



UAC NEWSLETTER

September, 2009

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

Quite a long period of time has passed since you received a newsletter from the General Secretariat of the UAC. In fact some persons have asked, perhaps not entirely seriously, if there is no 'news' to report and to share. The General Secretariat has received some comments on the Newsletter regarding its length and the frequency with which it is prepared and sent out. Having reflected on this it was decided that the format for the UAC Newsletters will be shorter and that they will be prepared on a monthly basis and sent out at the middle of each month in order not to coincide with the distribution of Apostles for Today. These past months have been ones of a great deal of happenings and events, this month we will bring you some of them.

1. An auspicious event with which to start our sharing of news this month comes from the **NCC in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Fr. Romualdo Uzabumwana, SAC, informed us that on September 15th 2009, two novices of the delegature of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, three novices of the Holy Family Region of the SAC and one novice from the Queen of Peace delegature in Ivory Coast, made their first profession as Pallottines together in the Pallottine Parish at Kabuga, Kigali, Rwanda.

2. The **General Coordination Council met for its annual meeting in April**, Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC was elected President of the Council and Mr. Corrado Montaldo Vice-President. Sr. Bernadetta Turecka, SAC, a member of the General Secretariat since 2004, is occupying the post of General Secretary '*pro tempore*'.

3. **Sr. Bernadetta** and **Fr. Derry** were invited to **Konstancin, Poland**, in May to participate in a '**School for Animators**' of the UAC which took place on May 23rd and 24th 2009. These weekend encounters are organized twice or three times a year by the National Coordination Council and provide members, collaborators and interested persons with the opportunity to explore various aspects of the UAC ranging from the nature of the charism, structural organization, missionary outreach and commitment to working in the Polish Church. At the weekend in June a total of 57 persons participated with a broad representation of members of the SAC and the Pallottine Missionary Sisters and lay persons from all expressions of Pallottine life in Poland as well as members from Slovakia and the Ukraine. A further weekend encounter is programmed for this autumn.

4. During the month of July Fr. Derry went to **Belize** in Central America and preached two 8 day retreats for the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and lay members of the UAC. The Sisters form a Province in Belize, the first missionary Sisters went there in 1913 and have maintained a continuous presence there ever since. Over the course of the years Sisters from various other countries formed part of the Province, at present there are three non-Belizean Sisters, one each from Germany, the USA and Ireland.

The first retreat took place in the south of the country in Punta Gorda, the Sisters have a retreat and pastoral centre there, it is also their novitiate and formation community. The Sisters are very involved in the wider pastoral ministry in the area and surrounding countryside. The Sisters have opened their annual retreat to all UAC members some years ago and twelve lay members of the UAC participated in the retreat in Punta Gorda. The second retreat was held in Belize City where the Sisters have the Provincial House and Pallotti High School for girls. A group of 15 lay members and collaborators participated in this retreat, some of them making big sacrifices to fulfil their daily tasks and commitments as well as being present at the retreat activities.

Fr. Derry also visited the members of the UAC at San Ignacio, Cayo, in the west of the country.

A noteworthy aspect of the life of the members of the UAC in Belize is the strong spirit of cooperation among all and their openness to one another. The lay members are markedly committed to service in the local churches and are involved in a wide variety of roles, ministries and ways of serving the church in the spirit of St. Vincent.

5. The **Italian National Coordination Council** is enthusiastically preparing the **Second National Congress** of the UAC which will take place in the St. Vincent Pallotti Centre of Spirituality, Grottaferrata, from September 25th to 27th, 2009. The theme chosen for the Congress is: “We have come to bring fire on the earth; the General Statutes, a road to unity”. Upwards of 150 members and collaborators of the UAC in Italy are registered to participate in the Congress. Please keep it in your prayers.

6. The **Brazilian National Coordination Council** is organizing the **First South American Congress of the UAC** which will take place in the city of Santa Maria, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, from October 29th to November 1st 2009. Participants in this gathering will number approximately 150 and will include members from all parts of Brazil as well as those from the Argentine, Uruguay, Bolivia and Colombia. The theme chosen by the organizing committee is “The UAC – the Cenacle” and the logo is “The UAC – from the Cenacle to the mission!” Your prayers are also requested for the success of this Congress.

7. The General Secretariat for Formation of the Society of Catholic Apostolate has responsibility for organizing courses and gatherings of on-going formation in the Pallottine Formation Centre, the Cenacle, at Via Giuseppe Ferrari, in Rome. The Centre is adjacent to the Queen of Apostles Parish which is under the pastoral care and administration of the Italian Province of the SAC.

By agreement these courses take place during the months of July, August and September. There have been various gatherings there this summer, at the present a course for Pallottine priests who are engaged in parish ministry is taking place with the participation of 18 Pallottines from around the world. One of the gatherings was a **UAC Seminar** specifically for members who wished to broaden and deepen their understanding of the UAC in order to cooperate more fully in its life. Responsibility for organizing and animating this event was assumed by the General Secretariat of the UAC. A total of 20 members, including Pallottines and Sisters from both Congregations, participated on a full-time basis, they came from India, Ireland, the Philippines, Italy, Rwanda, Brazil, Nigeria, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine.

The programme was very varied and intense and was greatly enriched by the generous and active participation of members of all expressions of the UAC in Italy. We all gathered in the Spiritual Centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, on Wednesday August 26th and September 2nd and prayed for the Union throughout the world.

Our heartfelt thanks to the local community at Via Ferrari for the welcome, openness and the care they extended to all.

8. **Fr. Reginald Temu**, SAC, of the East African delegature of the SAC, defended his doctoral thesis at the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, in June of this year. His doctoral dissertation is on “**St. Vincent Pallotti’s Spirituality of the priesthood and its impact on cooperation with the laity.**” The dissertation has been published in book form in **English** and is now available; for details contact Fr. Jacob Nampudakam at: jnampudakam@gmail.com or Fr. Derry Murphy at: uac@uniopal.org

SECRETARIATO UAC
Piazza S.V. Pallotti, 204 – 00186 Roma
Tel./Fax: (39) 06 68194623
E-mail: uac@uniopal.org