



UAC NEWSLETTER

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UAC GENERAL SECRETARIAT
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Dear members and friends in the Union,

Greetings to you from the General Secretariat of the Union in Rome.

In the Union we are living a time of consolidating our life and existence as an Association of the Faithful within the Church. It is a time of growth, development, new initiatives and strengthening the structures of the UAC that have already been established as well as striving to put in place the structures of the Union in those places where they have not yet been formalized. There is a good deal happening in the UAC, the focus of this edition of the newsletter will be one of updating you as much as possible with regard to developments and events which have taken place in the past few months.

The General Coordination Council.

History was made for the UAC when the first meeting of the newly elected General Coordination Council took place in the Centro di Spiritualità Pallottina, Grottaferrata, Roma, from May 14 – 19th, this year. It was the first time the entire Council could come together, all the members were present, the *'ex-ufficio'* members, Fr. Fritz Kretz, SAC, Sr. Ivete Garlet, CSAC and Sr. Stella Holisz, SAC, and the ten elected members, Fr. Séamus Freeman, SAC, Mrs. Beate Weis, Fr. Frank Donio, SAC, Ms. Cheryl Sullivan, Sr. Armida Sacco, CSAC, Ms. Maria Domke, Fr. Angelo Londero, SAC, Sr. Marta Litawa, SAC, Mr. Adam Sikora and Mr. Corrado Montaldo. Also present at the meeting were Fr. Hubert Socha, SAC, juridical assessor to the UAC; Fr. Rory Hanly, SAC, provided English-Italian simultaneous translation; Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, was the recording secretary and the members of the General Secretariat, in rotation, provided the necessary back-up service to the meeting.

The following were the **principle topics on the agenda**:

- ▶ address of the President, Fr. Séamus Freeman, SAC;
- ▶ presentation of the members;
- ▶ approval of the minutes of the meeting of the GCC held on December 17th 2005;
- ▶ report of the General Secretariat;
- ▶ presentation and approval of the Regulations presented by the NCC of Belize, by the ICC of Rwanda-Congo, and by the Unio – Kreis Hochaltingen Community, Germany;
- ▶ discussion and discernment on the procedure to follow for the election of the President of the GCC; the criteria for the election, the headquarters of the President, place of residence, contact with the other members of the GCC, contact and relationship with the General Secretariat;
- ▶ the election of the President, confirmation of the election from the Pontifical Council for the Laity;

- ▶ the Commission for the study and reformulation of the General Statutes, the work of the Commission, study of the synthesis of the suggestions presented by the NCCs and an evaluation of the suggestions, decisions with regard to material to be inserted into the General Statutes;
- ▶ the appendixes to the General Statutes;
- ▶ the General Secretariat: its composition, its relationship with the General Coordination Council, with the Presidency of the GCC;
- ▶ the Treasurer of the GCC and the financial administration of the Union;
- ▶ the Regulations for the General Coordination Council;
- ▶ the Church of San Salvatore in Onda, Spiritual Centre of the UAC;
- ▶ young persons and the UAC;
- ▶ communion and communication in the UAC;
- ▶ the admission of groups and of communities to the UAC;
- ▶ the members of the UAC: criteria of belonging, the admission of new members;
- ▶ the formation of the members; the guidelines and orientations for formation, the formation programmes;
- ▶ formation for members who wish to work for a period in a mission country;
- ▶ the role of the National Coordination Council, the role and the authority of its President; his/her relationship with the Communities of the UAC;
- ▶ the relationship of the three Communities of foundation with the UAC;
- ▶ the administration of the goods of the UAC;
- ▶ the spiritual profile of the UAC;
- ▶ a symbol or medal for the UAC;
- ▶ guidelines for Local Coordination Councils of the UAC;
- ▶ spiritual discernment and 'kairos', the challenges for the future of the UAC;
- ▶ the UAC and the Pallottine parishes.

As you can no doubt appreciate the list of themes to be discussed was a very full one. A major part of the time allotted to the meeting was given over to an analysis of the suggestions regarding the General Statutes of the Union. Fr. Socha and the members of the commission will continue to work on the draft texts of the reformulated Statutes, before presenting them for discussion and final approval.

Another central moment of the meeting was the election of Fr. Séamus Freeman, SAC, as President, for a further three year period.

