



UAC NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

During Lent we have been called on to prepare for the high point of the Church year, the Triduum and Easter, the commemoration of our Lord's death and resurrection. St. Vincent Pallotti was deeply moved by the fact that God gave us his Son to redeem us from our sins. *"God with infinite love and mercy created us in His image and likeness in order that we might become like Him in glory for all eternity. In fact, as soon as God saw Adam sinning, moved by His infinite love and mercy, He called the disobedient Adam and with compassion admonished him. And, as if enamoured of man who is so ungrateful and miserable, so quick to forsake and offend God, so quick to plot his own ruin, God promises him a Saviour. And for the Saviour God offers His own divine Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.... Thus Jesus Christ, true God and true man, in His soul, body and divinity is ours, completely ours. The whole life of Jesus, all His infinite merits, and all His most perfect virtues are ours."* (God, the Infinite Love XXII).

Because of his great devotion to the passion of our Lord who in his infinite love suffered and died for us, our holy founder meditated often before the crucifix. Through his own experience, Vincent knew that being united with Jesus in his passion and death leads us to share in the joy of his resurrection: *"Our eternal, infinite, immense, incomprehensible inheritance is God, all that is God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and all his infinite attributes: infinite goodness, infinite purity, infinite power, infinite knowledge, infinite mercy, justice in essence and all his infinite perfections. Therefore we are to share our eternal inheritance with our Divine Redeemer, Jesus Christ, making manifest the glory of this same God for all eternity."* (God, the Infinite Love XXIV).

May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice prepare us to rejoice in our Risen Savior and may this Easter be a time to deepen our awareness of God's infinite love and mercy in our own lives. This in turn will urge us to show mercy and love to our neighbour. The works of the entire Union for justice and peace in the world will be the fruit of our faith in the Risen Christ.

General Secretariat of UAC

UAC General Congress 2005

In the face of unanticipated difficulties and for the sake of having greater and more representative participation, the General Coordination Council has decided to postpone the General Congress scheduled for 2003 until 2005. The Congress will be held in Poland and the theme, "Now is the time for a new *creativity* in charity" remains unchanged.

It is the hope of the Council that this additional time will allow National Coordination Councils to prepare both spiritually and financially for the rescheduled Congress to the benefit of all participants and the Union as a whole.

News from Rome

GENERAL COORDINATION COUNCIL

These past few months have marked a significant passage in the growth of the Union. In its recent meetings the General Coordination Council has had to take stock of the current situation of the Union while making the difficult decision to postpone the first General Congress. The growth of the National Coordination Councils and their need to solidify their own growth signal a phase in the Union's development. How to address this new phase at the international level has been the focus of the last two meetings of the GCC.

➤ **Meeting of December 14, 2002**

At this meeting the Council took up the difficult question of whether or not to postpone the General Congress. Central to its discussion was the input received from the Presidents of the National Coordination Councils who were consulted at the end of November. Careful note was taken of the opinions of the thirteen Presidents who had responded by the time of the meeting. Ten of these favored postponing the meeting, 1 preferred 2003 and two gave their views without taking a particular position. All gave reasons for the positions they had taken.

After an extensive period of discussion and prayer, the Council unanimously chose to postpone the General Congress until 2005. The principal reasons for this decision were:

- 1) many NCC's had only recently been formed and were still in the process of organizing themselves and needed more time to prepare for the Congress both financially and spiritually,
- 2) the difficulties encountered in preparing the Congress highlighted the need to strengthen the General Secretariat so that it could more effectively carry out not only the work involved in planning the Congress but its broader responsibilities as well, and
- 3) there was need for more time to allow for better financial planning at the General and National Levels so that poorer nations could be supported and broader representation at the Congress would be possible. In addition, it was noted, the postponement will allow for better promotion of the Congress both at the General and National levels as well as more time for the preparation of participants. This will facilitate the exchange of experiences which is so central to the very purpose of the Congress.

Now it is important for the GCC to learn from this experience. It is clear that there is a need to strengthen the lines of communication with the National Councils and therefore to strengthen the General Secretariat. The Council decided to meet for two days in February and join to the already scheduled day of prayer and reflection a meeting to address issues surfaced at the December meeting.

