



# UAC NEWSLETTER

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Dear members and friends in the Union,

The previous newsletter from the General Secretariat of the Union was sent out in February and March of this year. You may have been wondering what has been happening since then. Well, the intervening months have been intensive, this number will bring you up to date with the principal activities of this period.

Once again we begin by looking to our Founder, St. Vincent, for a teaching. This time it consists of the advice, or counsel, he gave to Sr. Maria Gertrude Costantini Sales, the text is found in OCCC XI, pages 300 - 01.

St. Vincent counsels Sr. Maria Gertrude: “Before holy Communion meditate on the following points:

1. God, who is all-powerful in his very essence, is coming to visit personally one who could be said to be weakness in his essence;
2. God, who is wisdom, visits one of whom it could be said that he is ignorance in his essence;
3. God, who is the essence of goodness, visits one of whom it could be said is the essence of badness;
4. God, who is the essence of justice, visits one of whom it could be said is the essence of injustice;
5. God, who is the essence of mercy, visits one of whom it could be said is the essence of cruelty;
6. God, who is the essence of purity, visits one of whom it could be said is the essence of impurity;
7. God, who is the essence of holiness and perfection, visits one of whom it could be said is the essence of imperfection.

Then after receiving Holy Communion, he counsels her to contemplate:

God, who became man, nourishes us:

1. With his infinite power;
2. With his infinite wisdom;
3. With his infinite love or charity;
4. With his infinite justice;
5. With his infinite mercy;
6. With his infinite purity;
7. With his very infinite nature and perfection.

(He then adds a note: “Do not omit or neglect the normal or usual acts of thanksgiving after Holy Communion”).

Vincent shares with her something of the dynamic of his own spiritual life; intense awareness of his own human weakness, of his sinfulness, and then of his conviction that Jesus, the Son of God made man, comes personally to us in the Eucharist and, in the Eucharist, nourishes and feeds us; in this activity he accomplishes his salvific work of love, both forming and transforming us progressively.

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The **General Coordination Council** of the Union held its annual meeting at the Centro di Spiritualità San Vincenzo Pallotti, Grottaferrata, in May. The meeting was planned to coincide with the extraordinary General Assembly of the Union, convoked to approve the reformulated General Statutes of the UAC, both events took place at the same venue. The General Coordination Council met on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and the General Assembly took place on May 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

There were many topics on the agenda for the meeting of the GCC, among them was the approval of the Regulations of the Australian NCC; the Regulations of the NCC of India; and the approval of reformulated and up-dated Regulations presented by the Italian NCC and the NCC of the Argentine.

The GCC also studied the petition of the **Instituto Secular do Apostolado Catolico**, (Secular Institute of the Catholic Apostolate), Curitiba, Brazil, to be aggregated to the Union; the petition was presented by the Brazilian NCC. The petition was approved and the Institute was aggregated to the Union on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Brazilian NCC also presented to the GCC the first volume of a programme of formation called "Roteiros de Formacao Crista-Palotina"; having examined it the GCC approved the general outline of the programme as well as the methodology followed.

The GCC appointed Fr. Frank Donio, SAC, as Treasurer in conformity with article 54i of the General Statutes.

The **Extraordinary General Assembly** of the Union began on Sunday evening, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this Assembly was, as you know, to study and approve the reformulated General Statutes of the UAC in preparation for presenting them to the Pontifical Council of the Laity for definitive approval. Most of the Presidents of the NCCs were happily able to participate in the Assembly. The members of the Assembly worked on the draft text of the Statutes, approved it, and entrusted a technical/juridical commission with the task of preparing the final draft for presentation to the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The members of this commission met in Rome during the week of September 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> and completed this task. The General Statutes are now ready to be presented to the Pontifical Council for the Laity for study and eventual approval.

The closing Eucharist of the Assembly was held in the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, Spiritual Centre of the UAC, and the principal celebrant was Fr. Fritz Kretz, SAC, Rector General of the SAC and Ecclesiastical Assistant of the UAC. In the course of his homily Fr. Kretz reminded all those present that the work of the Assembly was indeed important, an association such as the Union needs to have Statutes which reflect its identity, spirituality and mission, as well as providing guidelines for the life of the Union in the Church. The statutes protect the charism, the gift of God for the Church. However, he noted that the statutes are a means to an end, and that end is life, a life of faith, lived in love of God and of others in the spirit of Christ. It is the lived life and charism which is to be incarnated daily that will make of the Union a Cenacle where, together with Mary, we are open to the activity and graces of the Holy Spirit.