The members of the GCC travelled in to Rome on Wednesday May 17th and participated in the evening concelebrated Mass in the Church of San Salvatore in Onda. The Mass was animated by members of the UAC of the various communities in Rome; coincidentally, because it was the 17th of the month, the Mass was offered for the beatification of the Venerable Elizabeth Sanna. Fr. Fritz Kretz, SAC, Rector General of the SAC, was the principal celebrant, the homily was delivered by Fr. Jan Korycki, SAC, Postulator General of the Society, in his homily he outlined the Venerable Elizabeth's participation in the UAC right from the very beginning.

The General Coordination Council decided that it will meet at least once a year, the normal duration of each meeting will be one week in order to deal in depth with the issues that are the responsibility of the Council. In order to better attend to these issues the members of the Council decided to form several commissions within the Council itself, they are:

- A commission to study and present its findings on the feasibility of organizing UAC missionary activity and providing formation for those who wish to participate. The members of this Commission are Sr. Ivete Garlet, CSAC, Beate Weis, Maria Domke and Corrado Montaldo.
- A commission for the study of and the formulation of Regulations for the GCC. This commission is made up of Sr. Armida Sacco, CSAC, Cheryl Sullivan and Adam Sikora.
- A commission to study and make proposals for the financial questions related to the GCC. Its members are Fr. Frank Donio, SAC, Beate Weis and Sr. Marta Litawa, SAC. It was decided that Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, General Secretary of the UAC, will also participate in the work of the various commissions.

The members of the GCC discussed the composition of the General Secretariat and its role within the UAC, the present members of the Secretariat were all reappointed for a further year.

Among the decisions taken by the Council was one regarding the Spiritual Centre of the UAC at the Church of San Salvatore in Onda. The members of the GCC decided that:

- (a) the Rector of the Church of San Salvatore in Onda is the President of the Council of the Spiritual Centre;
- (b) the Council will present an official report on the activities undertaken in the Centre to every Ordinary General Assembly of the UAC;
- (c) the Council of the Spiritual Centre will be composed of members of the UAC representing the different communities listed in the approved Regulations of the Spiritual Centre approved in 2003;
- (d) the Council of the Spiritual Centre will reformulate its Regulations and present them for approval to the GCC during its meeting in May of 2007.

The members of the GCC expressed their appreciation for the activities undertaken by the members of the Council under the guidance of the President and Rector, Fr. Francesco Todisco, SAC, in the name of the UAC.

News of the Union from around the world.

From Germany. The Annual Assembly of the UAC in Germany was held in the retreat house of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters at Limburg from July 7th to 9th. The Presidency of the NCC invited the General Secretary, Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, to be present at the Assembly and to present a paper. All the groups and communities of the UAC in Germany were represented, the NCC had also invited the Swiss NCC to send some representatives as observers at the Assembly. In the course of the Assembly elections were held and Sr. Adelheid Scheloske, SAC, was elected President of the NCC, Fr. Norbert Lauinger, SAC, Vice-President and Mrs. Beate Weis, Treasurer. We wish them well in this service to the UAC.

The German speaking members of the UAC will hold their biennial Congress from September 22nd to 24th, 2006, it will be held in Salzburg, Austria, the theme will be "The Charism of Associations as an opportunity and a challenge within a hierarchical Church".

From Rwanda-Congo. The members of the UAC in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held their first international Assembly from April 24th to 28th 2006, at Remera, Ruhondo. During the course of the Assembly a new Council was elected, it is composed of Fr. Francois Harelimana, SAC, President, Fr. Thaddée Malachwiejczyk, SAC, Vice-President, Sr. Catherine Nikuze, SAC, Secretary, Sr. Marzena Prusaczyk, SAC, Treasurer and Fr. Antoine Baligora, SAC. We wish this new council well as they serve the UAC. Among the decisions taken at the Assembly were the establishment of a permanent secretariat of the UAC and that the spiritual centre of the UAC in Rwanda and the Congo is at the Church of St. Vincent Pallotti, Gikondo,

Kigali. The decision was also taken to review the composition of the LCCs, to adapt the General Orientations for Formation in the UAC to the local reality and to organize a National Congress of the UAC every three years.

