



UAC NEWSLETTER

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UAC GENERAL SECRETARIAT
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Dear members and friends in the Union,

The month of January has been a time of intense spiritual activity for the Pallottine family, it started off with the celebration of Mary, Mother of the Church, on the first day of the New Year. Then the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord; the commemoration of the day on which St. Vincent Pallotti received the inspiration to begin the Union on Jan. 9th; the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Triduum and the Feast of St. Vincent Pallotti. They have all been opportunities to increase our consciousness of the action of the graces of God and for a renewed commitment to the apostolate which St. Vincent entrusted to us.

We begin this newsletter with a prayer for the Union in the spirit of St. Vincent:

“O God our Father, giver of every good,
to you be praise and blessings.

To you who so loved the world
so as to give Jesus, your only Son,
to lead all of humanity to unity
in your heart.

To you, who with the wisdom of love,
gave your Spirit to our Holy Founder
so that, through us, he would continue,
throughout time, to spread the ‘fire’ of infinite Love,
we offer praise and blessings!

We thank you for this foundation which you raised up in the Church,
and in particular for the history of our Union.

We ask you, through the intercession,
of Mary most holy, Queen of the Apostles,
to reawaken in each member of the Union of Catholic Apostolate
the consciousness that Jesus had of knowing himself
to be invited by you to reveal to people
their true identity as his children
and to lead them to your infinite Love.

Help us to “remain in you”
so that each one of us can live,
with your own Love
for all of humanity
in the service of every brother and sister.
Make us, o Father, not merely ‘guardians’

of the Pallottine charism
but persons who are responsible for it,
as if each one were its 'founder'.

We entreat you, with deep faith,
to seek only your glory always and everywhere
and to live for the sanctification of each soul.

We abandon ourselves to your transforming Love,
so that, like Jesus the Apostle,
we may be a presence that is significant,
sanctifying and revelatory
in the world into which you send us today. Amen”.

Celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Vincent Pallotti believed that the celebration of the Epiphany was a very important feast in the life of the Church. The annual cycle of the Liturgy of the Church underlines the centrality of the celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus which is the salvific event of humanity, the rest of the liturgical year is centered around giving life to this annual celebration of the explicit manifestation of the salvific will of God. In his journey of faith and of evangelization Pallotti also understood the significance of the incarnation and the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Epiphany became for him a feast to be celebrated with solemnity as it marks the first revelation, or showing, of Jesus to the world, it was the first apostolic activity of the Son of God made man, and clearly showed that the aim of the incarnation was to reach all of humanity with the message of salvation.

Pallotti celebrated solemnly the Octave of the Epiphany from 1836 right up to that of January 1850, a short few days before his death.

The celebration of the Epiphany is a feast close to our hearts as members of the Union, because Pallotti received the inspiration to found the Union on “Friday January 9th 1835 following on the celebration of Holy Mass which was a special gesture of Divine Mercy” (OOCC X, p. 196). The aim of the celebrations, as presented in the posters that Pallotti had prepared, was: “For the growth, defence and spreading of Piety and of the Catholic faith,” (OOCC VI, p. 36). They were a means of inviting people to reawaken to the life of Faith, to draw close to God, and at the same time to commit themselves in the universal apostolate by imitating the example of the three Wise Men who offered their gifts to God in order that He might use them; “The celebration of the Holy Octave of the Epiphany ... is an opportune occasion in which, to good effect, one can invite all the Faithful of every Class (of each sex, state and condition) to imitate the Wise Men and to make a precious oblation or offering in giving alms and objects which contribute to the growth, defence and spread of piety and of the Catholic faith. The offerings are made for love of Jesus who, out of infinite love for us, was born in a Stable at Bethlehem” (OOCC I, p. 347).

The Epiphany of the Lord was celebrated in a special manner in many parts of the Union this year; however, we present you with brief accounts of just three celebrations which were very different from one another and which reflect both the diversity of the Union and its creativity in making St. Vincent's vision and spirit relevant in today's world.

