, the PCL does not seem to be the competent authority to approve it.

15 October 1999: Fr. General, Séamus Freeman, meets with the Secretary of Pontifical Council for the Laity, who has manifested great openness towards us, demonstrating his disposition to continue the dialogue between the UAC and the Holy See. The central point of discussion has been to understand whether the approval of the General Statutes is within the competence of the Pontifical Council for the Laity or of another Office. Besides he suggested to refer to the Apostolic Constitution “*Pastor Bonus*” (1988) in which it is possible to find the criteria related to such a *competence*. At the end of the meeting Mons. Ryłko suggested to have a Juridical Motivation prepared by one or more experts in Canon Law, to motivate and justify our request forwarded to the PCL.

28 December 1999: The General Coordination Council, responding to the invitation of the Holy See, initiates a double procedure:

1. Requests Fr. Hubert Socha to elaborate a Juridical Motivation which justifies *ex natura* the decision to seek approval of the General Statutes from the PCL;
2. Intends to sustain and foster the initiatives that favour the continual development of the UAC, such as: the constitution of the Centres of Coordination and putting into vigour the General Statutes of the UAC *ad experimentum*, except the articles 8, 11, 64, 68-71, the articles which require specific approval from the Holy See.

Regarding the first point, on **3 June 2000**, in the meeting of the General Coordination Council, Fr. H.Socha presents the first draft of the Document. In that draft are underlined the important arguments that sustain the Juridical Motivation.

The text of the Juridical Motivation is made an object of study and of great attention by the General Coordination Council in all the meetings from 1999 till today.

9 December 2000: The Council decides to subject the Motivation to the experts in Canon Law, both within the UAC and outside, in order to gather opinions and suggestions.

In the meeting of **24 March 2001**, the comments of the experts are considered, and further continues to examine the Juridical Motivation in order to effect the necessary amendments.

In the meeting of **2 June 2001**, the General Coordination Council decides anew to present the Juridical Motivation to the PCL.

Prayer to St. Vincent Pallotti

O St. Vincent Pallotti, called by God, you have founded the Union of the Catholic Apostolate and you have given to it as rule and model the same life of Jesus Christ.

Firmly confident of your protection, we ask you to bless our works and to instil your spirit in all the baptised, so that they may dedicate their life totally to the apostolate. Give us the power to witness with our life as true sons and daughters of Mary, Queen of the Apostles and the Patroness of the Union.