From Brazil. The first National Assembly of the UAC in Brazil was held on May 27th and 28th, in Curitiba, Parana; the theme of the Assembly was “We build our house on rock (Matt. 7,24-25)”. The Assembly was judged a very positive experience, all the ‘*ex officio*’ members were present as well as the members representing the LCCs and 12 observers which included the Emeritus Bishop of Umuarama, Parana, Mons. José Maria Maimone. Among the topics discussed were the institution and composition of the LCCs; the economic needs of the UAC and practical proposals to address these needs which were later voted on and adopted by the members; the process of acquiring civil recognition for the UAC in each of the States which makes up the Federal Republic of Brazil.

The members of the UAC in the city of Santa Maria, organized, for the sixth consecutive year, a Vigil of Pentecost in the Parish of St. Anthony.

Fr. Angelo Lôndero, SAC, President of the NCC in Brazil, wrote to say that the 5th Course, stage 1 (the course is offered over a three year period during the month of July in three consecutive years) of Pallottine Formation and Community Life took place at the Colegio Maximo Palotino, from July 5th to 26th. It was organized by the ISEP (Istituto Sul-americano de Estudos Palotinos) in conjunction with the Pallottine Faculty at the Colegio Maximo. There were 28 participants coming from Argentina, Uruguay and the various regions of Brazil. The following themes were presented: ‘The life and work of St. Vincent Pallotti’ (Fr. Jadir Zaro, SAC), ‘Juridical Aspects of St. Vincent Pallotti’s Foundation’ (Fr. Bernardino Trevisan, SAC), ‘The Pallottine Charism’ (Fr. Joao Quaini, SAC), ‘Pallottine Spirituality’ (Fr. Fabian Silveira, SAC) ‘The Union of Catholic Apostolate’ (Fr. Angelo Lôndero, SAC, and ‘Dynamics of Integration and Interpersonal Relationships’ (Sr. Nilda Roggia, CSAC). Sr. Nilda Roggia and Sr. Gilda Dal Santo, CSAC, also oriented the participants in three days of retreat taking ‘The Cenacle, centre of Pallottine Identity’, as the central theme. It was presented in three stages, ‘Image and Likeness of God’, ‘Heirs to the Mercy of God’ and ‘Jesus sends us out to mission’. Frs. Fritz Kretz, SAC, Rector General of the SAC, Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, SAC, General Consultor and Fr. Janusz Łuczak, SAC, General Secretary, were on visitation of the Santa Maria Province and visited the course on July 17th. On July 22nd, Mrs. Emilia Bittencourt Soares, one of the participants in the course, made the Act of Apostolic Commitment as a member of the UAC.

Nine new members made their Act of Apostolic Commitment in the UAC in the Church of Saint Isabel, Queen of Portugal, Rio de Janeiro, in the presence of a very large number of persons, on May 21st of this year following on a lengthy period of preparation and formation.

Sr. Joselia Giuliani, CSAC, member of the General Secretariat, and General Counsellor of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, participated in a meeting of 24 Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in Curitiba, Brazil, on the UAC. The aim of the meeting was the preparation of material for formation sessions in the Union. The group worked on Chapter 1 of the text ‘Called by Name’ and they developed 11 (eleven) central themes for formation in the UAC. At the end of her visit to her native Brazil Sr. Joselia also participated in the Eucharistic celebration in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Vila Carrão, Sao Paulo on August 20th during which 15 new members made the Act of Apostolic Commitment in the UAC, with the participation of numerous members of the communities of the UAC.

From Belize. Sr. Elsa Oliva, SAC, Secretary of the NCC, wrote to say that on the 21st April 2006, the birthday of St. Vincent, in the Sacred Heart Church in San Ignacio, Cayo, a very special celebration for the “Help of the Sick” Group of the UAC took place and 6 new members made their

Act of Apostolic Commitment on that occasion. In the same ceremony 9 members of the UAC renewed their Act of Apostolic Commitment which they had first made in 1995.

Sr. Alicia Buddan, SAC, President of the NCC, wrote to say that 4 new members made the Act of Apostolic Commitment on the final day of a retreat of the Pallottines in Nazareth, Punta Gorda, Belize, on August 1st. Other members of the UAC renewed their Act of Commitment on the same occasion. Sr. Alicia also informed us that the NCC is in the process of formulating a complete formation programme for all members of the UAC in Belize.

From South Korea there is good news. The first ordination to the priesthood of a Pallottine in that country, Fr. An DongOk Franciszek, SAC, from Seoul, has taken place.

From France. The President of the NCC, Mr. Jan Suski has written to inform us of the celebration of the UAC which took place at Osny on Saturday May 27th.