The **Episcopal Ordination of Mgr. Séamus Freeman, SAC**, President of the General Coordination Council, as Bishop of Ossory, will take place on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny. The Principal Consecrator will be Most Reverend Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, and the co-consecrators will be His Excellency Most Reverend Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Apostolic Nuncio, and Most Reverend Laurence Forristal, former Bishop of Ossory. All the members of the Union wish Fr. Séamus every blessing from the Lord in this new apostolate of the Church.

The **General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate** (know as the Roman Pallottine Sisters), took place at the Centro di Spiritualità San Vincenzo Pallotti, Grottaferrata, from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007, and elected the new **General Administration**, consisting of the following members: Sr Serena Cambiaghi (Italy) - Superior General; Sr Ighes Burin (Brazil) - Vicar General; Sr Armida Sacco (Italy), Sr Lilly Nanat (India), Sr Salette Maristella Cargnin (Brazil) – General

Councillors. We wish the new General Administration every blessing in guiding the Congregation in the coming six year term.

The out-going Superior General, Sr. Ivete Garlet, CSAC, was an *'ex officio'* member of the General Coordination Council of the Union. During her time in office she made an invaluable contribution to the discernment process and the development of the Union. She has now returned to her native Brazil to continue to work in the vineyard of the Lord.

The General Secretariat has also seen some changes. Sr. Grace Gabrielle O'Brien and Sr. Joselia Giuliani, were both members of the out-going General Council of the Sisters, they had both finished their terms in office and have returned, respectively, to the United States and Brazil. Their presence in the General Secretariat will be missed, between them they had a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise and were generous in their commitment and availability. In the name of the Union I take this opportunity to thank all three Sisters for their presence and participation in the Secretariat and GCC. May the Lord continue to bless and guide them.

The General Secretariat welcomes Sr. Salette Maristella Cargnin, CSAC, who has been nominated by the Congregation of the Pallottine Sisters for service on the General Secretariat. She will join the existing members, Fr. Franco Todisco, Mrs. Rosa Colucci, Sr. Bernadetta Turecka, SAC, and Fr. Derry Murphy.

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## News from the Union throughout the world.

**Rwanda-Congo:** for the past three years the members of the Union have been invited to participate in an annual gathering for formation, sharing and spiritual discernment, the session lasts for five days. The theme of this years gathering, which took place from April 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, and in which 22 members participated, was *"The Local Coordination Councils: Memory and Identity"*.

On 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2007, after a profound and intense formation, which lasted for more than two years, and which was guided by the members of the Pallottine Communities, the first six lay members from the parish of St. Vincent Pallotti in Gikondo, Kigali, Rwanda, made their Act of Apostolic Commitment and were admitted as members of the Union.

**Tanzania-Kenya-Uganda:** the Centre for handicapped children at Siuyu, Singida, was formally blessed and opened by the Bishop of Singida, Mgr. Desiderius Rwoma, on 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 and is now working intensively with both children and their families.

During the months of May and June a total of 18 members were admitted to the UAC at Eucharistic celebrations held in Makiungu, Arusha and Siuyu, Tanzania, and in Nairobi, Kenya.

The National Coordination Council has completed the legal procedures necessary for civil recognition of the UAC in Tanzania.

**Brazil:** The fifth Regional Encounter of the UAC took place in Rio de Janeiro with the participation of about 100 persons. During the closing Eucharistic celebration on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 14 persons were admitted to the Union and made the Act of Apostolic Commitment;

One new member made his Act of Apostolic Commitment in Santa Maria, on March 24<sup>th</sup>;

7 persons were admitted to the UAC at Teresina, Piauí, on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

A new National Coordination Council was elected in the course of the second National Assembly held at Curitiba on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June of this year: it is composed of Fr. João Pedro Stawicki, SAC - President, Fr. Angelo Lôndero, SAC - Vice-President, Sr. Cleusa Casarin, CSAC - Secretary, Mr. Dario Ivatiuk Junior - Vice-secretary, Mr. Joaquim Accioly - Treasurer and Bro. Fernando do Nascimento - Vice-treasurer. The new council began its three year mandate on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The VII Latin American Congress on Pallottine Education took place in São Leopoldo, Porto Alegre, from October 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> this year, with the active participation of more than one hundred educators.

