



## In the Spotlight

### THE UNION OF CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE IN BRAZIL



#### **1. Beginnings**

The presence of the Union of Catholic Apostolate in Brazil which inherited the charism of Vincent Pallotti, began 118 years ago with the arrival of the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers in Vale Vêneto in 1886. In 1933 Sisters of the Congregation of the Catholic Apostolate came to Brazil and in 1980 the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate arrived. At present the SAC and the Sisters make up a total of approximately 482 members, they are distributed in two Provinces and a Region of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, two Provinces of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and a mission of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate. The Pallottine Fathers and Brothers, the Pallottine Sisters and the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate work in 16 Archdioceses and 27 Dioceses of Brazil.

The admission of lay people to the Union began only in 2004, following on the approval of the General Statutes of the UAC. At present there are 36 lay people who are effective members, and there are in total 28 groups of the UAC.

In 1979 the Secular Institute of the Catholic Apostolate – ISAC was founded. It is an Institute of Diocesan Right and has its seat in Curitiba, there are nine members.

The Elisabetta Sanna Association of single women and widows – AESSIV was founded in 1998. Its Civil Statute has been approved and the Association was declared one of public service by the Legislative Council of Santa Maria. It has its own headquarters and has 150 associated members.

#### **2. The National Coordination Council**

Was instituted on the 25th, of August 2001. It was made up of representatives of the six jurisdictions that belong *ex officio* to the UAC because there were no lay members. The GCC approved both the National Coordination Council and its Regulations on 27th, of December 2001. The re-elected President of the NCC is Fr. Ângelo Lôndero, SAC.

Fr. João Pedro Stawicki, SAC, is Vice-President and Sr. Inês Casarin, CSAC (has been re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer. The NCC promoted, in 2003, the First National Encounter of the UAC with 60 participants. The Second National Encounter has been programmed for 2005 and the First National Congress of the UAC for 2006.

### **3. UAC Encounters**

#### **3.1 Encounters of the SAC Major Superiors**

The UAC encounters in Brazil began with the members of the SAC. The first encounter took place on the occasions of the visit to Latin America of the Rector General of the SAC, Fr. Guilherme Möhler. Fr. Möhler convoked a meeting of the Pallottine Major Superiors of the Provinces of N. Sra. Conquistadora (Santa Maria), of São Paulo Apóstolo (São Paulo), of the Regions N. Sra. de Luján (Argentina), Region São Vicente Pallotti (Uruguay) and of the Delegation of the Irish Province in Argentina. From this first meeting onwards the SAC Major Superiors of Latin America have met every year.

#### **3.2 South-American Pallottine Encounters**

In 1977 the first South-American Pallottine Encounter took place in Curitiba. In all 17 Encounters have taken place, the venues have been in Brazil, Uruguay and the Argentine. A total of 2361 priests, brothers, sisters and lay people have participated in the Encounters.

#### **3.3 Pallottine Education Apostolate**

This consists of formation of both teachers and staff of the schools of the Pallottines, both SAC and Sisters, in Brazil, Uruguay and the Argentine. A Latin-American Coordination Team for the Education Apostolate has been formed, amongst its other activities it organizes Latin-American Congresses of Pallottine Education. To date five Congresses have taken place and a sixth will take place in October of 2005.

#### **3.4 Pallottine Youth Movement**

Fr. Damião Kirchgessner began this apostolate, in Jacarezinho (Paraná) of the São Paulo Apóstolo Province. in 1971. The name *Juventude Palotina* (Pallottine Youth) is linked to the title of a magazine of the minor seminary of Londrina which offered a forum for communication between seminaries, seminarians, benefactors and the Pallottine Fathers.

It was extended to the whole of Brazil in the year 2000. There are 16 groups in Brazil and they have already had 31 Provincial Congresses and 3 National Congresses.

### **4. Formation of the members of UAC**

#### **4.1 South-American Institute of Pallottine Studies – ISEP**

The Institute was founded on February 1st, 1992. It is open to all members and friends (sympatizantes) of the Union of Catholic Apostolate. It is a centre of Pallottine formation and lived experience which seeks to form evangelizers following the charism and spirituality of St. Vincent Pallotti.

##### *4.1.1 Specific objectives of the ISEP*

a) To give an opportunity to have direct contact with Pallottine source material so as to better understand our mission in the Church and in the world of today.

b) To promote reflection on and a lived experience of the mission of those who continue the work of St. Vincent Pallotti.

c) To promote communication and communion between the members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate of Latin America.

d) To implement the “return to the origins”, proposed by Vatican II, so as to better understand the original inspiration of St. Vincent Pallotti.

e) To stimulate the continuation of the process of conversion to an evangelical life seen as a change in ones way of life and pastoral commitment.

f) To form “multiplicators” so as to spread the charism and spirituality of St. Vincent Pallotti.

#### *4.1.2 The Formation Programme offered by the ISEP*

a) A course of Pallottine Formation and Lived Experience (for young people and adults): this Course is offered in three stages during the month of July in three consecutive years.

b) A course of Pallottine Formation and Lived Experience for Young People: this Course consists of one single stage and is offered during the month of January.

c) A Seminar or Work-shop of Pallottine Studies (for young people and adults): this takes place every fourth year and is for those who have participated in one or more of the stages of the Course of Pallottine Formation and Lived Experience.

d) Statistics of the courses already given: 3 courses (adults & young people, given over 9 years in the month of July); stages 1 & 2 of the Seminar offered every 4th year; 6 Courses of Young People given in January; 2 Seminars of Pallottine Studies (month of July); the total number of participants is 438.

#### *4.1.3 Methodology*

The time given to study follows various dynamics: lectures given by the course instructors, personal reading and research, small-group work and plenary sessions.

Every effort is made to motivate and to provide the right conditions so as to cultivate and favour spiritual experience.

During the Courses there is time for reading, for outings, sports and some free time.

After supper there is time to share ones life, ones experiences and apostolic works.

## **4.2 NOVINPAL**

NOVINPAL is an annual Encounter of the Pallottine South-American novices. There are five novitiates in South-America, in: *Cascavel*: for the Province of N. Sra. Conquistadora - Santa Maria, the Region São Vicente Pallotti – Uruguay, the Region N. Sra. de Luján - Argentina & the Delegation of the Irish Province. In *Cornélio Procópio* for the Province of São Paulo Apóstolo. In *Guapimirim (RJ)* for the Region Mãe da Misericórdia, (novices from Brazil, Portugal & Colombia). In *Curitiba* for the Provinces N. Sra. Aparecida & São Vicente Pallotti and in *Teresina* for the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate.

NOVINPAL began in 1995 and takes place alternately at the Pallottine Mayor Seminary, Mãe do Divino Amor, in Curitiba and at the Colégio Máximo Palotino, in Santa Maria.