After the discussion of the Congress, the GCC took up two additional matters. In accord with General Statutes # 32, the Council approved the contents of the Act of Commitment for individual effective members. A more detailed explanation of Local Coordination Councils prepared by Fr. Hubert Socha, SAC together with guidelines for their establishment were likewise approved. These materials will be made available to NCC's later this year

➤ **Meeting of February 14-15, 2003**

In a climate of discernment and prayer, the General Coordination Council and the General Secretariat met in Grottaferrata at the St. Vincent Pallotti Spirituality Center to look at the growth and development of the Union, to reflect on its present state, on the organization of the General Council and Secretariat and to consider new initiatives for the future

Together they prayed, meditated and shared some points surfaced that are important for the life of the Union. The meeting was organized into three periods each with its own theme:

- An historical "memory" of the Union from the time of the Founder to today.
- The mission of the General Coordination Council and the General Secretariat.
- The role of the General Congress and the General Assembly of the UAC.

Each of these moments began with communal prayer based on the theme followed by a time for personal reflection before the participants gathered in small groups to share their reflections. The first moment drew on the fact that often Jesus retired to be alone with his Father and invited the disciples to come away and rest awhile (MK. 6:30-32); and that the Founder also was accustomed to do the same, retiring to Camaldoli to rest and to enter his spiritual exercises more fully (OCC, X, 252).

To historical “memory” of the UAC, which grounded the work of the meeting in a renewed sense of God’s presence in our history, began with a reading of a passage: on the inspiration for the institution of the Catholic Apostolate on January 9, 1835 (OCC. X, 297 ff.). For, Fr Séamus. Freeman noted that the life of Pallotti is of fundamental importance for the Union. In fact, he wasn’t a sinner who had a conversion experience but had been a saint since his early childhood and had cultivated a continuous attitude of seeking only the glory of God. By 1835 Pallotti, a man full of the Holy Spirit, was well prepared to institute the Union.. The mysticism of Pallotti is something that has still to be fully understood by those of us who are called to give life to the charism of his foundation. Fr. Freeman also underscored the work of Fr. Wilhelm Möhler, Fr. Nicholas Gorman and Fr. Ludwig Münz in the years after the II Vatican Council to clarify and to deepen our understanding of the Union’s charism. He recalled has been organized the first meeting of the three General Superiors (SAC, CSAC and SMAC) in 1978 and in 1979 that of the three General Councils during which the *Preamble* was studied and adopted by all. He then reminded the participants of the celebration of the 150 years of the UAC’s Foundation in 1985.

Donatella Acerbi, member of the General Secretariat as well as of the Community “Quinta Dimensione”, continued the “memory” recalling the foundation of the International Council during the meeting of the three General Councils held in Nemi in 1986 and the constitution of Commission ‘86 which developed the Manual of Formation “*Called for Name*”, published three years later. Donatella then recounted the events of 1995 and the Bicentennial of the birth of St. Vincent Pallotti which including an International Congress In that same year work on a draft of the General Statutes was begun and in 1999 the statutes were promulgated “ad experimentum.” During the Great Jubilee of 2000, the 150th anniversary of the death of St. Vincent was celebrated, the present General Coordination Council was constituted and the first Regulations for National Coordination Councils were approved according to the new General Statutes. At present work is continuing on preparations for the General Congress in 2005 in Poland. Following reflections on our history, the day ended with a penitential service and a ritual of thanksgiving.

The second day began with prayer before an icon of the Cenacle as an aid to living the day in full harmony with the spirit of St. Vincent who *desired to be always in the Cenacle with Mary, the apostles and all creatures to receive the fullness of the Spirit* (OCC, X, 86). The day’s reflections concerned the mission, organization and tasks of both the General Coordination Council and the General Secretariat.

During the concluding plenary session it was noted that in this historical moment the life of the entire Union is an a period of considerable growth. Therefore the availability of persons working fulltime in the GCC and General Secretariat was seen as essential . At the same time the need to give greater attention to the formation of members of National Coordination Councils became evident as well as the need to improve the structures at the general level including those relating to finance.

The priorities for the present that emerged are: 1) the resumption of preparations for the 2005 General Congress, and 2) clarifying the role and reorganizing the General Secretariat with particular emphasis on maintaining on-going relationships with the NCC’s to support formation and communication among them. In addition, the Secretariat was given the task of developing concrete proposals to be presented at the next meeting of the GCC.

The meeting was a rich experience for all those present as it offered them the opportunity to be together, to reflect, to pray and to share the experience that “*Now is the time for a new creativity in Charity*” (NMI n. 50), that we might find the right path of renewal for our commitment to the Church in service of the Kingdom of God in the world.