**Argentina:** the National Coordination Council met on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 in Castelar, Buenos Aires, and elected the members who will guide the UAC for the coming three years, they are: Mr. Miguel Angel della Villa, President, Sr. Flora Mora Stefanello, CSAC, Secretary and Mr. José Szymborski, Treasurer.

The Respuesta Cristiana Community, held their First Annual Encounter of all the members of the Community on April 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, the theme was “Together we experience community.”

The NCC has also opened its own page on the Internet, the address is: [www.uac.org.ar](http://www.uac.org.ar)

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of November the members of the UAC renewed their Act of Apostolic Commitment at a concelebrated Mass in which Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, and Primate of the Argentine, was the principal celebrant.

**Uruguay:** the NCC organized the first national Congress of the Union in Uruguay on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Retreat Centre of the Buen Pastor, Florida. The principal objectives of the Congress were to strengthen the identity of the UAC in Uruguay and also to examine ways to offer the Union to the local church.

**Colombia:** the first lay member of the UAC was admitted on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Belize:** the President of the NCC, Sr. Alicia Buddan SAC, wrote to inform of some interesting activities organized by the Union this year. The first event was a Youth Rally which was very well attended. The second event was a Eucharistic procession to which the children who had made their First Holy Communion in the parishes were all invited to participate. The procession took place through the streets of Belize city and the participants prayed the Rosary as they walked and sang hymns to the Blessed Sacrament.

**Canada:** in a meeting of the National Coordination Council which was held during the month of February, Maria Domke was re-elected President of the Council for a further three year term.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the city of Red Deer, Alberta, three young persons were admitted to the UAC and made the Act of Apostolic Commitment. They will now join another group of three young persons who were admitted to the UAC in 2006, they form a group called ‘Ciera’.

In the **United States of America**, Fr. Frank Donio, SAC, was re-elected for a further term as President of the National Coordination Council, and Sr. Elisabeth Heptner, SAC, was re-elected to continue as Bursar of the NCC, Mrs. Louise Gay is the new Secretary of the NCC.

**Australia:** two new committees have been set up in the UAC, the first is the ‘UAC Scholarship for Lay Ministry Committee’, and the second is the ‘Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture Committee.’ Msg. Séamus Freeman will be the guest speaker for the memorial lecture in 2008, the inaugural Lecture this year was given by Archbishop Coleridge of Canberra- Goulburn.

The NCC is about to appoint a new Executive Officer for the Australian UAC as Pat Heywood is retiring from this position.

The NCC is in the process of completing the requirements to incorporate the UAC as a registered association in Australia.

**Belarus:** The Union continues to be strengthened by formation courses which are guided by members of the Pallottine Communities. On Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> a total of 110 persons, who belong to different parish groups, were admitted to the UAC.

**Switzerland:** Sr. Daniela Schumacher, SAC, was elected President of the National Coordination Council in Switzerland and Fr. Erich Schädler, SAC, Vice-President. The new Council began its mandate on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

**Germany:** the Theresienschwestern vom Katholischen Apostolat, a community of the UAC, held their General Chapter this year, and on March 5<sup>th</sup> re-elected Sr. Lucia Omasmeier, SAC as Superior General, Sr. Hildegard Mast, SAC, is the Vice-General and the Counsellors are Srs. Christina Fischer, SAC, Gabriele Berjon, SAC, and Maria Malak, SAC.

A total of 10 new members were admitted to the UAC in the course of this year, five are lay persons, two are sisters in a religious community and three are newly professed members of the SAC.

The **Junge Unio** (Young Union) held their second annual meeting from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> at Olpe with the participation of 30 young adults. It now has 147 members and they each receive a weekly letter, 'Denk Mail'.

