



UAC NEWSLETTER

N° 6 – July, 2004

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Dear Friends in the Union,

This newsletter is a little overdue, it was originally programmed for February of this year, however the letter from Fr. Freeman took precedence. The past few months have been ones of movement and change within the General Secretariate. Sr. Barbara Jakchik has returned to the United States after a period of six years in Rome, all the members of the Secretariate appreciate her commitment to the life and work in this period. We wish her God's blessing. Sr. Bernadeta Turecka, has been nominated to replace Sr. Barbara, on the GS, for the coming months, we welcome her. Patrizia Modica has decided to dedicate herself full-time to her growing family for the present, she has been the stable presence here in the Secretariate for the past few years. In the name of all the members of the Union we thank her for what she has contributed to the Union and wish her well. Sr. Grace Gabrielle O'Brien has ably held the role of Secretary General *pro tempore*. Her generosity in assuming this task is much appreciated, her organization skills have been very much in evidence in the work of the General Secretariate, she will continue to serve as a member of the General Secretariate. Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, assumed the role of General Secretary on June 14th. We wish him well.

General Secretariate of UAC

UAC General Congress 2005

As you already know the General Congress of the UAC will take place in August 2005. The venue has been confirmed; it is the Pallottine Retreat Centre at Konstancin, Poland. We are delighted that this our first general congress will take place in a Pallottine house full of the Pallottine spirit and charism.

We are currently preparing a programme of spiritual preparation for the Congress. This programme will consist of material for a novena of monthly meetings/encounters and is intended to be used by all members of the UAC as we dispose ourselves to the graces of God that will come with the Congress. It is envisaged that this programme will be followed from November of this year to July of 2005.

The theme of the Congress, "Now is the time for a new creativity in charity", is taken from the Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* num. 50, of Pope John Paul II. The programme for the Congress is being formulated and will be sent to you before the end of this year.

We ask your prayerful support for the organisation of and preparation for the Congress.

News from Rome

GENERAL COORDINATION COUNCIL

The words of Fr. Seamus Freeman in the letter he wrote to all members of the Union in March of this year continue to echo in our hearts and minds:

“If we are to make the most of these five years (the period of experimentation on the General Statutes) we need to recognize our role in the Church, the role St. Vincent gave us. We must be creative in our faithfulness, diligent in study, discerning in reflection. We must approach the work of these years with gratitude and enthusiasm. We must be generous with our hearts and with our time. We must believe we have a future full of hope, a future that is ours to form and to nourish. We are called to launch into the deep ... Ours is a time for planting, for building, for searching ...”.

The General Coordination Council outlined in that same letter the guiding principles for this time of grace for the UAC, perhaps as we continue to advance along this path we could all ask ourselves how we are following the guiding principles, they are:

Awareness
 Gratitude
 Collaboration
 Study and reflection
 Planning
 Obedience
 Perseverance.

If you would like to share any experiences or reflections on these principles with the GCC we would be glad to hear from you as this is part of our on-going discernment and planning.

- The Pontifical Council for the Laity requested that an official logo of the UAC be presented. It was decided to submit the original logo of 1837, it is known as “The Seal of the Pious Society” which forms part of the “Coat of Arms of the Pious Society” as set out by St. Vincent while he wrote the plan for the pious Society at Camaldoli in 1839. This official logo now appears on our newsletter banner. The following explanation of the seal is taken from the OOCC Vol. I pag. 10-11. “The seal is circular in shape; it represents the three persons of the Most Holy Trinity, and as if in the middle, but lower, there is an image of Mary, crowned Queen, and seated. She is holding the scepter in her right hand and her left hand is extended in the act of accepting the petitions and prayers of all in order that she may intercede for all. Sculptured on the outer part of the seal are the words: “The love of Christ impels us” which begin below the half of the circle to the left of the reader and circle upwards so as to remind all of how the love of Jesus Christ for the salvation of men must motivate us to imitate Jesus Christ in working for the salvation of all.” Translation by Louis J. Lulli, SAC. 1968.
- You will no doubt have already noticed that we have a new e-mail address, we have our own domain which is uniopal.org and the address is uac@uniopal.org
- Meeting of the General Coordination Council 19th June 2004.