1. **In the Cathedral of Gniezno, Poland**, a Triduum of the Epiphany, instead of an Octave, was held. It was organized and animated by the Cenacle of the Families of the Union with the active participation of the laity and of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters. The Triduum consisted of a solemn Eucharistic celebration in the Cathedral on the 6th, 7th and 8th of January, the homily was preached each day by Fr. Eugeniusz Lesniak, SAC, on the themes of faith, hope and charity.

2. **The Parish of St. Sebastian, Itaipù, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, here the Octave was organized by members of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate together with the lay members of the UAC.

The various movements and associations in the area were invited to participate in the Octave with the specific aim of discovering and celebrating the spiritual and apostolic riches present in the zone. Each evening one of the movements or associations gave a presentation of the movement, this led in to a Eucharist animated by the members of the movement and was followed by refreshments and sharing in the parish hall so as to give those present the opportunity to get to know one another.

The following movements or associations took part: the Union of Catholic Apostolate; the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences; the Cursillo de Cristiandad Movement; the Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement; the Young Christian Workers; the Focolare Association; Opus Dei and the Neo-Catechumenate Movement.

3. **St. Vincent Pallotti School, Avella, Italy**: the Octave of the Epiphany has been celebrated here for over 30 years, with just a brief interruption, and it is promoted and animated by the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate together with the lay members of the Pallottine family who are deeply imbued with the apostolic spirit of St. Vincent. The celebration this year was different to other years, the aim was to bring hope to the hearts of the people in the town and in the surrounding area. All sectors and people of all ages from the parish community and the school community were involved. The team which organized the Octave wanted to give the celebration a missionary impetus which was expressed in the logo "Messengers of Hope". The 'messengers of hope' went out and set up circles of listening, of prayer, reflection and sharing, in a multitude of places. The mission received its strength from those persons who sustained the 'messengers' in prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which was exposed each day in the school Chapel at the end of morning Mass. Small groups made up of lay persons, a priest and a Sister, went out to work-places, shops, businesses, factories, clinics, health centres and the municipal offices. All united with the aim of rekindling faith and bringing Jesus to each place. A very significant event was a convention of the youth of the Diocese of Nola, the evening began with a time of song, prayer and reflection in the main square and ended with a moving celebration in the Franciscan Church.

Three celebration; three different ways of celebrating the Epiphany today so that it can produce fruit for the Church and the world. The three celebrations show that what is done together, in union with other, bears fruit. The spirit of St. Vincent is alive and active.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Triduum and the Feast of St. Vincent Pallotti

These events were celebrated here in Rome in the Church of San Salvatore in Onda. It began with a concelebrated Mass on January 17th to pray for the beatification of the Venerable Elizabeth Sanna, a member of the Union, who died on February 17th 1857. Numerous members and collaborators of the Union and of the Communities in Italy visited the Church of San Salvatore in Onda, the Spiritual Centre of the Union, and prayed at the tomb of St. Vincent so that God, through his intercession, will grant all the graces necessary for the life and the work of the Union.

On Monday January 22nd, Feast of St. Vincent, a concelebrated Mass was held in which the principal celebrant was Mons. Henryk Hoser, Assistant Secretary at the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and President of the Pontifical Works of the Missions, with the participation of the Urban Pontifical College of 'Propaganda Fide'. In his homily Mons. Hoser underlined that: "... the relevance of the ideals and the mission of Pallotti are as alive today as they were in the past, they live wherever we are, wherever we live, work and are active ... his message remains very relevant, it both stimulates and challenges us". Mons. Hoser went on to reflect on the similarity between the world of Pallotti's time and ours: the challenges that faith encounters as it addresses the secularized world and way of life are

the same. Pallotti's response to the world of his time was twofold; the first was the missionary spirit that grew in him according as he perceived that God was inviting him to actively participate in the salvific mission of Jesus; the second, inseparable from the first, was his spirituality which was nourished by the example of St. Paul the Apostle. This was very evident in his growth in apostolic zeal, in a spirit of sacrifice, his readiness to serve the glory of God, his concern for the entire Church, and configuration to Christ, the Apostle of the Eternal Father. Thus Pallotti dedicated himself completely to fulfilling the universal apostolate of Jesus. Mons. Hoser concluded his homily by reminding his listeners that "Pallotti's real secret is hidden in St. Paul's hymn to charity. Charity achieves all, without charity life has no value. This is the beautiful lesson for our lives that our Saint offers us today."

