



UAC NEWSLETTER

December, 2009

Advent and Christmas 2009

We are already well advanced in our Advent journey this year, it is a lovely time of new life, renewed hope and a palpable sense of expectation. As I write this the words of the Gospel passage of the Second Sunday of Advent taken from St. Luke's Gospel narrating the ministry of John the Baptist are resounding in my head "He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' (Luke 3, 3-4). A perennial call, both to us personally and a call to apostolic commitment. In article 20 of the General Statutes which is part of the section of the Spirituality of the UAC, we read "The members of the Union in communion with Mary, Queen of Apostles, commit themselves to prepare the way to Christ in the hearts of persons." Naturally the same article reminds us that before we set out like John the Baptist to prepare the way to Christ we first of all need to receive the love that renews all things, then we have something to give. Advent is a season of hope, of expectant waiting on the Lord Jesus. May we be open to his coming in the multiple forms and expressions he takes and may we be generous enough to respond to the promptings of his Spirit to help prepare his coming in the hearts of others.

First UAC Congress in India.

The Indian National Coordination Council of the UAC, led by the President Sr. Josephina D'Souza, SAC, and the Coordinator of the UAC Resource Team, Fr. Vijay Thomas, are putting the final touches to the organization of the first National Congress of the Union in India which will take place in the Pallottine Animation Centre at Nagpur, from December 27th to 30th. This is a courageous undertaking when one thinks of the vast territorial extension of India, many of the participants will spend days travelling in order to be able to participate in the Congress in Nagpur.

The theme of the Congress is "**Together in the Cenacle to bear fruits that endure.**" This theme will be developed in a series of eight presentations which will be given by members of all expressions of the life of the UAC in India. It is expected that about sixty persons will participate in this first Congress.

We ask for your prayers for the success of this event that it may indeed produce much fruit in the UAC and for the Church in India.

The Second General Congress of the UAC.

Preparations continue for the Second General Congress of the UAC which will take place in Rocca di Papa, on the outskirts of Rome, from Thursday April 8th to Tuesday April 13th 2010. The venue for the Congress is the Conference Centre 'Mondo Migliore' run by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, Via dei Laghi, Km. 10, Rocca di Papa. Memories of the first General Congress held in the Pallottine Centre at Konstancin, Poland, are still very fresh in the minds and hearts of many members and hopes and expectations are high for the second Congress.

The theme of the Congress is "**From the vision to the mission, in communion with Mary.**" This theme will be developed through a series of presentations, reflections and group activities over the course of the Congress. Up to 300 participants from all parts of the Union are expected to attend.

Silver Jubilee of Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in India.

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the foundation in India during the month of November. The theme of the celebration was "Trust in God and God will be sufficient for you" (St. Vincent Pallotti). The Superior General, Sr. Serena Cambiaghi, CSAC, and all the

General consulters, the Provincial Superior, Sr. Sara Carfagna, and the other Provincial Superiors of the Congregation travelled to India for the main celebration which took place at Alpha Pastoral Centre Auditorium in Cochin on November 19th. The Bishop of Cochin, Mons. Joseph Kariyil, presided at the Eucharistic Celebration. The Indian Sisters currently number 127; a group of twelve (12) Sisters made Final Profession in the course of this year in both Cochin and Mysore, and a group of 5 Sisters made First Profession in Mysore on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Centenary of the Mother of Divine Love Province of the SAC in Argentina.

The SAC celebrated this year the centenary of the division of the Society into four Provinces, the division followed a decision taken at a General Chapter in 1909. The Irish Province, now known as the Mother of Divine Love Province, was one of these first Provinces. The seat of the Province was in the Argentine up until 1928 when it was moved to London. The Province celebrated its centenary with a concelebrated Eucharistic Celebration on November 20th in the Church of San Patricio, in the city of Mercedes, in the Province of Buenos Aires, where the Pallottines have lived and worked since 1886. The Archbishop of Mercedes-Lujan, Mons. Augustin Radrizzani, was the main celebrant and was accompanied by the Provincial Rector of the Irish Province, Fr. Eamonn Monson, and members of the SAC from the Argentine, Brazil and Uruguay. A large number of UAC members were also present. The President of the National Coordination Council, Miguel Angel Della Villa, spoke of the significance of this historical moment in the name of the NCC. Fr. Derry Murphy, President of the General Coordination Council was also present and during his stay in Mercedes met with members of the UAC from the area.

The Irish Province has launched a new Province website, it can be viewed at: www.pallottines.ie

Celebration of the Octave of the Epiphany.

There has been a noteworthy increase in the number of places in which the Octave of the Epiphany is celebrated each year, this is a very welcome sign of a renewal of that which forms part of our spiritual and apostolic patrimony as the Union of St. Vincent Pallotti. Fr. Vincent Pallotti solemnly celebrated the Octave of the Epiphany from 1836 up to his final one in January 1850, just a few days before his death. St. Vincent organized these celebrations with very specific aims in mind as outlined by him in the first Octave organized in 1835 and celebrated in January 1836: "The Holy Mother Church, assisted always by the Holy Spirit, in celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany, not only reminds her children of the first epiphany or, manifestation that our Lord Jesus Christ gave of himself to the Gentiles and of the first propagation of the Catholic Faith, but in order that benefit be drawn from this traditional institution, (She) has disposed that with the celebration of Mass and of the Divine Rites on eight successive days the memory of it be revived and the spiritual trust and confidence of people be enkindled for the good of their souls."

In keeping with the needs of the Church today the celebrations are programmed in a such a manner as to give expression to the diversity of faith experience and of religious practice with a view to making the vision and the spirit of St. Vincent relevant today.

By way of providing an example of how this practice is growing, the first celebration in Brazil of the Octave of the Epiphany by the UAC family in modern times took place in 2003 in Queen of Apostles Parish in Manaus and has been celebrated every year since, in 2005 three more parishes, in Itaipu in Rio, Cambé in Parana and Presidente Prudente in Sao Paolo initiated the practice, the following year it was started in Pallottine parishes in Curitiba in Parana, in Campo Grande in Mato Grosso do Sul and in Arapongas, Parana, and in 2008 in a second parish in Presidente Prudente.

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