



UAC NEWSLETTER

No. 3 – October 2002

UAC General Secretariat
Piazza S.V. Pallotti, 204 – 00186 Roma
Tel./Fax: 06 68194623
E-mail: ccguac@libero.it

Dear Friends,

We would like first of all to praise the Father for all the good that has been accomplished throughout the world by persons imbued with the Pallottine charism.

As the General Secretariat we would like to express our sense of communion with you, especially as we prepare for the 2003 General Congress. It is our hope that this event will prove to be a new Pentecost for the entire Union in which each participant is called to share their experience and to be open to receive the gift of the spirit because “now is the time for a new *creativity* in charity.” (NMI 50)

As we are still in the early stages of understanding and structuring ourselves as the Union, it is our intention that the *UAC Newsletter* should serve as a means of communion and collaboration so that every community, group and individual would have the opportunity to tell how they are living out the charism. Such a sharing — even if in few words about small accomplishments — may prove to be a stimulus for others. In our day — when communication is so rapid — it is truly an act of love to take the time to let others know the commitments we make for the good of others. Our Founder reminds us: “*the good one does alone is usually insufficient, uncertain and of limited duration and even the best efforts of individuals are not successful ... if not united and directed toward a common goal.*” (OO. CC. IV, p. 122).

May Mary, Queen of Apostles, be with us and may every place in which we find ourselves be a cenacle of prayer and communion; may the Spirit prod us to revive faith and enkindle charity.

General Secretariat of UAC

UAC General Congress: an experience of the Cenacle

About a year ago, the General Coordination Council began to give life to the idea that emerged shortly after the Bicentennial celebration of the birth of St. Vincent Pallotti: **a General Congress of the Union, an historic first, foreseen and anticipated in the General Statues of UAC**

Those who participate in person will be gifted with a lived experience of the Cenacle, the place of prayer and the school of formation, the model of our journey in dynamic fidelity as lived by the Apostles in all its stages: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, the morning of the Resurrection, Pentecost and the announcement of the Good News. In such an atmosphere all will have an opportunity to see how the Infinite Love and Mercy of God, so radically lived by the Founder, can express itself in the richness and variety of cultures and in the universality of our charism throughout the world.

Even if it is not possible for all of us to be present, we will feel united in a genuine sense of communion; we will be able accompany the participants with our prayer and our interest in achieving its goal; most of all we too will feel our selves committed, in whatever place we live or work, to find a creative and particularly “Pallottine” way to respond to the needs of our time with love.

News from Rome

General Coordination Council

➤ **Meeting of June 8, 2002**

The Council took up the questions of the Local Coordination Councils and the Act of Commitment for Effective Members (cf. Gen St 32). It was agreed that more information on the nature of Local Councils, which are the heart of the Union, should be provided to National Coordination Councils before any Guide Lines for their structure. Drafts of a proposed Act of Commitment in light of the Founder's original concept were presented for discussion. There was a call for more contemporary wording and sensitivity to lay spirituality. Work will continue on these two items.

The main topic of the day was the General Congress of 2003. Topics included communication from the Organizing Committee in Poland, approval of the logo, possible speakers and preliminary discussion of financial matters. Attention was given to ways of involving the entire Union.

➤ **Convocation of General Congress**

With letters to the presidents of 17 National Coordination Councils worldwide and to all the major superiors of the Pallottine Family, on July 25th, with great joy Fr. Séamus Freeman as President of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate, officially convoked the first General Congress of UAC in accord with Article 67 of the General Statutes. It is to be celebrated in Poland from the 14th to the 21st of September 2003. The theme of the Congress, taken from the Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, #. 50, calls us to action and poses the question: "***How are to respond today to the Infinite Love and Mercy of God?***".

➤ **Meeting of September 14, 2002**

The agenda included: approving the contents of the Act of Commitment for Effective Members and a proposed model exemplifying their inclusion; approval of the Regulations for the National Coordination Council of Argentina and ongoing preparations for the first General Congress of the Union.. The date of the next meeting is set for December.

From the General Secretariat

➤ **Turning Text into Life: Living the General Statutes Brings Questions to Light**

It has been more than two years since the implementation of the General Statutes and the establishment of the first National Coordination Council of the UAC. Today, there are 17 active National Councils and the countries with active UAC groups that are still organizing themselves. The concept of the Union on paper is being given new life and the experience of creating new structures has made it clear that there are still aspects of our life together that need clarification.

The General Secretariat invites everyone, Presidents of National and Local Councils, communities and groups, as well as individual members to participate in the process of gathering the questions that are surfacing so that we can bring together the resources to address them.

Kindly address questions and comments to the General Secretariat by e-mail, fax or regular mail.

➤ **The UAC Newsletter and News from the National Coordination Councils**

We are hoping to produce three newsletters each year. The next issue is scheduled for the beginning of February. We would like to include brief new items from the various countries (National Congresses and Assemblies, formation programs, new initiatives, etc.) as well as highlight some particular activity in greater depth as we did in this issue.

The deadline for receiving such items is January 15, 2003. We are asking all National Secretaries and interested parties to mark this date on their calendars. Your cooperation is essential in this sharing of the life of the Union; it is also very much appreciated.

The UAC in action:

➤ **Pallottine Youth in Action**

It is with great joy that we want to share with all the members of UAC the rich experience being had in Brazil in the area of formation and animation with Pallottine youth.

One significant event has been the three-week **Course in Pallottine Formation and Experience** for the youth of Latin America which is offered every January. The course takes place at the South American Institute for Pallottine Studies at Santa Maria..