A student of the Urban Pontifical College of 'Propaganda Fide', Jean-Claude Folly Afanou, from Togo, continued the tradition started some years ago and read a letter composed by the seminarians of the College in response to the letter that the then spiritual director, Fr. Vincent Pallotti, wrote to the students there in 1849. In the letter, Jean-Claude thanked Pallotti for his letter through which he, and the other students, had been motivated to reflect more deeply on the vocation to which they are called and through which they came to a new awareness of the mission to bring salvation to the whole world.

On January 25th, the final day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Mons. Miguel Angel Delgado, Capo Ufficio at the Pontifical Council for the Laity, was the main celebrant at the closing concelebrated Mass.

The anniversary of the death of the Venerable Elisabetta Sanna (17 February 1857/17 February 2007).

The Venerable Elisabetta was one of the first members of the Union founded by St. Vincent. The Church has recognized her fame of holiness, which was widely known, by honouring her with the title of Venerable. The cause for her beatification is continuing under the diligent guidance of Fr. Jan Korycki, Postulator General of the Society. On the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of her death, February 17th, a concelebrated Mass was held at 18.00 at the Church of San Salvatore in Onda and the principal celebrant was his Excellency Mons. Paolo Atzei, (OFM Conv) Archbishop of the Diocese of Sassari, Sardinia. The male choir known as "The Codrongianos Choir" led the singing, and members of the parish and civil community of Codrongianos, birth place of the Venerable, also participated.

NEWS FROM THE UNION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

- **ROME:** The General Coordination Council will hold its second annual meeting at the Spirituality Centre of St. Vincent Pallotti, Grottaferrata, from the evening of the 11th to the evening of the 18th of May 2007. The members of the Council judged it expedient to hold the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Union at the same time. Therefore, the **Extraordinary Assembly** will take place from Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th of May, 2007. The members of the General Coordination Council and all the Presidents of the National Coordination Councils will participate in the Assembly. This Extraordinary Assembly will specifically study the proposed modifications to the General Statutes, which, once approved, will be presented to the Pontifical Council for the Laity for definitive approval. All members of the Union are asked to pray for both of these important events in the life of the Union.
- **GERMANY:** January 22nd 2007, apart from being the Feast of St. Vincent Pallotti, this date has become a historical one for the **SAC**. The two German Provinces, the Holy Trinity Province, Limburg, and the Sacred Heart Province, Friedberg, together with the Holy Spirit Region, Austria, were united on this day to form one Province. This event was the conclusion of a lengthy period of discernment and of dialogue between the three entities, the decision to form one Province was taken with the aim of ensuring a more efficient and fruitful expression of the Pallottine charism.

The **National Coordination Council** of the UAC has up-dated the **formation programme** for the members of the Union and made it more relevant to the lived reality. It is available on CD. The Council has also up-dated and printed a complete Catalogue of all the members of the Union, including those who belong to the communities of the Union within the nation. The Catalogue is very useful and will enable the members to know one another and facilitate communication between them. The Council has also forwarded an impressive list of courses, seminars, and formation sessions which will be held during 2007 for the German-speaking members.

Fr. Richard Henkes, SAC: on Tuesday January 23rd 2007, in the Pallottine Church of St. Marien in Limburg, Mons. Franz Kamphaus, Bishop of Limburg, celebrated a solemn Mass to mark the conclusion of the diocesan process for the beatification of Fr. Richard Henkes, SAC, which was opened in 2000.

Fr. Henkes, born on April 22nd. 1900, in Germany, was ordained a priest in 1925 and died on February 22nd. 1945 in the concentration camp at Dachau. He had become a volunteer nurse in Dachau, caring for the prisoners who had typhus, which he himself eventually contracted and which led to his death. At the end of January the Vice-Postulator of the Cause, Fr. Manfred Probst and Fr. Norbert Hannappel, brought the documentation of the Cause to Rome and submitted it for examination to the Congregation for beatifications and canonizations in the Vatican.