From Argentina. The Secretary of the NCC, Sr. Flora Stefanello, CSAC, has sent on a letter announcing a celebration of the UAC which will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady of Lujan, the National Shrine to Our Lady, in Argentina, on Sunday September 3rd. The celebration will mark the first 120 years of uninterrupted Pallottine presence in the Pampas. The first community was formed in St. Patrick's in the city of Mercedes on September 3rd 1886; the members of the community were Frs. Bernard Feeney and John Petty and the student John Dolan.

From Colombia. The Delegate Rector, Fr. Mariusz Maka, SAC, has written to inform us that a group of persons will be admitted to the UAC there in the near future; they have been in formation for three years. He also indicated that the Pallottines are now in a position to establish the UAC structures there.

From India. The Pallottine presence in India is considerable: there are two Provinces of the Fathers and Brothers as well as a Region, and large communities of both the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate. The Khristsevikas Community, which is a Secular Institute, founded in 1960, is also a community of the UAC. A meeting of the NCC was held in February of this year and it is clear from a reading of the minutes that the reality of cooperation and collaboration among the communities of the UAC is a major priority for all. There were many activities carried out in these past months, to mention just a few: the work of the Resource Team of the UAC which is busy preparing material for formation in the UAC: summer seminars of 5 days duration on 'The relevance of the UAC in India'; three seminars on the 'UAC and our Charism' were held in different parts of the Raipur Region with Fr. James Annithottathil, SAC as the resource person; many prayer meetings and gatherings to foment UAC consciousness and new instances of collaborative apostolate. Fr. Séamus Freeman, President of the UAC, will travel to India in November of this year and will direct four UAC retreats for members of all the communities of the UAC. Two communities have requested admission to the UAC in India, they are the community of 'Cenacle Sisters of the Sacred Heart' based in Bilaspur, and the 'Jeevan Jyothi Community of Disciples' from Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh. These requests are being studied and discerned together with the members of the NCC.

From Australia. A Youth Ministry Convention, called "YAC 2006", with the theme of, 'Find Your Passion, Dare to Live It', was held in February 2006 at Casa Pallotti, Millgrove. It was a weekend of self discovery and personal development. There were 30 young adults in attendance from diverse backgrounds, all connected by the Spirit of Pallotti and a desire to be part of this experience. During the convention there developed a strong sense of community and deep sharing. Many were inspired and encouraged by the sharing and honesty of the participants. It is hoped to hold a "YAC 2007".

The UAC and vocation promotion apostolate in the so-called ‘western world’ was the central theme of a meeting of 25 members of the UAC held in Thurles, Ireland, in the first week of May of this year. Sr. Grace Gabrielle O’Brien, CSAC, and Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, from the General Secretariat participated in the meeting. One of the main topics dealt with was the whole concept of vocation in the UAC, the accompaniment of persons to a discovery of and a whole-hearted embracing of that vocation within the Union for the good of the Church.

Visits to communities of the UAC. Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, General Secretary of the UAC, will visit the members of the UAC in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary, Canada from September 17th to 25th, 2006, and will participate in seminars on life in the UAC. The visit will conclude with a gathering of all UAC members in Calgary for a retreat day.

In October he will meet with the members of the UAC in Barking, England, on Saturday 21st and on the 22nd with a group in Greenford.

In November he will visit Tanzania-Kenya and will direct a retreat for the members of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, from November 13th to 18th, and then meet with the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and visit the UAC centres in both countries.

The Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate held an International Course on Pallottine Spirituality at their Generalate in Viale delle Mura Aurelie, Rome, during the month of July 2006. Fourteen (14) Sisters from Belarus, Cameroon, India, Poland, Tanzania and the Ukraine participated in the meeting. During the course of the month the Sisters visited all the places associated with St. Vincent and the foundation of the UAC; the role of the Sisters within the Union and the common call to be active and committed members of the UAC were central themes to the formation course.

“The Pallottine Family in New Evangelization” was the theme of the week-long Pallottine Workshop at Grottaferrata, organized for the second time by the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in August 2006. More than 30 Sisters, some Pallottine Fathers who live in the St. Vincent Pallotti Centre and a Pallottine Missionary Sister reflected together on the meaning of the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth for the Pallottine communities and their mission as desired by St. Vincent Pallotti. The fruits of this meeting were a deep spirit of gratitude for our rich and wonderful charism and a deep joy and renewed enthusiasm for Christ’s mission.