The GCC met at the Generalate of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters in Rome. The main themes of the day-long meeting were: a) news, developments in the Union, queries from NCCs regarding members and the status of groups and communities within the Union. b) the setting up of a commission of experts to study and respond to issues on the Union as a Public Association of the Faithful, as they arise and are communicated to the GCC. c) Proximate preparation for the General Congress with an overview of the progress, and remote preparation for the General Assembly. d) the continuity of the membership of the GCC and a review of the tasks that are part of this period of experimentation

UAC In Action

From Switzerland.

Sr. Marietta Dietrich has written to say that on February 1st. 2004, Melanie Dahler and Lilly Sager, were admitted into the UAC in a ceremony which took place in the chapel of the Pallottine house at Gossau, with the presence and support of the Pallottine Sisters, members of the Apis community and of the SAC. Fr. Erich Schadler, the Provincial, in his homily, referred to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, known in the Eastern Church as the celebration of the Meeting or Encounter. Both Simeon and Anna met the Lord Jesus in the Temple and are models for encountering God for all people.

From the APIS community in Switzerland.

We have received a copy of the latest newsletter of the Community in which they announce a Pallottine Community Day for the members of the community and the members of the Pallottine communities on Wednesday September 1st. The day will be organized by the Pallottine Sisters.

From the NCC in Uruguay.

The secretary of the NCC, Maria del Huerto Bozzano, wrote from Florida (Uruguay) telling of the meeting of the NCC held on June 16th. It was decided that on the 21st of August the three LCCs would meet to elect the leaders of the councils. They are also involved in the preparation of the *Encuentro Pallottino Sudamericano* which will take place in July in the city of Santa Maria, Brasil, 25 members of the UAC in Uruguay will participate in the encounter.

From Brazil.

Fr. Ademar Figuera, Provincial of the Santa Maria Province, has sent notification that the XVII Encuentro Sudamericano (South American Gathering) will take place in the Pallottine retreat house in Santa Maria from July 22 – 25. The theme of the encounter is: **"HOPE" – the UAC Germinating to Give Life**. It is expected that around 240 people will participate in this event.

From the NCC in Italy.

In response to the invitation the General Secretariatee sent to all NCCs in April, the NCC in Italy sent the following

“We are pleased to send a brief synthesis of the activities and initiatives promoted by the NCC as part of the life of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, we hope it is useful for the diffusion of news within the Union and we take the opportunity to thank you for undertaking such initiatives as the newsletter.

The NCC was born with the intention of guaranteeing maximum fidelity to the charism of St. Vincent Pallotti, and was instituted in January of 1998. It is a representative body and configured or made up of the President, the Provincial Rector of the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers and another member of the SAC, the Mother Provincial of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and another sister of the Congregation, the Secretary, of lay people who are members of the LCCs which operate in various areas, and of the Quinta Dimensione community. Today it is further enriched by the presence of a representative of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters and of more lay people, however the numerical proportion remains the same, three sisters, two priests and four lay people. The NCC has met regularly, nearly every two months, in an effort to comply with the directives of the General Statute of the UAC and conscious of the tasks and the central role it has to initiate and follow through the initial activity of the UAC. It begun its activity doing research on the level of knowledge of the UAC. In order to have an idea of the reality it formulated a questionnaire entitled “We share in order to get to know one another” in May 1998, this questionnaire was sent to all the local centres. From this it emerged that the participants expressed a great need of spirituality but had an unclear, vague, notion of the UAC. Following on from this UAC Guidelines were formulated in which the vision, the objectives, the aim, the method and the means of participation in the Catholic Apostolate were

expressed. The importance of an adequate formation was stressed and guiding criteria were suggested for the new local councils. These guidelines were presented to the leadership of the groups in August 1998.

The NCC thus moved on to its principle activity and priority the drafting and elaboration of a Formation Programme. This programme was oriented to the three aspects of formation, human, apostolic and spiritual. In the programme provision was made for various formation activities such as catechesis, spontaneous sharing and Eucharistic celebrations, however particular attention was paid to the search for elements that would be a source of stimulus and support for the individual members and for the communities. This formation programme, in which thirty people are currently participating, started in February 2003 and continues to proceed satisfactorily and is distinguished by its Pallottine and Christian nature.

In fulfillment of article 51 of the General Statute of the UAC the NCC has elaborated its own Regulations which have been recognized and approved by the GCC in December 2001.

