



UAC NEWSLETTER

March, 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

We are happy to bring you items of news and of general interest in this newsletter. Fr. Jan Korycki, SAC, Postulator General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, has kindly prepared the first in a series of 13 short articles on the causes for beatification of members of the UAC. This is a topic of interest for the entire UAC since they were all members of our Union, the other articles will be presented in later editions of the newsletter.

CAUSES OF BEATIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE UAC AT THE APOSTOLIC LEVEL

There are three Causes of Servants of God at the Apostolic level which means that the diocesan process has already been completed and the causes have entered the remit of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints; the three Servants of God are, Richard Henkes, the Venerable Elisabetta Sanna and Josef Engling.

Richard HENKES SAC, priest, a member of the Holy Trinity Province, was born on 26.05.1900 in Ruppach, Germany and died at Dachau on 22.02.1945. His Cause of Beatification was initiated in the diocese of Limburg, Germany, on May 25th 2003 and the diocesan process was closed on January 23rd 2007. The preparation of the *Positio* on the martyrdom is being prepared since March 2009 by Fr. Manfred Probst, SAC, who is the external Collaborator of the Vatican Relator and of the Postulator General of the Society.

Fr. Richard Henkes exercised his ministerial service in a variety of areas and manifested great apostolic zeal and a constant love for the Church. These characteristics were evident in his tasks as a school teacher, preacher, retreat director, confessor, religious director of Catholic associations and as parish priest. He loved the Church and knew how to collaborate with lay persons.

He was arrested on April 8th. 1943 and interned in the concentration camp at Dachau. During an epidemic of petechial typhus he volunteered to care for the sick in the block where the Czechoslovakian priests were housed, a few days later he contracted the disease and died on February 22nd 1945. His fellow prisoners immediately began to call him a martyr for love of his neighbour. His arrest, the sentence to the concentration camp and indeed his death, all took place in circumstances which were dictated by an *odium fidei*, or hatred of the faith. The Czechoslovakian Episcopal Conference called him “a courageous witness of the Church in the cause of truth, freedom and love”. His entire life showed that the values by which he lived were based on his continuous personal union with Jesus Christ.

In a letter he wrote to his mother on July 1st 1943 from Ratibor, after his arrest and in the course of the journey to Dachau, his deep faith is very evident. He wrote: “Up until now I have lived the journey of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. My priestly activity in preaching from the pulpit and in conference rooms has always been full of joy. If you dear mother are now praying the Sorrowful Mysteries before the Crucifix, then think that I am making the same journey the Redeemer made, and this is not a source of shame for a priest. Whether I will live the Glorious Mysteries here on earth or in heaven is something that I let the good Lord decide. I thank you for all your love. I will never forget you and we will always meet in prayer. ... In the name of God, heartfelt greetings. Your grateful son Richard”.

The Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate

The XIX General Chapter of the Congregation concluded on March 22nd with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated in the Spiritual Centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. Fr. Fritz Kretz, SAC, Rector General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate was the principal celebrant and was accompanied by members of the community of the Generalate. The Sisters elected a new Superior General, Sr. Izabela Swierad, SAC, on March 16th. Sr. Izabela was a member of the previous General Council and was Secretary General of the Congregation, she is a member of the Polish Province. Sr.

Maria Landsberger, SAC, from the German Province and who has worked in Maranhao, Brazil, was elected Vicar-General on March 17th together with the other Counsellors Sr. Sr.Bożena Olszewska from Poland but working in Italy, Sr. Josephina D'Souza from India and Sr. Stella Holisz the former Superior General.

We pray that the Lord may bless this new Council and we assure the Sisters of our prayers so that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit they may lead the Congregation in this new period of it's life.

Canada. The Canadian National Coordination Council met at Red Deer, Alberta, on Saturday February 27th and in the course of the meeting elected as NCC President Dawna Richardson and Angelina D'Almeida, Vice-president; Yolanda Acheson is Treasurer and Carolyn Brown continues to serve as National Secretary.

We wish the new Council every blessing from the Lord and we entrust their service of the Union to St. Vincent and Mary, Queen of Apostles.

II General Congress. The days of the Congress are fast approaching! It is envisaged that just over 200 persons will participate coming from 22 countries. The Congress will also be attended by some Italian members of the UAC who will participate on a daily basis. The Congress will held in the Mondomigliore Centre, Via dei Laghi, Rocca di Papa, which is about 25 kilometers from Rome. This Centre is run by the Congregation of the Oblates of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The central theme of the Congress is “**From the Vision to the Mission in communion with Mary**”. Together we will strive to deepen our understanding of St. Vincent's vision of the Union, the role he thought it would have, and we will reflect on its current mission in the places where we live and work. The theme will be developed in a series of conferences, sharing, group work, Eucharistic celebrations and times of prayer. There will also be opportunities for the participants to share their own experiences and to be enriched by the sharing and reflection of others. Experience teaches us that informal moments like meal times and the intervals will also be occasions for the participants to enter into dialogue and communion with the delegates from other countries.

Friday 9th of April will be a day dedicated to reviewing and revisiting what St. Vincent has left us, his vision of the person, of the person who is an apostle, and his vision of mission in all its dimensions. Saturday 10th of April will be a day of witnessing and sharing and also of group work but focused on the mission as it is lived today in the Union in the various parts of the world.

On Sunday April 11th Divine Mercy Sunday, the participants will travel into Rome to visit the Church of Spirito Santo dei Napoletani, where St. Vincent founded the Union in January 1835. From there we will go to St. Peter's Square to participate in the midday Angelus. After the Angelus a Concelebrated Mass will take place in St. Peter's Basilica at which the principal celebrant will be Mons. Séamus Freeman, Bishop of Ossory, he will be accompanied by a large group of concelebrants, both Pallottines and priests who are friends of the Union.

The attention of the participants in the Congress will turn on Monday April 11th to the challenge of living the mission of the UAC with the Church of today. During the afternoon of this the last full day the Congress will focus of Mary, Queen of Apostles and our Patroness.

We ask you to accompany the Congress with your prayers.

Annual meeting of the General Coordination Council. The annual meeting of the General Coordination Council will take place in the Centro di Spiritualità San Vincenzo Pallotti, Grottaferrata, from April 13th to 17th immediately following the General Congress since all its members will take part in the Congress.

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