



# UAC NEWSLETTER

April, 2010

## Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month we bring you an article on the cause for beatification of the Venerable Elisabetta Sanna which was prepared by Fr. Jan Korycki, SAC, Postulator General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, along with other news from the UAC.

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

#### Venerable Elisabetta SANNA, admitted to the UAC by St. Vincent Pallotti.

Elisabetta was born in 1788 in Sardinia, she died with a reputation of sanctity in Rome on 17.02.1857 and was buried in the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. Very soon after her death her reputation of sanctity became very evident, so much so that just four months later, on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1857, her cause for beatification was initiated. St. Vincent Pallotti was her spiritual director for 18 years and regarded her highly.

Elisabetta contracted smallpox when she was three months old, as a result of this she was never able to raise her arms, she was able to move her fingers and wrists but could not bring food to her mouth with her hands, nor could she make the sign of the Cross and neither could she comb her hair, wash her face nor change her clothes, she could, however, knead bread, place things in the oven and remove them from it and raised five children.

Despite her physical disability marriage was proposed to her and it was a very happy marriage. Seven children were born to them, two of whom died soon after birth. Together with her own children Elisabetta educated other children of the town teaching them catechism and preparing them for the sacraments. Her house was open to all women who wanted to learn hymns and prayers. Her husband died at the beginning of 1825 after seventeen years of marriage and she assumed full responsibility for the family and the administration of the home.

While growing in the spiritual life, Elisabetta was influenced by a Lenten preaching and decided to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land together with her confessor, Fr. Giuseppe Valle. Thinking that her absence would be a short one she entrusted the care of her children to her mother and her brother who was a priest. She also sought the help of a niece and some neighbours. The two pilgrims had difficulty in getting a visa for the Orient and in Genoa had to abandon the planned journey, they then went to Rome as pilgrims.

Because of serious physical ailments Elisabetta was unable to return to Sardinia. She entrusted herself to the spiritual direction of Vincent Pallotti, he contacted her brother, Fr. Antonio Luigi, to inform him that his sister could not undertake the journey by sea then but would do so as soon as she was better. However, her ailments increased year by year and Elisabetta was obliged to remain in Rome.

Elisabetta suffered because of the separation from her family, she wept a great deal but was not discouraged; she entrusted herself to God, accepted this new situation and served others while remaining faithful to the teachings of the Gospel and of the Church. She was often to be found visiting the sick and bringing comfort to them in the Hospital for the Incurables, and in private homes. She knitted and the money she received for her work and the gifts given to her were used to help the poor and also the orphans in the two houses founded by Pallotti; she sought to bring peace to families, to convert sinners, she prepared the sick to receive the sacraments, and she took care of the altar linens and decoration of the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. She participated in several Masses each day, in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and would pray with visitors in her room as many people came to her for advice. St. Vincent and the first Pallottines also sought counsel from her.

Pallotti often stressed the merits of Elisabetta with regard to the UAC. Fr. Vaccari reports this: "our Institute has been carried forward up to now by two persons; a poor woman, Elisabetta Sanna, whom you have heard of many times from Fr. Vincent Pallotti, and the other is Cardinal Lambruschini" (*Summarium*, Rome 1910, p. 145, par. 33). She witnessed the foundation of the UAC and followed its development for 22 years up to the time of her death.

The cause of her beatification continues. We wait in hope for a clear miraculous sign obtained through the intercession of Venerable Elisabetta which fulfils all the criteria requested by the Holy See. Recently a case of healing which has certain indications of being a miracle was examined. Numerous persons pray with trust that it be recognized as miraculous or that the Lord give another sign. It is also important to make known the life and virtues of this Servant of God.

**Argentina.** The National Coordination Council in Argentina met in the Chapel of San Pedro, Lomas de Zamora, on March 5<sup>th</sup> and in the course of the meeting the members re-elected for a second three year term, Mr. Miguel Angel Della Villa as NCC President and Sr. Marivone Basso, CSAC, as Vice-president; all the other members of the National team were also confirmed in their offices.

We wish the Council well and ask the Lord to bless them and their service in the UAC and entrust them to St. Vincent and Mary, Queen of Apostles.

### **The General Congress.**

The General Congress took place in Rocca di Papa from April 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, with the theme "From the vision to the mission in communion with Mary". It was an experience of the Cenacle, a living Cenacle from the first moment up to the last. 195 full-time participants took part and members from Rome and the surrounding area came on a daily basis when their commitments permitted. The participants came from 24 countries and included persons of all ages and all expressions of the life on the UAC in the world. So many languages could be heard and this gave rise to a desire to have the gift of understanding and of interpreting every language! An atmosphere of Pallottine communion reigned within the great linguistic diversity.

Each participant will surely emphasize and share his or her own particular impression of the Congress, however, our pilgrimage to Rome on Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> was a very special experience for all. The Congress participants travelled from Rocca di Papa to Rome early in the morning and walked in the footsteps of St. Vincent Pallotti, beginning in Via Giulia. The Rector of the Church of Santo Spirito dei Napoletanti, Mgr. Natalino Zaggotto, extended a very warm welcome to this Church which has special significance for our Union, he spoke of our Founder expressing his great admiration for him and for his example of priestly holiness, he referred to him as a model for all priests especially in this year dedicated to them. Furthermore he stressed the fact that he was a priest of Rome and had a great love for the Church which was expressed in his inspiration and vision to found the Union.

From the Church of Santo Spirito dei Napoletani we continued on foot to St. Peter's Square where we met with more than 500 members, collaborators and friends of the UAC who came to Rome to join the group on the Square, to sing the Regina Coeli with the Pope and receive his blessing. Pope Benedict greeted us: "I greet with affection the pilgrims present here (in Castelgandolfo) and in St. Peter's Square: the Union of Catholic Apostolate, founded by a great Roman priest, St. Vincent Pallotti". Immediately afterwards we entered the Basilica for the con-celebrated Mass in which Mgr. Séamus Freeman was the principal celebrant accompanied by Fr. Friedrich Kretz, SAC, Rector General and Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, President, and by numerous Pallottines and priest friends. For those present the Mass was a celebration of our being part of the Church, an affirmation of our profound union with her and commitment to fulfilling her mission of evangelization in the world. The Mass was animated by the UAC Choir, an international group made up of members from many different countries, which sings in many languages, thus seeking to be a sign of unity in the common charism; the choir meets in the spiritual centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. In the afternoon the participants continued to walk in the footsteps of St. Vincent.

The Congress concluded on Tuesday morning and the participants began the journey home bringing with them the energy and enthusiasm lived in these days, despite the fact that some of them were unable to travel immediately due to the clouds of volcanic ash suspended over Europe. The annual meeting of the General Coordination Council took place in Grottaferrata immediately following the Congress. You will receive material from the Congress soon as a means of sharing something of the riches of this event which was significant in the history of our Union.

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