The approval of the General Statutes in 2003 has meant that the current activity of the NCC has turned again to the process and development of the formation project. Its attention is focused on its objective for the year 2003 – 2004, to attend to the life and needs of the LCCs, this has meant meetings with the leaders of the groups, sustaining and offering support, clarifying the functions and tasks of the LCCs as presented in the approved General Statute. With this commitment the NCC is making itself available to the requests while striving to discharge its own functions and to be a stimulus for the life of the LCCs which are the heart of the UAC.”

The President of the NCC has sent us a copy of the formation programme, “Proposta di un Itinerario Spirituale sui passi di San Vincenzo Pallotti.” This is a very complete and thorough text and represents many hours and days of intense dedication on the part of the authors and compilers, they are to be congratulated on the excellent work.

From Poland.

We are very pleased to have quite a lot of news from Poland for this edition, some of the news would have been published in a February edition of the newsletter but we have held it over for this one as the February number was replaced by the letter from Fr. Seamus Freeman.

On 28th of December 2003 in the Pallottine parish in Bielsko Biala, 21 people from a community of young married couples, made their act of commitment to the UAC, they were accompanied by members of the Pallottine communities and a large number of family and friends.

The NCC met on the 9th of January 2004, the topic for discussion was the tasks and proposed changes of the NCC Secretariate and the editing and production of the Queen of Apostles Bulletin.

During the Octave of the Epiphany and on the occasion of St. Vincent Pallotti’s feast day there were meetings of members of the UAC local communities held at various Pallottine communities throughout Poland. These encounters were a time of celebration and of promotion of the Pallottine charism.

On 24th January, at the Provincial house of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, a joint meeting of representatives of three Pallottine communities was held. The members of the Infinitam Cenacle community had their monthly retreat day on that occasion and a group of children of the Holy Family parish staged a short work on “How to be an apostle according to Pallotti’s thoughts”, this was a representation of the layperson’s involvement in the UAC and was much appreciated by all.

The NCC met again on 20th March and continued the discussion on the topics dealt with at the January meeting, they also discussed issues of finance, organisation of the LCCs and the preparation of statutes for the NCC.

From 12 to 14th March the V Congress of Christian Movements and Associations, organized by St. Adalbert's Forum, took place in Gniezno, the title of the Congress was "The Europe of the Spirit. Christians in the Process of European Integration." Six representatives of the UAC, two Pallottine Sisters and four lay people, participated in the Congress, they were part of an ecumenical gathering of over 500 representatives of movements, associations and new apostolic communities from both the East and the West of Europe. St. Adalbert is the patron saint of European unity and the Congress looked at present day indications of the working of the Spirit towards integration in Europe. Contemporary founders of religious movements such as Chiara Lubich, Marie-Helene Mathieu, Fr. Laurent Fabre and Andrea Riccardi addressed the Congress on the ways of the Spirit. The Congress was held under the patronage of the Primate of Poland and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Gniezno and was attended by cardinals, European politicians and representatives of the world of culture. It has been described as one of the major religious events in this part of Europe on the eve of another stage of the continent's integration with the enlargement of the European Union. A large hall in the museum housed an exhibition of charisms and apostolic endeavours, the Pallottine Missionary Sisters prepared an exhibit/display to promote the UAC.

From Australia.

Things have been very busy both in the SAC and in the UAC in Australia, the following memo arrived at the office.

"Reclaiming the dream..." SAC Assembly Sept. 28 – Oct. 3, 2003.

St. Vincent Pallotti was convinced that all the baptized are called to bring the 'Good News' of God's love. The first experience of this great vision in Australia was through the German priests and brothers who, in 1901, responded to the needs of the indigenous people in the Kimberley. True to the way of St. Vincent, they very soon gathered around them religious of other congregations and lay people to share this task..

The priests and brothers took St. Vincent's vision into the wider Australian community as they moved south and east and lay people were affirmed in seeing themselves as 'church', where they are called to use their giftedness, to build, in the words of St. Vincent, a "church without spectators". Vatican II gave new life and impetus to this evolving reality as did the 150th anniversary of St. Vincent's formation of his 'Union of Catholic Apostolate' – proclaimed, at that time by Fr. Martin Juritsch as 'a new beginning for a new time'.

In due course, Co-ordination councils, comprising lay, religious and clerical members of the Pallottine family were set up in the West and in the East to promote the vision of St. Vincent in ways appropriate to the local communities. The members of the Co-ordination councils were elated when the SAC Council invited them and other members of the Pallottine family to attend their triennial Assembly, - not as 'observers' but as participants. The theme 'Reclaiming the dream' elicited an enthusiastic response from those able to attend, from some who sent their hopes and ideas in written form, and from so many people, present in 'spirit' by prayerful support.