Monthly Prayer Resource. The members of the General Secretariat continue to prepare and circulate the monthly material for prayer and reflection on the UAC in each of the seven official languages of the UAC; as from this month it has a new title “Apostles for today”. It was decided to continue using fundamental texts from the writings of St. Vincent as the basis for the monthly publication. We are currently reflecting on the Fundamental Rule written by St. Vincent in 1846, which expresses his conviction that the imitation of Christ in both his hidden life and in his public ministry are central to our spirituality and charism. Positive feedback on the monthly texts has been coming in to the Secretariat. The aim of this text is to offer the members of the UAC an opportunity to pray and to study each month, ideally this would be used for gatherings of UAC members in which they enrich one another with a sharing of experience, of prayer and a faith filled reading of life, however, the texts can also be used for personal prayer and reflection. The General Secretariat is very grateful to all those members who participate in the preparation of the material and in its distribution to others, in doing so we make the spiritual riches of the Pallottine charism more widely available.

Feast of the UAC. This year October 28th falls on a Saturday, and so the members of the UAC in Rome and in its environs will celebrate the feast of the UAC in the Church of Santo Spirito dei Napoletani, Via Giulia, Rome, on that very day. A concelebrated Eucharist of thanksgiving will be

celebrated at 16.30 in which all the members present will renew their Act of Apostolic Commitment in a devotional manner and give thanks to the Lord for the Church's recognition of the gift the UAC. The General Coordination Council decided in 2005 to celebrate the Feast of the UAC in Rome on the Saturday previous to October 28th each year, and of course, encouraged all other members and Councils of the UAC to do likewise if they see fit to do so.

Weekly celebration of the UAC. Each Wednesday afternoon our Spiritual Centre of San Salvatore in Onda continues to be a focal point for the UAC members in Rome. We gather to celebrate God's love and mercy, we also join our hearts to those of the members of the UAC throughout the world and, in prayer, we bring the intentions of all the members of the UAC to the Lord.

The **Pallottine Youth Forum**, organized by Fr. Zenon Hanas, SAC, took place in Rome from August 19th to 26th; it attracted 72 participants from 11 different countries. The members participated actively in the planning of the visits to the various places in Rome with a connection to their country of origin, and of course the high-light was the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of St. Vincent visiting the specifically Pallottine places. The participants were very active and enthusiastic and did not allow the heat of August to dampen their spirits or enthusiasm. The objective of the Forum is to offer to young persons the possibility of meeting, sharing life for a period of time, and in a natural manner to deepen their understanding of the Pallottine vision of Church, ministry and apostolate. This is the second such meeting, the first was held in Rheinbach, Germany in August 2005 and preceded World Youth Day.

Elizabeth Sanna : 17th February 1857 – 17th February 2007. February 17th 2007 will mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the death of the Venerable Elizabeth Sanna. In order to become better acquainted with her and to pray more intensely for her beatification, it has been decided to celebrate a Jubilee Year which was inaugurated on April 23rd 2006 and will end on April 23rd 2007. One of the significant events of the year will be the celebration of the Eucharist at 18.30, in the Church of San Salvatore in Onda, Spiritual Centre of the UAC, on the 17th day of every month to implore the grace of beatification for the Venerable Elizabeth who was one of the first members of the UAC.

Praying with St. Vincent:

“My God, my infinite, eternal, immense mercy, you are always knocking at the door of my ungrateful heart in order to transform me and to identify me with you; you knock on the door of my soul with your divine explanations, you knock on all the senses of the body through your creatures, rational, sentient and inanimate, you knock with the words of the holy books, through the liturgy and through images; however, I am always deaf to your voice and my heart is hardened, I have always blocked the free workings of your infinite love. (OCCC X, p. 255-56).

My God, my infinitely merciful love, I confess that I have never truly profited from the creativity of your infinite love that wishes to make me like you, but I believe that infinite love has spurred you, my Jesus, to remain among us in the tabernacle, to continue your most holy life in us and to give us merit. My Jesus, infinite love, love which has not been properly reciprocated by me, transform me into total love in you and for you, now and for all eternity. (OCCC X, p. 257-58).

My God, give me the life of Jesus Christ; destroy in me my life and make Jesus Christ live in me so that he will think, speak and act in me with all of his virtues and all of his works. Amen” (OCCC X, p. 260-261).