



# UAC NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends in the Union,

Greetings to you from the General Secretariate of the Union in Rome. In these days we are preparing to mark another anniversary of the death of the **Venerable Elisabetta Sanna** on February 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a concelebrated Eucharist at the Church of San Salvatore in Onda where she is buried, this year the principal celebrant will be Fr. Pietro Mulas, Rector of the Chiesa del Rosario in Sassari.

In the month of January we honoured our Holy Founder, **St. Vincent Pallotti**, celebrating his feast day on January 22<sup>nd</sup> within the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. All the communities here in Rome and in the surrounding area came here to remember together our dear Saint. A great number of persons participated in the celebrations. The Eucharistic liturgy was celebrated in the Armenian Rite with the participation of the community of the Armenian College of Rome and the Armenian Sisters on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Pallottine Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate animated the liturgy on the 20<sup>th</sup>; on the 21<sup>st</sup> the main celebrant at the Mass was Fr. Seamus Freeman, President of the UAC, and the members of the Parish of St. Vincent Pallotti, Pietralata, animated the celebration. A solemn Eucharistic Celebration led by Mons. Henryk Hoser, Under Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of People and President of the Pontifical Opere Missionarie, with the participation of the Pontifical Urbano College of 'Propaganda Fidei' and the Pallottine Emeritus Bishop, Mons. Oszulik, and animated by the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and members of the Quinta Dimensione Community was celebrated on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Unity of Christians was an intention particularly important to Saint Vincent, the members of the GCC believe it is appropriate to celebrate the Triduum of preparation for the feast of St. Vincent in the context of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This affirms our universal mission in the UAC, a mission to pray and work together for the realization of the eschatological desire of Jesus 'that there be one fold under one Shepherd'.

## **The General Coordination Council.**

The outgoing GCC met for the last time on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Generalate of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, Viale Kennedy, Grottaferrata. The main topic was the forthcoming General Assembly, however, the following were also dealt with:

- the approval of the Regulations of the ICC of Tanzania-Kenya-Uganda;
- the presentation of a UAC project in Arusha, Tanzania;
- the memorandum of the meeting held on October 10<sup>th</sup> with Mons. Miguel Angel Delgado, of the Pontifical Council for the Laity;
- the theme of communication and communion within the UAC;
- the commission for the study and revision of the General Statutes, the replies received from the NCCs;
- the text "**Collaborators in the UAC**" and the text "**Guidelines for the Collaboration of non-Catholic Christians in the Union of Catholic Apostolate**", both texts prepared by Fr. Hubert Socha, SAC.

### **The First General Assembly of the Union of Catholic Apostolate.**

The General Assembly was the crowning event of a significant year for the UAC, it was held at the Spirituality Centre of St. Vincent Pallotti, Grottaferrata, from December 27th to 30th. The Assembly was composed of 33 members as well as two observers and those who were at the service of the Assembly. The members of the Assembly elected the new General Coordination Council which will remain in office until the next Ordinary General Assembly. The members of the new GCC are:

the three *'ex-ufficio'* members:

Fr. Fritz Kretz, SAC, Rector General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate;

Sr. Ivete Garlet, CSAC, Superior General of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate;

Sr. Stella Holisz, SAC, Superior General of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate;

and the ten members **elected** in the following order:

Mr. Corrado Montaldo, Italy,

Fr. Séamus Freeman, SAC,

Sr. Marta Litawa, SAC, Rwanda-Congo,

Fr. Ângelo Londero, SAC, South America,

Mrs. Beate Weis, Germany,

Mr. Adam Sikora, Poland,

Sr. Armida Sacco, CSAC, Italy,

Ms. Maria Domke, Canada,

Ms. Cheryl Sullivan, Australia,

Fr. Frank Donio, SAC, U.S.A.

The new GCC will hold its first meeting in the month of May 2006 in Rome during which it will elect its President; in the meantime the President of the out-going GCC, Fr. Séamus Freeman, will conduct the ordinary administration.

The Assembly was a time of prayer, of sharing, of discernment and projection for the future; we trust in the activity of the Holy Spirit that it may be fruitful for the good of the Church.