When all had finally assembled, it was really representative of the Pallottine family: 2 participants from the Kimberley (1600 km to the north), 7 from Tardun/Geraldton (350 km north east), 13 from the Perth area and 14 from Eastern Australia (3500 km away) and nearly half SAC members and half non SAC, UAC members.

Each day, the programme provided opportunities for praying together, for sharing our thoughts and hopes. For example, on the first day, we drew up a list (time wise) of the many ways in which collaboration with lay people had occurred to further all kinds of projects. The Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy told us how they had revisited their roots and the vision of their founders. We knew that St. Vincent had envisaged 'collaboration from the beginning', he had wanted to involve all members of the church whatever their way of life.

On the last day only, for legal reasons, members of the SAC met alone. They passed a number of motions in direct support of the 'conversations' that had taken place. For example, the establishment of Pallotti institutes in the East and in the West, the setting up of committees to make available initial and on-going formation, to explore the implications of the statutes. No doubt the Spirit was actively guiding us because the non-SAC participants, meeting at the same time, were fleshing out these same fundamental ideas.

Implementation of the combined projects has already been begun by meetings between the SAC Council and each of the Co-ordination Councils and will be given further life by another UAC gathering to take place in January 2005.

From India.

Fr. Matthew Panakal, SAC, Provincial of the Epiphany of the Lord Province, has communicated to us the latest developments of the Province some of which like the following are of interest to the members of the Union.

The Provincial Council has decided to constitute a team to translate the Opere Complete (Complete Works) of St. Vincent Pallotti into English. This is an immense task as there are thirteen volumes of St. Vincent's writings, however it will be of great benefit to allow so many of those imbued with Pallotti's spirit to read the writings in English.

Mons. Werner Hunold, RIP. Mons. Werner along with Fr. Lawrence Sheu were the first of the pioneering Pallottine missionaries who brought the Society of the Catholic Apostolate to the Indian shores. He died in April of 2004, Fr. Matthew writes: "We are highly indebted to him for his untiring missionary zeal, the rapid spread of the Society in India, the great planning and development of the Raipur Diocese, which he oversaw, and the distinctive Pallottine heritage that he bequeathed to us. Rich tributes were paid to this zealous missionary in the concelebrated requiem mass presided over by Most Rev. Ignatius Pinto, Archbishop of Bangalore. He mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Pallotti Nilaya, Bangalore." May his zealous missionary soul rest in peace.

News like this remind us of the fortuitous nature of a timely 'yes' to God and to His plans, and the immense good that can follow on from such an initial 'yes'.

The blessing and inauguration of the Theological Institute of the Pallottines in India (Prabodhana) at Mysore will be held on June 29th, 2004. With this a long cherished dream of the Pallottines in India will come true. Fr. Paul Chandrankunnel has been appointed the first Rector of the Institute. Two batches of students doing first and second year of theology will begin the new scholastic year in the newly opened theologate. We wish them God's choicest blessings in this new apostolate.

Fr. Thomas Vijay along with Sr. Agnes Peter visited Germany from January 25 to February 10, at the invitation of Missio Aachen, to conduct workshops on Small Christian Communities. They conducted workshops in the Dioceses of Mainz, Erfurt, Paderborn, Oesnabrueck and Hamburg.

Finally Fr. Matthew writes that members of the Province have been designated to work in the Archdiocese of Cape Town, South Africa, in response to an invitation from the Archbishop, and in Canada, in conjunction with the members of the Holy Trinity Province working there.

From Ireland.

The Irish Province informs us that the initial steps have been taken to establish NCCs in Ireland, England and in the delegature of Tanzania- Kenya, in East Africa, this is good news for the UAC.

