



UAC NEWSLETTER

January, 2010

Epiphany 2010

We have recently celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, a focal point in the life and ministry of St. Vincent Pallotti. The Octave of the Epiphany has been celebrated in various locations around the globe, we will bring you accounts of some of them in next months' issue. St. Vincent's writings help us appreciate his understanding of this feast, he wrote:

"The God who manifests himself to the Gentiles, the God who scatters the light of truth in the midst of those who live in a land of death, the God who allows himself be found by those who do not seek him, this God reminds us of the precious inheritance of faith bequeathed to us. This Octave is therefore directed to the spreading of Holy Faith, let us then prove ourselves in faith, give thanks to the divine majesty for this favour and commit ourselves to spreading it." (OCCC VI, 118, & 122).

"The Masses will be celebrated in some of the various Oriental Rites, such as the Greek, Armenian etc.; this will help to revive in the hearts of the faithful the spirit of the Church of Jesus Christ, which in its surprising variety is One in faith and in charity". (OCCC VI, 126) .

"To promote (...) amongst all classes of persons, in all parts of the world, and in every way possible, humble, confident and persevering prayer, directed to obtaining every gift and every means necessary and opportune, so that as soon as possible there be one Fold and one Shepherd in the entire world; and that this may occur according to God's ways and not according to our ways." (OCCC IV, 317-318).

Argentina.

The members of the Reina de los Apostoles Community held their annual gathering in the Pallottine retreat house at Empalme Lobos, in December 2009, the reflections centered on the Spiritual Profile of the UAC, the Spirituality of the Cenacle, the inspiration we draw from the painting of the Cenacle and, of course, aspects of organization and functioning of the local Cenacles. All those present, together with members of the UAC from the area and from the parish of Sta. Isabel de Hungria, Buenos Aires, renewed their Act of Apostolic Commitment.

Poland.

On December 27th, feast of the Holy Family, seven persons of the 'Betlehem' community were admitted to the UAC, Fr. Kazimierz Czulak, Provincial Rector of the Annunciation of the Lord Province, was the principal celebrant at the Eucharistic celebration. The community celebrated with great joy the admission of these new members.

The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate.

The Sisters are preparing for the XIX General Chapter of the Congregation which will take place in Rome at the Generalate, Viale delle Mura Aurelie, Roma, from February 25th to March 22nd, 2010. The theme chosen for the Chapter is "UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, LET US BE WITNESSES OF HOPE" the secondary theme is "*Contemplating with Mary the face of Christ, Imitating Christ and His love for everyone, Making His presence visible through the service of love and compassion.*" The Chapter will begin with a solemn Eucharist which will be celebrated at the Spiritual Centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, at 10.30. We join with the Sisters in praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they prepare for this important event in the history of their Congregation.

Riposto, Sicily.

On January 7th 2010, within the celebration of the Octave of the Epiphany which has been celebrated uninterruptedly by the Community of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate, in Riposto, Sicily, since 1952, 14 persons made the Act of Apostolic Commitment and became members of the UAC. These are the first lay members to be formally admitted to the UAC in Sicily. The Bishop of the Diocese of

Arcireale, Mons. Pio Vittorio Vico was the principal celebrant at the Eucharist and was accompanied by Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, President of the UAC and all the priests of the zone. Sr. Salette Cargnin, CSAC, a member of the General Secretariat accompanied the local community of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in animating the Octave.

First National Congress of the UAC in India.

“Thirty Four people from Raipur, Bilaspur, Sundargarh, Korba, Nagpur, Bangalore, Goa, Salem and Kulasekharam came together at PAC (Pallottine Animation Centre, Nagpur) for the first National UAC Congress. It included 20 lay people and members of the Communities of the UAC. It was a very joyful and renewing experience to be gathered together in this way as Pallottines, young and old, clergy, religious and laity. It is the love of Christ which unites all of us like the vine and branches in the Gospel text. Jesus demands that we bear fruits that endure. The Congress ended with the joint Eucharistic celebration with the 68 participants of the Youth Congress organized by PYFI (Pallottine Youth Forum International) Engineering college Nagpur at PAC presided by Very Rev. Fr. Augustine Varickakal, the Provincial of Prabhu Prakash Province and an agape lunch. The Congress was an effort to build awareness of the relevance of our charism for the Church today in our context and to share experiences in building communities rooted in our charism however small these efforts may be.”

Santa Maria, Brazil.

On January 4th the Colegio Maximo Pallottino, the Mayor Seminary in Santa Maria, opened its doors to receive the 37 participants in the XI annual course of Pallottine Formation and Gathering for young persons, the course will run until January 14th. Of the participants 8 are from Uruguay, 9 from the Argentine and 20 from Brazil itself, the coordination is in the experienced and capable hands of Fr. Angelo Londero, SAC.

Fr. Conrad Mirke, SAC.

Any of you who have visited the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda in the past 6/7 years will have met Fr. Conrad, he was entrusted with responsibility for meeting and welcoming visitors to the Church and for giving them any assistance he could. His was an open, friendly and dedicated service, many people on a return visit would seek him out, he was a much sought after confessor and counsellor. He took great pride in leading visitors to the tomb of St. Vincent and sharing something of his story and vision for the Church with them. Sadly he suffered a stroke on the morning of September 25th while on his way to the Church to celebrate Mass, he never recovered from it and died on December 22nd, he was buried in the Pallottine Cemetery Limburg, on December 29th. May his good soul rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and celebration of the Triduum in preparation for the feast day of St. Vincent Pallotti .

The celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and within it a triduum of preparation for the Feast Day of St. Vincent Pallotti, has become part of the annual calendar of the Spiritual Centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. This is seen as our response in the spirit of St. Vincent Pallotti to the present day commitment of the Church to work for Christian Unity, this was one of the desires close to his heart in the organization and animation of the Octave of the Epiphany. These celebrations require that the members in Rome and the surrounding areas become involved in the preparations, it also affords the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the charism and its relevance to apostolic life and commitment today. The theme of this years’ celebration is “You will be witnesses of all this” taken from the Gospel of Luke chap. 24, 48. The celebrations will begin on January 17th with a Eucharist animated by the friends of the Venerable Elisabetta Sanna and will continue until the 25th.

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