In January of this year 36 youths from Argentina, Paraguay and various parts of Brazil attended. What was important about this experience is evident in the testimony of the participants:

- “The secret is living here as one family, treating each moment of life as unique.” (Giane).
- “The style of life lived here created a great richness, it is a marvelous experience of community life.” (Maria Amalia).
- “I think that the most important thing of all is the sincere love which everyone demonstrated in creating the rapport of a real family.” (Edilaine).
- “This experience has made me passionate for St. Vincent Pallotti and his work.. If he imitated Jesus Christ and lived a rich spirituality, I want to have the ability to imitate him.”(Daniela).
- “Drinking, by means of the charism of St. Vincent Pallotti, from the living water which is Jesus Christ helped me to strengthen my “yes.” I want to be more and more an instrument in the hands of God.” (Claudecira).
- “Here I came to recognize my spirituality in less than a week.; this might not have happened for many years if I had not had this beautiful experience.” (João Alberto).
- Even if we have to give up our vacation, spending time with family and some comforts, it was worth it because it was an excellent course in which we learned to pray, to play, to know ourselves, to feel ourselves close to God, , to deepen our knowledge of Jesus and Mary and St. Vincent Pallotti.. Becoming aware that they were persons like us, who had to face the difficulties of life, but lived with faith, joy and hope, we realized that it is in this that we must imitate them.” (Susana).
- “I feel a great desire within me to pass on to other youth what I learned in this course; I want to work in my parish community with more love and enthusiasm, helping young people to understand that everyone can be an apostle of Jesus Christ whether in teaching religion or other parish work or in the place we live.. It is fundamental to live as an apostle of Jesus Christ.” (Edilaine).

May the Lord continue to bless and enlighten these directors and teachers. We ask Mary, Queen of Apostles, and St. Vincent Pallotti to intercede with God for their perseverance in this mission which is of such great help to so many young people who are trying to make sense out of their lives..

➤ **National Congress of Pallottine Youth**

The Pallottine youth of Brazil are increasing and beginning to organize themselves to the point that about 120 of them participated in their second Congress celebrated in Londrina, Paraná, July 27-29.

The theme of the Congress was: **Pallottine Youth – Discovery, Integration and Collaboration** and their slogan was: **“The Dream of a Church Alive”**. The objective of the Congress was to deepen the understanding of the themes of the first Congress of 2001 (Identity, Mysticism and Mission) and to give space for collaboration and integration among the youth who came from diverse Pallottine communities.

The work developed in three movements: “**Pallotti and the challenge of his times**”; “**Our challenge today**” and “**The Dream of a Church Alive**”. Looking squarely at reality, the young people were conscious that even today there are many situations which call for the work of evangelization, cor collaboration to revive faith and rekindle charity.

➤ **The Elisabeth Sanna Association for single women and widows**

This association was founded in April of 1993 in Santa Maria, Brazil. Its members are single women and widows. To be members with full rights and responsibilities they heed to participate in a Cenacle to nurture their experience of God and to commit themselves to apostolic work. There are also those who collaborate with temporal goods and voluntary services for the construction of a headquarters for the association. The animator of the association is a Pallottine Sister, Edina Meneghetti.

Some testimonials from the participants:

- “The Elisabeth Sanna Association is a gift of God, it helps cultivate and simple but profound spirituality.” (Elena Righi e Osvaldo Milits).
- “This association helped me to know Elisabeth Sanna, to learn from her to promote her example of mother, widow and consecrated lay woman.” (Maria Beltrame).
- “The beautiful interior of Elisabeth Sanna, the result of her prayer and her giving of herself to others, her joy in forgetting her physical deficiencies. Knowing and reading her story gave me strength to pray better, to accept difficulties with love and to give myself to others.” (Ana Teixeira and Leonir Degregori).

The spiritual director of this group is a Pallottine priest, Fr. Julio Dalla Valle, who, at the beginning of his priestly life was involved in an automobile accident that left him in a wheel chair. He developed this apostolic project with much joy and dedication. The group is quite content with his ability to listen and his way of celebrating the Eucharist.

Other News:

- Patrizia Modica, Secretary for the General Secretariat had a baby boy, Andrea Pio, born on June 16, 2002, the day of Padre Pio’s canonization. Every best wish for her and her family.
- From July 10th to 25th, the **South American Institute for Pallottine Studies (ISEP)** held its second Pallottine Studies Seminar coordinated by Sr. Nilda Roggia and Fr. Ângelo Lôndero.
- From July 13th to 21st, the Gathering for Pallottine Formation and Experience was held at Curitiba, Brazil with priests, brothers, sisters seminarians and laity attending.. From the 26th to 28th the Congress of Pallottine Youth was held with a significant number of youth from many Pallottine communities in Brazil. A Week of the Catholic Apostolate was held in the parishes in the area of Londrina and the Bishop Emierituis of Umuarama, José Maria Maimone, participated.
- Pallottine laity in Nigeria have begun publishing an English-language magazine called “*Pallottines*” to promote the charism and apostolate of Saint Vincent Pallotti.

A Reflection from St. Vincent:

“Wherever I shall be, I intend to imagine myself and try to renew often this thought, I and all creatures, in the Cenacle of Jerusalem where the Apostles received the Holy Spirit and as the Apostles were there together Mary Most Holy, so I intend to imagine myself with my most beloved Mother Mary... and Jesus. I hold it for certain that my very own Advocates will bring down upon me and on others the abundance of the Holy Spirit. (OO. CC. X, 86).