We have received a letter from Tanzania, East Africa, from Fr. Tom Ryan, SAC, and Sr. Wiesława Klekotko, of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters. In their work in Siuyu, in the semi-arid region of Singida in central Tanzania, they together with a group of lay people who work in close collaboration with them, have identified a pressing need in the area. It is to establish a rehabilitation centre for children

with disabilities, at present they have identified 27 such children in the area and are currently attending to the individual needs of the children in so far as they are in a position to do so. I quote from the letter: “This project to assist the disabled children of the area is very much a creation of the local UAC, Sr. Wieslawa is a Pallottine Sister who works in the local dispensary, Fr. Tom is a Pallottine and the local parish priest, and the lay members of the Union have been involved from the beginning and are very enthusiastic about the project. They say helping the most helpless of society to somehow help themselves be more independent must surely be very much in line with the thought of St. Vincent Pallotti.” They suggest that this project could either be adopted by or assisted by other members of the UAC in developed countries. The specific needs they outline are the services of a qualified Occupation Therapist as a volunteer worker, a car or vehicle which would enable the therapist to visit the children and provide on-going support and therapy for them and their families during the times they are not resident in the centre, aid to build the rehabilitation centre and to furnish it with specialized equipment for exercises for the disabled children. At present they have the services of an occupational therapist who travels to the area several times a year, they are training lay helpers to carry on some of the work and are making do with temporary accommodation. They have also applied to aid agencies for some of the funding for this project.

If any of our readers are in a position to respond to this appeal they can contact Fr. Tom Ryan or Sr. Wieslawa at Siuyu Catholic Mission, P.O. Box 1047, Singida, Tanzania, they do not have telephone nor electronic mail facilities. You may also reach them through the Secretariat office here in Rome.

From the United States.

Stephanie Roberts the USNCC secretary has forwarded to us the latest report from the US. The NCC met for a two day meeting on April 16 – 17 this year. During the course of the meeting there were items of study such as the implications of the newly approved General Statutes of the UAC, reports from the three committees of the NCC, communication, formation and collaboration. The formation committee reported that they are studying models of Pallottine formation with a view to developing a formation model for the UAC in the United States. Fr. Frank Donio led a reflection on the General Statutes with the objective of becoming more familiar with the more salient points and how they affect on the life of the UAC in the United States. The election of the President of the NCC took place on the 17th. Finally a suggestion was made that the USNCC prepare two brochures, one outlining the central themes of the General Statutes and the other on membership of the UAC.

From Argentina.

Fernando Gonzalez sent from Buenos Aires the programme of events that were organized to commemorate the 28th, anniversary of the murder of the five Pallottines in the parish of San Patricio, Belgrano, which took place on 4th July 1976. In a separate communication from Maria Amalia Repetto in Mercedes, news has come of an ceremony which took place on July 5th. The Municipality of the City of Mercedes issued an ordinance in which the three streets around the parish of San Patricio, Mercedes, have been renamed and given the names of Frs. Alfredo Leaden, Peter Dufau and Alfredo Kelly. The official placing of the new street names on July 5th was attended by the Pallottine community, family members and friends. These events remind us that the dead are not forgotten, their memory lives on and forms part of our Pallottine history.

Other News:

- Fr. Jan Kupka and Serenella Morandotti of the St. Vincent Pallotti Institute have published further volumes of “*Apostolato Universale*”. Among the articles are two in the category on “Meeting with Pallotti today”, here we are presented with articles on the Theresian Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, in Volume num. 10, and one on the Sisters of St. Hildegard of the Catholic Apostolate, in Volume num. 11.

- Also included in that volume is a text from the Institute's Formation Programme: "To live the compassion of Jesus in confronting the poverty of humanity, in the writings of Pallotti." a presentation delivered by Sr. Sara Carfagna, CSAC.
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Reflection:

The Holy Spirit, bridge between the Heart and the Word.

"The Spirit links the inspired Word of God and the spirit of the person who receives that Word. The dead word on the page comes alive in the human spirit under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah prophesied the New Covenant in terms of God's Law being written on the heart of His people (Jer. 31,33). Ezekiel substituted Law with Spirit. God would put His Spirit in the heart of His people, (Ezek. 36,26-7), to empower them to keep His Word. In Scripture there is a constant interaction between Word and Spirit. Under the influence of the Spirit that Word illuminates, gives new awareness and a new conviction.

St. Paul reminds us that we only know the Spirit's presence by the effects which we experience.

Vincent describes these effects of the Spirit as feelings which enlightened him, as "lumi" or lights. We find such expressions as "the light of God made me know"; "a keen and certain trust was excited in my heart", "it came to my heart to ask"; "while I meditated, Jesus made me feel ... this feeling gave me a tranquil certainty".

Taken from "Empowered by Love", Pat Jackson, SAC.