The National Coordination Council held its annual Assembly from June 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> at Untermerzbach, the guest speaker was Mgr. Ludwig Schick, Archbishop of the Diocese of Bamberg. Msg. Schick encouraged the members to be present in the parishes and to bring the Pallottine charism to bear on parish life.

The UAC in Germany is part of a Circle of Spiritual Communities and Movements. This group meets twice a year. The last meeting took place in Erfurt where the representatives of the different communities and movements met also with a community of Protestant Sisters (Casteller Ring).

Members of the UAC also participated in day-long encounters in similar circles in the Dioceses of Rottenburg-Stuttgart and Cologne. Such participation is a way of sharing our charism and making it known in the local church.

The 'Movimento Pallotti' group, based in Berlin, hosted the Regional Meeting of the UAC in North Germany from September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Italian National Coordination Council** held the first National Congress of the Union at the Centro di Spiritualità San Vincenzo Pallotti, Grottaferrata, from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, with a very active participation of 110 persons.

Sr. Eduarda Torti, CSAC, animated, in the month of May, a triduum of prayer, reflection and Pallottine spirituality, in San Giorgio of Cascia, where members of the Pallotti family still live. Her presence there and her apostolic activity is much appreciated by all, the Triduum formed part of the preparations for the celebration that takes place there on the second Sunday of May every year. Members of the Generalate Community of the SAC went there to participate in the procession and con-celebrated Eucharist on Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> 27 persons from various parts of Italy made the Act of Apostolic Commitment in the UAC, and on 11<sup>th</sup> of November a further two members were admitted. Both of these Eucharistic Celebrations took place at the Centro di Spiritualità San Vincenzo Pallotti, Grottaferrata.

Here in **Rome** we celebrated, on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, the fourth anniversary of the erection of the Union of Catholic Apostolate as an International Association of the Faithful in the Church. We prepared for this celebration with hearts full of joy, of gratitude and thankfulness for the grace of God which has been given to us with this Ecclesiastical approval. The communities and members of the Union in Rome and in the surrounding area gathered at 16.00 in the Church of Santo Spirito dei Napoletani in Via Giulia, Rome, where the beginnings of this work of God first took root. We prayed, we reflected, we sang, we worshipped, and we gave heartfelt thanks to God in a concelebrated Eucharist in which Fr. Franco Todisco, SAC, Rector of the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, was principal celebrant.

**Poland:** The first National Congress of the Union of Catholic Apostolate was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2007 at Czestochowa. This event formed part of the Centenary celebrations of Pallottine Presence in Poland and therefore the motto of the Jubilee of the Pallottine Community – "To revive faith and re-ignite charity, and to unite efforts" – became also the theme of the Congress. More than 600 persons participated in the celebrations and during the Eucharistic Celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, 29 lay people made the Act of Apostolic Commitment.

Sr. Monika Szupryt, SAC, Secretary of the NCC, described the Congress in the following manner: "The beautiful weather permitted us to gather under the blue sky around an outdoor altar. In this picturesque valley of Our Lady we enjoyed the sun, the presence of so many persons (we were more than 600), and the spiritual and apostolic riches of community and of the spiritual patrimony left to us by St. Vincent Pallotti. We had excellent speakers ... and in groups we sought ways in which we can live Pallotti's vision in the world in which we live and work. We thank God, through the intercession of

St. Vincent, for the Union of Catholic Apostolate, and we pray that it may continues to grow in his Church.”

The **Pallottine Missionary Sisters** have seen the election of new leadership teams in several areas in recent months. Sr. Marie Keegan, was re-elected Provincial Superior of the English Province, as was Sr. Boscona, of the South African Province, Sr. Rosalyn Novelo of the Province in Belize and Sr. Blanka Sławińska of the Polish Province; Sr. Helga Weidemann was elected Provincial of the German Province.

In the **Society of the Catholic Apostolate**, a new provincial council has been elected in the Santa Maria Province, Brazil, Fr. Erno Schlindwein, SAC, is the Provincial Rector.

*As we begin a new Advent season we wish you every blessing and grace from the Lord Jesus  
who comes to meet us.*

*Maranatha!*

*Come Lord Jesus!*