



UAC NEWSLETTER

February, 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union.

As promised in last months' issue of the UAC Newsletter we are very happy to bring you some short reports or reflections on celebrations of the Epiphany in Pallottine communities in Germany and Brazil. It is very good to see that the practice is growing and developing but in a creative way that is in tune with the reality in each area.

Epiphany 2010. A Triduum of the Epiphany in Limburg, Germany.

In Limburg the Pallottine communities issued an invitation to participate in a triduum in preparation for the feast of the Epiphany. During three days they celebrated solemn Vesper Services in three different churches of Limburg. An average of 50 persons took part in each of the services.

The first Vespers took place in the church of St. Marien, which is a parish administered by the Pallottines, here Sr. Gertrud Meiser SAC spoke about the messianic expectation of the prophet Isaiah. His vision is a source of encouragement for the Church of today and for the Pallottine family for daily living.

Fr. Alexander Holzbach SAC spoke at the second service in the Church of St. Anna in the centre of Limburg. He acknowledged that current parameters for the perception of Christian life may be different from those of the time of St. Paul or Vincent Pallotti. However, as Christians inspired by St. Vincent, we must be experienced as and seen to be people of confidence and hope so that persons who are interested in religious matters may know whom they can approach.

At the third Vespers in the chapel of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, deacon Joachim Hilgert referred to Pallotti's wish to imitate the Magi encouraging us to live with an attitude of and in the service of adoration.

Brazil. The Octave of the Epiphany was once again celebrated in Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, however this year it was celebrated in the spirit of the Year of the Priest. Each day Mass was celebrated by a different priest and the theme of each Mass was linked to the Epiphany, to St. Vincent Pallotti or to the ministry of priesthood. The organization and animation of each Eucharistic celebration was entrusted to the various movements and apostolic groups of the parish, they were thus able to present themselves to the wider community. Each one presented their unique gifts and talents which together make up an infinity of gifts given by the Lord for the good of our Church. "The days of the Octave were ones in which we shared our spirituality and learnt from one another".

Codò, Maranhao, Brazil. "We celebrated the Octave of the Epiphany for the first time in the history of our Parish of Sao Raimundo and of our Pallottine Community here in Codò, MA. It was a marvellous experience. We are currently making a novena to St. Vincent which will conclude on the 22nd with a great procession followed by a solemn Mass. Our other Pallottine communities in Maranhao, Santa Terezinha in Codò and Sao Vincente Pallotti in Timbiras, are also making novenas. We plan to celebrate a Triduum in preparation for the celebration of the birth of St. Vincent in the Church of Nossa Senhora de Fatima, in St. Vincent Pallotti Street, in April".

However the same parish community experienced a time of great sadness with the assassination of one of their members on January 14th. He was a member of the parish community, a lay leader, one who worked as an agricultural labourer, a noted family man; let us keep them in our prayers.

Argentina. The Respuesta Cristiana community, a community of the UAC held its annual "Campamento Andino Saihueque" from January 2nd to 16th 2010. Approximately 100 young persons in total took part. It was held in the mountains in Bariloche in the south west of Argentina, 1600 kms from the Capital of Buenos Aires. During these 15 days the young persons were divided into 6 groups according to age, each group was accompanied by youth leaders and they enjoyed excursions into the mountains, alternating these activities with times of prayer, reflection and pastoral activities. The Community has held these summer camps for the past 23 years at a place called Colonia Suiza which is surrounded by mountains, lakes and streams. Fr. Juan

Antonio Hernando, SAC, once again accompanied the group and offered his services as a priest to all. The Community is looking forward to celebrating the Silver Jubilee of this activity while striving to remain faithful to the founding charism which is to facilitate for the young persons an experience of God through the formation they receive in their weekly meetings and also in the annual camping trip to Bariloche.

Belize. The Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate celebrated a solemn Novena from January 13th to 21st and were accompanied by the lay members and collaborators. On January 22nd the Sisters and lay members renewed their Act of Apostolic Commitment during the Feast Day Mass and three lay persons made the Act of Apostolic Commitment and thus became members of the Union.

The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate.

The Sisters are in the final days of preparation for the XIX General Chapter of the Congregation which takes place in Rome at the Generalate, Viale delle Mura Aurelie, Roma, from February 25th to March 22nd, 2010. A total of 39 Sisters will take part either as members, secretaries or translators, and come from Germany, Belize, England, USA, South Africa, Switzerland, Poland, Rwanda, Tanzania, the Ukraine, France, Brazil and India. The theme chosen for the Chapter is “UNITED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, LET US BE WITNESSES OF HOPE”. 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 in this important event in the history of their Congregation.

Colombia. In the past few months there have been various celebrations of admission to the UAC in Colombia; on October 9th 2009 one new member was admitted to the UAC during Mass celebrated in the Cathedral, Bogotá; on January 1st 2010 another member was admitted and on January 10th 16 persons made the Act of Apostolic Commitment in the Parish of Nuestra Senora de las Angustias in Bogotá; and finally on January 22nd in the chapel of Casa Vicente Pallotti in Medellin three young married couples made their Act of Apostolic Commitment in the UAC.

Butare, Rwanda. From January 17th to 22nd the novices of the Schoenstatt Fathers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and from Burundi together with their Novice Director, joined with the novices of the Pallottines from Cameroon, Rwanda, DRC and Ivory Coast, and those of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate from Rwanda, for a “gathering in collaboration and in order to get to know one another of the spiritual children of St. Vincent Pallotti and of Fr. Joseph Kentenich”. Among the topics for study and reflection were the lives of St. Vincent and of Fr. Joseph; Pallottine spirituality and the spirituality of the Schoenstatt movement, the history of both and the relevance of their charism for the world of today. It was described as “A unique and very significant experience for the young Africans who wish to give their lives at the service of God and of humanity and who are inspired by St. Vincent Pallotti and by Fr. Joseph Kentenich”. The gathering concluded with the celebration of the feast of St. Vincent in which many other Pallottines from the surrounding area participated.

On January 20th during the Triduum of preparation for the Feast of St. Vincent the Rector and students of the Urban College of Propaganda Fide animated the Eucharistic Celebration at SS. Salvatore in Onda. André Djon Limay, a student from Cameroon, on behalf of the student body, read the letter in response to that which St. Vincent wrote to the students during the Roman Revolution of 1849. In this letter he said: “You place before us the task that awaits us, to bring Christ to the entire world, to live in such a way that the marvels of our Lord may multiply among peoples and that every living being see the salvation of our God; you gave yourself to this task throughout your life up to your dying breath. You founded a family which today is a prolongation of you in so many parts of the world.” He concluded echoing the sentiments of all of us: “Dear Father, we thank you from the heart for making us realize the mission to which we are called”.

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