### **Special moments of the Assembly were:**

- an early morning visit to St. Peter's Square to visit and admire the enormous crib of the Octave of the Epiphany of St. Vincent Pallotti, which was donated by the Pallottines to the Holy Father. Following on this the members went to the Church of San Salvatore in Onda, Spiritual Centre of the UAC, for the Solemn opening **Eucharistic Concelebration in which Fr. Fritz Kretz, Rector General of the Society and Ecclesiastical Assistant of the UAC, was the principal celebrant.** The celebration was enriched by the participation of members of the Local Community of the Generalate of the SAC, of Pallottine Sisters from both Congregations, of other Pallottines from communities in Rome and of friends of the UAC. In his homily, making reference to the metaphor used by the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (chap. 12, 13 – 27), which compares the Church, Mystical Body of Christ, to the human body, Fr. Kretz identified the fundamental role of the members of the UAC to be the blood which runs through the veins giving life to and revitalizing the Church. Immediately after the Mass, Fr. Francesco Todisco indicated to those present the important features of the Church and of the St. Vincent Pallotti Museum, then, Fr. Jan Kupka, Director of the Pallotti Institute, welcomed the members to the Institute and gave them a guided tour while explaining the goals and the mission of the Institute.
- **The President of the GCC Fr. Séamus Freeman**, in his presentation to the members of the Assembly, indicated the following as immediate priorities for the future:
  - a. no human initiative can survive without youth. Every National Coordination council

- should have this as the number one priority;
- b. “Have no fear!” The General Statutes are not written in stone. and we should not keep on adding more details. It would be better to have a Supplementary Law for such details. Then, a General Assembly would have more liberty to guarantee that the Statutes be ever more faithful and relevant;
  - c. the Rector General of the priests and brothers community has a particular role in guaranteeing the fidelity of the charism and, together with Superiors General of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, must guarantee the unity and apostolic efficiency (cf. Gen Stat. nn. 5, 31). How this service is to be rendered is not yet worked out. However, it is a vital service;
  - d. within the three Institutes referred to in numbers 4 and 31 of the General Statutes there are many members who had no consciousness of the UAC when they made their consecration. Only in the 1970’s were clear indications regarding the UAC inserted into the legislation of these Institutes. We have to be understanding towards those members. However, it would be a grave omission if the formation programmes of our young members and candidates failed to provide a thorough formation in the charism of St. Vincent Pallotti, and as presented in the General Statutes, approved by the Holy See;
  - e. it is becoming more and more my conviction that UAC formation of the Lay Faithful must first of all be directed to the generation of *authentic autonomous apostles*. Some of these will be called to be UAC members. Our Founder, I do believe, wanted the multiplication of apostles of Christian missionary communion, and not the mere multiplication of card-holding members;
  - f. the Union of Catholic Apostolate is blessed with a great richness of diversity - of institutes, communities, groups, nationalities and persons. This is a wonderful patrimony. However, we must ask a question! Is our richness of diversity a federation or a communion? A federation generates rivalry of power - outdoing each other in power and influence. A communion generates a rivalry of charity - outdoing each other in the most divine gift of collaboration (cf. OCCC IV, p. 125). Therefore, persons and communities of a rich diversity need a profound formation in the sacred art of collaboration. The objective of such formation is to replace the permanent temptation of self-assertion with the transforming and unifying holy power of humility.
- the presence of **Mons. Miguel Angel Delgado Gallindo, Office Chief at the Pontifical Council for the Laity**, who represented its President, Archbishop Stanisław Ryłko, on the evening of December 28th and the morning of December 29th when he spoke on the theme of the insertion of the UAC in the Church. He outlined the role the UAC plays and must play in both the local and universal Church. He made some important affirmations: “...*the insertion of a charismatic expression or reality (such as the UAC) in a local Church consists in the spreading of that charism in a spirit of humility. Signs of this spirit of humility are: union with the diocesan Bishop; an appreciation of the other expressions present in the local Church - avoiding any form of having reference only to itself -; a spirit of service and of collaboration with the other members of the faithful who live the Christian life according to other charisms or other forms of ecclesial commitment etc.*” and “*A special characteristic of the Union is the fact that it is presented as a body composed of three states of life: lay persons, priests and religious. These diverse modes of ecclesial life correspond organically and in function of the charism that unites them, to the same apostolic mission that the Union establishes for itself ... Participation in the same charism of the three states of life in the Church also presupposes a clear distinction between them on the basis of the distinctive character of each state in order to avoid any confusion to the detriment of each of them.*” And, in conclusion he made a reference to Mary, Queen of the Apostles, Patroness of the UAC, “*This expresses in a very appropriate manner the charism received by St. Vincent Pallotti in that “Mary, after Jesus, is the most perfect model of true apostolic zeal, because she, even though she was not a priest, surpassed the Apostles in*

*merit, so much so that the Church hails her as Queen of the Apostles ... We entrust all the fruits of this first General Assembly of the Union to Her who accompanied the Apostles in the early years of the Church, so that she will always accompany its members in the task of gaining many souls for Christ.”*

- Other important topics such as “Young persons and the UAC”; “Communication and communion in the UAC” were also discussed; the Presidents of the NCCs have received copies of the texts which were presented on these topics in order that they can be further studied and discussed among the members of the UAC. The subject of financing the works of the UAC was also discussed.