UAC In Action

FROM THE LCC OF SAN SALVATORE IN ONDA, ROME - SOMETHING SPECIAL

On the evening of January, 21, 2003 at about 9.00 pm the *Transito* of St. Vincent was celebrated in the Church of San Salvatore in Onda, spiritual center of the UAC. This special moment has become a custom on the day before the feast of St Vincent Pallotti. The initiative was taken by Fr. Franco Todisco, Vicar General, during the Jubilee Year. He had had the opportunity of participating in the ritual of a *Transito* with the Franciscan Friars who have a long-standing tradition of celebrating the last hours of St. Francis. He thought that the Pallottine could also celebrate St. Vincent in the same fashion. He asked Fr. Francesco Amoroso, famed biographer of the Founder, to prepare a suitable text and he himself wrote an introduction. So for the past three years, the Pallottines have been remembering and celebrating the *Transito* of St. Vincent.

This year Fr. Todisco invited us to enter into this moment of prayerful reflection with these opening words, “On January 22nd one hundred and fifty three years ago, it was a Tuesday, at about 9:45 in the evening St. Vincent Pallotti died peacefully in this holy retreat of San Salvatore in Onda.” There followed then a series of readings recounting the last days of St. Vincent. They were proclaimed alternately Dr. Corrado Montaldo and Dr. Marina Monacchi, members of the *Quinta Dimensione* Community. The readings were paused at intervals. while a choir sang Latin hymns by Mozart, Bartolucci and others of the founder’s period. Silence followed. It was just 9:45 when the reader came to the part when the Founder returned to the Father’s house. The readings continued with the events following his death. Elizabeth Sanna was very much a part of these days as were others whose names we have heard over the years. We heard of his premonitions of death, of his wanting to celebrate the feast of the marriage of Mary and Joseph, then celebrated on January 23rd, in their presence. We heard of his illness and his obedience to the doctors; his concern for his penitents even from his sick bed, his desire to do only God’s will and his words that the Congregation would be blessed. All this in the quiet of a darkened church that is his resting place.

FROM THE UNITED STATES

- On April 4-5, 2003 the Second Annual USNCC meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. The focus will be on the development of new and creative means for obtaining even greater collaboration among all Union groups. At the meeting three other important subjects will also be discussed: *Communications, Formation and Collaboration*
- This summer the youth program “*Seeking the Unseen*” begun in June 2002 between the two high schools sponsored by the Pallottine Missionary Sisters and the Fathers and Brothers of the Immaculate Conception Province will be repeated in new venues in Baltimore. This. project reflects the balance our Founder exemplified in his own life as it seeks to promote a deep spiritual life within the context of the daily hard-core reality of the lives of the disadvantaged and marginalized.

FROM CANADA

- The CNCC will hold a National Congress in Red Deer, Alberta on June 14th. The motto, “Setting Our Faces Towards the Future” expresses the hope for continued spiritual and apostolic growth in the Union.
- On March 15, 2003, the sixth annual Study Day was held in Calgary, Alberta. Ecumenism was the focus of the program entitled “Together We are One.”

FROM BRAZIL

- In January 2003 a Pallottine the BNCC held a special formation meeting for youth. Twenty-seven young people representing the different nations of Latin America attended.

- The BNCC is preparing a National Congress of the UAC of Brazil to be held in Curitiba on June 7th-8th. The objectives of the meeting will be to integrate the different realities of the UAC in the country, to increase knowledge of the Union and the Founder; to animate the life of the different groups scattered in the territory and to prepare members to participate in the General Congress in Poland in 2005.
- With great enthusiasm the Brazilian Local Coordination Councils are beginning to organize with the support of the Superior Institute of Pallottine Studies (ISEP) which, from some years, has been particularly occupied in formation programs to introduce lay people to the Pallottine charism.

FROM GERMANY

- The German National Coordination Council (NCC) has collected articles on formation elaborated by Fr. Hubert Socha during the past years and published them in their bulletin "Informationen aus der Vereinigung." These texts will help to deepen members' knowledge of the history and spirituality of the Union and foster their apostolic activity.
- These texts the members of the Union have been able to know deeply the history and the Spirituality of the Union and to feel themselves active at the apostolic level.
- The National Secretariat has published a booklet containing information useful to the members: the life of St. Vincent Pallotti, notes on the Union and its situation today, the Preamble, the various elements of the Union, and literature on communities of the Union present today in Germany.
- The is organizing a Congress of the Union at the house of the Pallottine Fathers in Freising scheduled for April 4-6, 2003. The theme of the Congress is: "The situation of the Church in Germany and our answer as members of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate."
- The annual plenary session of the NCC will be held in Vallendar from May 16-18th. The main speaker will be the former president of the Canadian NCC, Fr. Eric Riechers, SAC. He will give an account of the Union in Canada and in North America and will speak about the formation of UAC members in Canada.

