



UAC NEWSLETTER

October, 2009

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union of Catholic Apostolate,
the following are the news items this month.

1. SAC Assembly Perth Western Australia – 28th September to 2nd October 2009

This was a great occasion with broad representation of UAC members joining together with the SAC members for the first two days of assembly to broadly discuss our future in Australia.

It is always an amazing experience to be together with most of the SAC members. Having broad UAC representation for the first half of their assembly is something that is now built into the fabric of the SAC Assembly. The men are an amazing group, they are always open and willing to share their beliefs as together we look to the future.

A variety of people presented various topics and posed questions to the group for discussion. Jen Callanan, a Mariana member facilitated a session on Spirituality. Dean Bradbury (SAC) on Parish. Pat Jackson (SAC) on Formation. Jessica Scully and Beth Yates, two young women from the Syndal (SAC) Parish on Youth involvement following World Youth Day, and I looked at UAC from an International perspective.

The presentation on Youth was just fantastic. Jessica and Beth were vibrant and presented some great ideas of how we can look to the future, introducing younger people through a Lay Volunteer Program, Community Housing options etc.

So the future looks exciting – Vincent will be smiling on the “land down under” as we continue our journey of bringing his vision of church to all.

Submitted by Cheryl Sullivan, member of the GCC.

2. Second National UAC Congress in Italy.

The Second National Congress of the UAC took place in the St. Vincent Pallotti Spirituality Centre, Grottaferrata, Rome, from September 25th to 27th. The Congress was organized by the Italian National Coordination Council of which Fr. Gaetano Ianni, SAC, is the President. The theme of the Congress was “We have come to bring fire on the earth; the General Statutes, a road to unity”. Lay members of the UAC and representatives of the Communities participated. Amongst those present were Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, Eucharistic Sisters of St. Vincent Pallotti, Polish Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate who live in Rome and are represented on the NCC, they were accompanied by their Provincial Superior. Also present were Pallottine priests and brothers, the Italian novices and a postulant.

The goal of the Congress was to reflect in depth on the General Statutes of the Union, a recent gift from the Church to our Pallottine family, and to allow the various groups and Local Coordination Councils to get to know one another a little better. The programme was very intense because the two days were dedicated to presentations, group work, plenary sessions, and of course community prayers and the celebration of the Eucharist. The spirit of fraternity and the reciprocal exchange of experiences was the central guiding force of the gathering and also the realization of its principal objective.

Fr. Francesco Todisco, SAC, General Consultor and Rector of the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, delivered the key-note presentation on “The General Statutes of the UAC, synthesis of the past and present ‘fire’ of the Pallottine charism”, it was a very interesting presentation both from the historical and charismatic point of view. It will be a guideline for on-going reflection in the coming years. This was followed by a ‘round-table’ with five speakers, at which Fr. Andrea Fulco, SAC, the Director of Preparatory Formation in the Italian Province, was the moderator. Each speaker was allotted fifteen minutes in which to present a specific aspect of the Statutes, which are understood as being the source from which we draw direction for our lives, but which are also the culmination of more than 160 years of

Pallottine history. In the Statutes we find the thinking of the Founder, up-dated for our times in order to meet the needs of the Church and the world of today.

The speakers were: Fr. Derry Murphy, President of the Union: “The Statutes a) the journey undertaken for the approval, b) the Value of the Statutes: a common reference point for our lives”.

Sr. Stella Holisz, General Superior of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, “The Mission as presented in the Statutes”.

Sr. Sara Carfagna, Provincial Superior of the Italian Province of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate: “The Spirituality of the Statutes: the only way to holiness for all.”

Dr. Gabriella Acerbi, a lawyer and member of the Quinta Dimensione Community: “The Juridical value of the Statutes and the spirit of its norms.”

Mr. Dino Mazzi, member of the Local Coordination Council of Rocca Priora (Rome): “The force of the Statutes in the life of the LCCs. The journey taken to found the LCC, its growth, perseverance and mission.”

A very important moment in the Congress took place on the morning of the final day with the reports of each of the ten working groups into which the members of the Congress had been divided ensuring a broad representation of every expression of the Union in each group. In the reports, the desires, the experiences and also the doubts of all emerged, these now constitute material for reflection and discernment for the NCC. The Congress concluded with a final reflection delivered by the President Fr. Gaetano Ianni. This in brief is an account of the Second National Congress, it was for us a point of departure towards intensifying the road to communion which is to be transmitted in the apostolate. We give thanks to God, to our Lady and to St. Vincent.

Submitted by Corrado Montaldo, Vice-President of the GCC.

3. On 27th of September in **Otwock, Poland**, Ewa Olpińska and Jerzy Kudlicki were admitted to the Union by Fr. Zdzisław Słomka, President of CCN during the celebration of the Eucharist. They made the Act of Apostolic Commitment after completing the formation programme, which includes six months of specific preparation for those persons from the group who express a desire to become UAC members, they were guided by Fr. Tadeusz Madoń, moderator of the UAC group. May God bless them abundantly.

4. India. Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, President of the GCC has travelled to India to preach two retreats for the members of the Communities of the UAC and will also visit several communities.

5. 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.

6. UAC celebration in Rome. The annual Eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving to mark the erection of the UAC on 28th October 2003 as an Association of the Faithful and the approval of the General Statutes will take place in the Church of Santo Spirito dei Napoletani, in Via Giulia, Rome, on Saturday October 31st 2009. The main celebrant will be Fr. Zenon Hanas, SAC, Vicar General of the SAC, the theme of the celebration is “To be saints today”.

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