The final words on the Assembly I leave to Fr. Hubert Socha, SAC, who has worked untiringly for the development of the UAC, he wrote: “Special mention must be made of the spiritual and liturgical components of the Assembly, which were both the framework of the Assembly and its constant source of inspiration. The Presidency of the Assembly gathered for regular meetings to analyse and assess the progress of the Assembly and to plan the way forward. All participants were involved in one way or another in the running of the Assembly. For me [Fr Socha] the Assembly was a deeply spiritual, happy and encouraging event.”

### **News from the Union.**

- From **Uruguay** the good news of the formal admission of 39 members to the UAC on November 20th, Solemnity of Christ the King, during a concelebrated Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Vincent Pallotti, Montevideo.

- From **Belarus** Sr. Natalia Pieckielun, SAC, has written the following: “A new community of the UAC has been formed in Bereza Kartuska/Belarus. Fifteen persons who have been preparing for this under the guidance of Sr. Natalia, were admitted to the Union of Catholic Apostolate on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2006. The majority of them are members of the Choir of the Holy Trinity Parish, and are aged between 20 and 60. Fr. Piotr Kubicki, SAC, is the parish priest.

From its very beginning the Choir has worked with a Pallottine spirit, as indicated by its name ‘AIDG’. Under the patronage of Mary, Queen of Apostles, St. Cecilia and St. Vincent Pallotti, singing is, for the members of the Choir, both prayer and apostolate. Entry into the community has meant for many of them the start of a life of faith. In the course of the twice-weekly meetings, together with the study of the liturgical year and of religious hymns, they received personal, Christian and apostolic formation. As they came to know God through the meetings in which they reflected on the Catechism and on Sacred Scripture, they experienced the love of God and thus a desire to share the faith with others was born. Almost all of them come from families of a mixed religious background, in some cases family members are of the Orthodox Church and in others do not practice any faith and are, in fact, atheist. They encounter difficulty in living their faith, be it in daily family life or in the work situation, but they consider the witness of their lives to be an apostolate. Fascinated by the person of St. Vincent Pallotti and in coming to know his foundation, they wish to imitate him in their commitment to the parish. Their apostolate is to sing at Mass and to animate the Liturgy, to clean the church, to decorate it for special occasions, to visit the poor and those who live alone, to lead the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the parish and to pray for the apostolic works of the parish and of the entire Church. The community is a second family for them, and having made the Act of Apostolic Commitment, they are very happy to belong to the larger and international ‘family’ of the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> 2006, during the celebration of the Mass of the Solemnity of the Epiphany, these fifteen persons made the Act of Apostolic Commitment in the UAC. Sr. Blanka Sławińska, Provincial Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and member of the Polish NCC was present, Sr. Blanka gave each of the members a certificate of membership which they

duly signed and which represents the offering of their lives and apostolate to God in a spirit of trust.”

- From **Poland** a report of the pilgrimage of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, of Cameroon: “The members of the Union in Poland have welcomed Our Lady of Cameroon. This statue of Our Lady was given to the members in Poland at the end of the General Congress and she has been visiting the communities and homes of the members. The presence of Our Lady of Cameroon in Poland is very significant for the UAC there. In 2007 the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers will celebrate the centenary of their presence in Poland. Fr. Alojzy Majewski was a missionary in Cameroon and he returned to Poland to establish the Society of the Catholic Apostolate there. The “visit” of Our Lady in each community lasts for a week and the visit has become a special time of prayer for the members of the UAC in Cameroon and for all the members throughout the world.”

- From **Australia**, Pat Heywood, the Executive Officer, has given an account of an important series of events and initiatives to reinforce and deepen the life of the members of the UAC in Australia. A UAC scholarship for lay people has been established; a Faith Development Day, sponsored by the Mariana Community at which two papers from the General Congress were studied and discussed, has been held; a UAC Aboriginal Mother’s Group has been established at Rossmoyne, Perth; a Spirituality Team for UAC activities and promotion has been formed at Kew, Melbourne, it is made up of five members; the Pallottine Family Newsletter has been expanded and improved; a Youth Conference will take place during the month of February; the statue of the Virgen de los Treinta y Tres, the Patroness of Uruguay, which was presented to the members present at the General Congress is visiting the homes of the members.