Two members of the **Apostolatskreis Vinzenz Pallotti**, at Reckendorf in Germany, Mr. Willibald Dörr and Mrs. Beate Weis, a member of the GCC, participated in a meeting in Gniezno, Poland, from December 8th. to 10th, representing the German NCC. This meeting forms part of the preparations for a European Convention on "Man, the Way for Europe" which will take place at Gniezno from June 15th to 17th, 2007. The Convention which is ecumenical, will concentrate on the human person as the foundation of European culture and will promote debate on the person, his dignity, freedom and his inalienable rights. The inaugural conference on "Man, the Way for the Church" will be delivered by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Secretary of State of the Holy See. The web-site for the Convention is www.euroforum.pl

- **U.S.A.:** On Sunday, January 21st, **13 new members** made the Act of Apostolic Commitment during a concelebrated Eucharist at the Pallottine Parish in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- **ITALY: The National Coordination Council in Italy** has been very saddened by the untimely death on December 24th of Mrs. Giuliana Esposito, the NCC Secretary, may she rest in peace.

The NCC continues to hold the UAC monthly formation and animation gatherings at the St. Vincent Pallotti Spirituality Centre, Grottaferrata. Each meeting is an intensive day of study, prayer and reflection on the life and spiritual path of St. Vincent. The number of participants increases each month. The NCC will hold the **first National Congress** of the Union in Italy at the Centre in Grottaferrata from April 28th, to May 1st. The NCC is preparing this historic event with great joy and enthusiasm.

A **UAC Choir in Rome.** A choir has been formed at the Church of San Salvatore in Onda, Spiritual Centre of the UAC, and is a concrete sign of the sharing and the unity that is growing between the various vocations which find expression in the Pallottine family. The choir came to birth a few months ago and was born of a desire to provide musical animation for the common celebrations, as well as, a desire to share through song, especially the songs which are an expression of Pallottine spirituality, the diverse experiences present in the Union and to permit all to share in them. Each of the members has brought their personal talent to the group, those who play a musical instrument, who sing, who direct, who organize ... those who take a break. The members come from very different backgrounds, and besides those who are members of the Union, priests, sisters, consecrated persons, lay persons, an open invitation is extended to the friends of the Pallottine family and to all those who wish to know and live the spirituality of St. Vincent Pallotti.

- **AUSTRALIA:** The **Mariana Community**, a community of the Union, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary of life this year. The Community is a group of Consecrated women who grew out of

secular Pallottine Groups which flourished in the 1950's. Father Walter Sylvester SAC was the group's Spiritual Director for many years and was instrumental in the establishment of the community. The members of the community "live a life of love in and for the world" and "share in the Church's mission to bring God's friendship to all," living in oneness with Christ, each other, and reaching out and receiving God's love from all people in their life. The name of the Community, 'Mariana', reveals that the ideal centres around Mary who was the first woman to give her life unreservedly to the Father in order to bring Christ to the world; the members desire to live as fully Christian women, consecrated to God in the world.

The members of the Community from its very beginning have participated actively and with a great spirit of commitment in the life of the Pallottine Family in Australia, and the Community was formally admitted to the Union of Catholic Apostolate on November 10th 1992; from that date on it has been at the service of the Union in all expressions of life in the Union. Cheryl Sullivan, who is a member of the present General Coordination Council, is a member of the Community.

The celebration of **World Youth Day** in the month of July **2008** will be held in Sydney, Australia. The communities of the Union in Australia are actively participating in the preparations for this multitudinous event; and as part of the preparations they are organizing a Pallottine Youth Gathering which will be held in the week previous to the principal event. The Pallottine gathering will begin on Friday July 4th at St. Christopher's Parish, Syndal and at Pallotti College, Millgrove, and will conclude with a Mass in Melbourne on Sunday July 13th, following which the participants will depart by bus for Sydney. The organizers are expecting young Pallottines from different parts of the world to participate in this event. For further information please contact Fr. Pat Jackson, SAC, pat.jacksonsac@syndalcatholic.org.au or Fr. Eugene San SAC, san.eugene@pallottine.org.au