Other News:

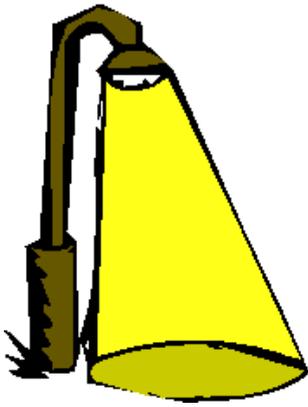
- Patrizia Modica, Secretary to the General Secretariat, has returned to the UAC office following her maternity leave.
- Fr. Jan Kupka and Serenella Morandotti of the St. Vincent Pallotti Institute have published the latest volume of "*Apostolato Universale*". Among the articles are two presentations from the Institute's 2002 Formation Program: "Vincent Pallotti and the Church of his Time" by Fr. Giacomo Martina, SJ and "Vincent Pallotti and Religious" by Fr. Fabio Ciardi, OMI.

The theme of this year's formation program is "Christology in St. Vincent Pallotti." In February Fr. Antonio Celona, SAC spoke on "Imitating the untiring zeal of Jesus for the salvation of the world" and in April, Fr. Julio Endi Akaminie, SAC will speak on "Glorifying God with humility and simplicity of heart as Jesus did."

Reflecting with Saint Vincent:

Even if I am infinitely unworthy of the lowest degree of holiness, still I have a firm trust that, through a miracle of mercy, You will deign to grant this poor soul -- at every moment of every day and night, whether standing vigil or at rest, in all my thoughts, words, works ... at every step, in every action, in every breath -- all holiness and even more and ever increasing holiness. What is more I trust that the more unworthy I feel, all the more your infinite mercy grants me holiness in an abundance without equal.

(OCCC X, 693)



In the Spotlight

THE CREATION OF THE LOCAL COORDINATION COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF SAN SALVATORE IN ONDA

On December 28, 2001 the General Coordination Council of the UAC authorized , *ad experimentum*, the formation of a Local Coordination at the Church of *San Salvatore in Onda*, spiritual center of the entire Union (General Statutes, 4).

After the necessary preparations were made, the Council held its first meeting at the Generalate of the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers on March 16, 2002. Participating were Fr. Francesco Todisco, Rector of the Church, Fr. Sergio Schaub Ballestrero who was charged with the formation of the Council and representatives of the various expression of the Union in Rome: Sr. Costantina and Sr. Rini of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate representing their Congregation, Fr. Julio Endi Akamine of the International College *Regina Apostolorum*, Sr. Jolanda of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, Fr. Mariano Pinasco of the Church of *San Silvestro in Capite*, Mrs. Rosa Colucci of the Community "*Quinta Dimensione*" and Mr. Tommaso Di Pasquale of the Parish of *San Vincenzo Pallotti* in Pietralata. Later additional members joined the Council representing the Pallottine parishes of *Regina Apostolorum* in Roma, *Regina Pacis* in Lido di Ostia, *Madonna della Neve* in Rocca Priora and the school of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, *Mater Divini Amoris* in Tuscalano..

The Council has chosen to celebrate in solemn fashion:

- the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord with the significance and value St. Vincent gave it;
- the Triduum and Feast of St. Vincent Pallotti, Founder of the Union (January 19-22) which includes the reading of the *Transito* of St. Vincent;
- the Mass of the Lord's Supper during the Easter Triduum and the Easter Vigil;
- the week preceding the Solemnity of Pentecost, celebrating the feast of Queen of Apostles, Patroness of the Union, and the Vigil of Pentecost.

This year the triduum and the preparation of the Founder's feast involved the participation of the Pallottine Fathers and Sisters and members of various groups of the Union. Each day was assigned a particular intention. On Sunday, January 19th, during the mass celebrated at the Church of *Spirito Santo dei Napoletani* in Via Giulia members of the Union renewed their apostolic commitment. Monday, January 20th was recalled and celebrated the ecclesial solidarity of St. Vincent. The theme of Tuesday, January 21st was the missionary activity of the Church. Participating were representatives of the Urban College of Propaganda Fide where for many years, St. Vincent was spiritual director. Later that evening, the ritual of the *Transito* of St. Vincent was celebrated. On January 22nd, Rev. E. Dieci, Auxiliary Bishop for the North Sedit of Rome, presided at the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Another important initiative of the Council to animate the liturgical celebrations and times of prayer in the Church of San Salvatore in Onda in which the members of the Union are invited to participate is the communal celebration of Vespers Monday evening at 6 pm. Pallottine Fathers and Sisters take turns leading the prayers. Celebration of the Eucharist follows.

Let us pray that this Spiritual Center of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate grows and become a center of prayer for the entire Union.