- Sr. Adelheid Scheloske, from **Germany**, has sent the address of the new web-site of the UAC in Germany, it is: [www.pallotti.de](http://www.pallotti.de)  
On the feastday of St. Vincent Pallotti two individual members were accepted into the Union: on January 21<sup>st</sup>. 2006 Mrs. Hannelore Meicher in Limburg and on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mrs. Christiane Schall in Vallendar.

- The members of the UAC in **Tanzania** have sent to the Secretariate a copy of the second issue of the newsletter of the NCC, called ‘*Pallottine Voice*’, this newsletter is written in both Kiswahili and English and in this issue the first part of the General Statutes of the UAC translated into Kiswahili has been published.

- From **Brazil**; Elaine Okimoto, provincial coordinator of Juventude Palotina, has sent a copy of the first issue of the newsletter ‘*Juventude Palotina*’ to the Secretariate.

- From the **United States of America** the annual invitation to members of the Union in the USA to participate in the Pallottine National Day of Service, which will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup>, has arrived. The philosophy of this event is expressed thus “Stirred by our Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, we, the members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, are united in our desire to spread the Gospel and to bring the love of Christ to others. This desire is brought to fulfilment when we share Christ with those around us, especially with those in need ... a National Day of Service unites every member of the Union of Catholic Apostolate in the mission of the Founder”.

- Fr. Thaddée Bazan, SAC, has written from **Ivory Coast**, with notification of the formation of a Coordination Committee of the UAC at the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, Yamoussoukro.

- Notification of the **celebration of the Octave of the Epiphany** have been sent in to the Secretariate from various parts of the Pallottine world; Fr. Federico Haas has written to say that the Octave of the Epiphany was celebrated for the first time in the Parish of St. Rose of Lima, Munro, **Argentina**; it was celebrated for the second time at the Parish of St. Joseph, Curitiba, **Brazil** and

for the third time at the Parish of Queen of the Apostles, Manaus, Amazonia, Brazil; in **Italy** the Octave has been celebrated for many years at the Church of Our Lady of the Snows, Rocca Priora, and it has celebrated for the past few years in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Mugnano, Naples, of which Fr. Thomas Rzempoluch, SAC, is the parish priest, this year Fr. Francesco Todisco, SAC, Consultor General, was the celebrant of the opening liturgy; the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate organize and sponsor the Octave in Riposto, **Sicily**, and in Avella, in both places the Octave is celebrated each year with the active participation of many people.

- Many of the participants in the first General Assembly of the UAC, at Grottaferrata, Rome, came to pay a visit to the Secretariate and to talk about the progress of the Union throughout the world. These were very welcome visits and were instructive and enriching.

- **Sr. Grace Gabrielle O'Brien**, a member of the General Secretariate of the UAC had travelled to the United States for medical treatment, she returned to Rome in December and has once again rejoined the Secretariate. During the month of January **Donatella Acerbi**, a former member of the Secretariate and of the General Coordination Council, was in Rome for her annual holiday with her family and her community, she also visited the Secretariate to meet all the members and to share experiences. Donatella now works as a Reader in Italian at the University of Nanking, China. In a letter that she sent from China some months ago she reflected: *“Every day I repeat the words of St. Vincent Pallotti: “may nobody meet me in vain!”. I repeat it with passion because I believe that in this even if it is once in the course of a lifetime, those who are near me may encounter Love, and may love Him in turn with a gesture, a thank you, a look, a “ni hao (hallo)”, a smile, a touch”*.

- Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, **General Secretary of the UAC** visited the Pallottines in South Africa during the month of January, he preached a retreat to the novices at the end of the novitiate and a retreat to the members of the community, both retreats were held at Pallotti Farm, Queenstown. He visited the Community of the Sisters of the Mother of Divine Love, at Ntaba Maria, a community of the Union which was founded by the late Mons. John Baptist Rosenthal, Bishop of Queenstown, South Africa, in March 1962. He discussed with the Sisters and with the Pallottine confreres the development of the UAC in South Africa.

January 22nd, feast of the Holy Founder, was a historical day in **South Africa**, on that day the first members of the Society from Malawi and Nigeria made their profession as members of the Society during a concelebrated Eucharist in the chapel of the Formation House at Merivale. They are Michael Emmanuel Ndaou and John Bosco Sungamoyo from Malawi, and John Ndidi Nwaocha from Nigeria.