- **POLAND:** The members of the Union in Poland have been publishing a quarterly magazine called **Królowa Apostołów' (Queen of Apostles)** for eight years. The magazine has been up-dated recently; the presentation and format are more attractive. It offers articles on theology, spirituality, pastoral life and carries news from the Union in Poland. It is a very important means of communication and is much appreciated by its readers. Should any of you wish to know more about it you can contact the editorial team at the following e-mail address: zak@pallotti.ecclesia.org.pl

The members of the Union in city of Gniezno, Poland, form part of the **Family Cenacles** which are coordinated by a Pallottine Father and a lay man. They operate in close collaboration with the Pallottine Missionary Sisters and are engaged in the formation of the members and of young persons, some of whom are preparing to become members of the UAC. The young members of the Cenacles have their own web site, the address is: www.hoza31.prv.pl On visiting the web site one can appreciate the vitality of the members, the comprehensive formation they receive and their level of commitment to the apostolate in the local church.

1907 – 2007: 100 years of Pallottine presence in Poland. The entire Pallottine family is participating in a series of events and activities throughout 2007 to commemorate the first one hundred years of its presence in the country. The centenary celebrations were formally opened in November 2006 and will conclude in November 2007. We join with all the members in Poland in thanking God for these one hundred years of life, of divine graces and of apostolic commitment in the Pallottine spirit and charism and we pray that, through the intercession of Saint Vincent, God may continue to bless them and work in and through them.

- **RWANDA/CONGO:** The **National Coordination Council**, taking into account the geographical situation, in its meeting of January 13th, 2007, has decided to reorganize the Local Coordination Councils raising the number from three to five. Two LCCs are to function in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and three in Rwanda. The members of the UAC will hold a meeting from April 16th to 21st at Keshero, Goma, DRC; the admission of a group of new lay members of the Union is planned to take place during this year.

- **COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA:** The members of the Union in these two countries have recently inaugurated their **web site**, the address is: www.uac.palotinos.net
- **URUGUAY:** Maria del Huerto Bozzano, Secretary of the NCC, wrote with details of the election of the new **National Coordination Council** in Uruguay. It is made up of Mr. Ramiro Alonso, President, Fr. José Carlos de Souza SAC, Vice-President, Mrs. Maria del Huerto Bozzano, Secretary and Ms. Maria Cristina Varela, Treasurer. We wish them every blessing in their service to the Union.
- **ARGENTINA:** the organizing team of the **‘EVP’ – (Pallottine Studies and Gathering)** prepared a session which took place from February 5th to 7th, and reflected on the topics to be dealt with by the Fifth Conference of the CELAM (Episcopal Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean). This Conference will take place in Aparecida, Brazil, during the month of May, the theme is “Disciples and Missionaries of Jesus Christ so that the peoples may have life in him.” Some members of the UAC in Uruguay also participated in the event.
Raül Llusà of the **“Respuesta Cristiana”** Community in Argentina has also sent details of their web site at: www.hacialascumbres.com.ar
- **BRAZIL:** the Pallottine community has been saddened by the unexpected death of José Sponchiado, a twenty-nine year old professed student, who died in a car accident in Mozambique where he was doing a pastoral year of missionary experience.
Fifty five young missionaries of the **‘Juventude Palotina’** Community engaged in a Youth Mission in the city of Cambé, Stato di Paraná, Brazil, from September 7th to 10th.
On September 8th, 9th and 10th the Fifth Spirituality Session of the **‘Juventude Palotina’** took place at Santa Maria, the topic was “Jesus Christ, the Apostle of the Eternal Father”, the logo was “To evangelize: the mission of each young person”, and, the aim of the session was to reawaken enthusiasm in young persons for the apostolate that Jesus has entrusted to us and which is the mission of each baptized person. The themes of the session were: (1). The image we have of Christ; (2). Identification with Christ as the foundation of Christian apostolic life; and (3). Personal identification with the life of Pallotti. Seventy two young persons from various states and regions participated in the session.
The **Local Coordination Council of Santa Maria** held a ‘benefit tea’ for the Union in the Colegio Maximo Palotino, on September 23rd with the participation of more than 130 persons.
- **INDIA:** Fr. Séamus Freeman SAC, President of the General Coordination Council of the Union, visited India during the entire month of November 2006, he had been invited by the Major Superiors of the Pallottine Communities to animate and direct several **retreats and seminars** for the Union of Catholic Apostolate. He preached three retreats, at Madurai, Chicalim in Goa and in Nagpur and a total of 197 persons from the various communities of the Union participated in the retreats. Fr. Freeman also held seminars and meetings with the students of the Society, with the Sisters and the lay members of the Union on the Charism of St. Vincent and the UAC. The visit was much appreciated by the members of the Union in India.
- **SWITZERLAND:** Fr. Mirosław Mejzner, SAC, of the Polish Province of Christ the King, is currently working in the parish of St. Guérin at Sion, Switzerland. He invited the parishioners to celebrate the **feast of St. Vincent Pallotti** this year. A group of young persons animated the celebration with some Taizé music and song. The celebration took place within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and gathered many lay people, priests, deacons and religious. Fr. Mirosław, in his homily, spoke of charity as the hallmark of the life of St. Vincent. Following on from the Eucharist all those present were invited to continue sharing a social time in a spirit of joy and simplicity.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.

- **The VIIIth Consultative Congress of the Major Superiors of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate** was held at the “Pallottine Animation Centre” in Nagpur, India, from October 17th to 24th, 2006, with the participation of 20 Major Superiors and the members of the General Administration. The theme of the Congress was “The contemplation of life in the Spirit of the Cenacle”, which was also the unifying focus of the activities during the Congress.
- The **Secretary General** of the Union, Fr. Derry Murphy, visited the communities of the Union in **Canada** during the month of September 2006; he held seminars on the UAC in Edmonton, Red Deer, Airdrie and Calgary and concluded on Saturday September 25th with a retreat day in the parish meeting room of St. Cecilia’s Parish, Calgary. In the month of October he travelled to **England** and held two meetings, the first in the Parish of St. Thomas More, in Barking, and the second in the Parish of Our Lady of the Visitation, Greenford.

In November he visited **Tanzania and Kenya** where he preached a five-day retreat to the members of the SAC in the Retreat Centre of the Capuchin Sisters at Maua. He visited the mission centres and the groups of the Union currently in formation in Esoo, Arusha; in Siuyu and Makiungu, in Boay, Galapo, Nangwa and Bashanet, Magugu and Mbugwe, as well as the group at Dagoretti Corner, Nairobi. A seminar was also held at the house of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters at Poli Singisi with the participation of the novices of the Missionary Sisters and of the Society, as well as the Philosophy students of the Society. A second seminar took place with the community of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters together with the postulants, at Siuyu; a further session was held with the theology students in Nairobi. In all of the places visited it is very evident that enormous opportunity exists for the growth of the Pallottine charism as well as an appreciation of what the charism can offer to the life of the Church.

In the Diocese of Masaka, **Uganda**, a group of diocesan priests actively participate in Pallottine spirituality and they wish to become members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate; four of them met with Fr. Derry in Nairobi in order to deepen their understanding of the Union. A very significant event was a day-long encounter held at Siuyu, Singida, with the members of the Rehabilitation Centre for handicapped children (see UAC Newsletter of July 2004, which carried news of the initial steps of this project which has now become a reality).

On January 15th, 2007, the Secretary General of the Union, Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, met with Sr. **Stella Holisz, Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate**, together with the other Sisters of the General Council, for general discussion on the life of the Union.

Conclusion:

St. Vincent helps us to become conscious of our mission:

“ Every Catholic of the Church of Jesus Christ, priest, religious, or lay person, is consoled and animated by the realization that, if with their talents, ability, learning, studies, strength, human nobility, relationships, profession, art, words, material goods, or at least (being unable to do so with any other means) with Holy Prayers, they do all that they can so that faith in Jesus Christ be revived and charity rekindled among Catholics and spread throughout the world, they will gain the merits of the Apostolate; and even more, in so much as they commit their strength, talents, learning, studies, money, material objects, works, Prayers, etc, for this objective (the Apostolate). Therefore, it would be an error to say that one cannot equal, and also excel, the merits of the Apostles, because God looks at the perfection and the fullness of works according to the intentions of the heart and the possibilities of His creatures” (OCC IV, 181-182).