



UAC NEWSLETTER

May, 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month brings biographical material on the cause for beatification of Josef ENGLING, prepared by Fr. Jan Korycki, SAC, Postulator General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, as well as other UAC news.

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

(continued)

Josef ENGLING (1898-1918), a student of the Pallottine minor seminary, born 5.01.1898 at Prosyty in eastern Prussia, now Polish territory (Warmia), died at Cambrai in Francia 4.10.1918, during the First World War.

At fourteen years of age he entered the minor seminary at Schönstatt-Vallendar in Germany, he was noted for his well-formed character. He systematically wrote a spiritual diary from December 1915 and in it he recorded the following principles: *“I want to become all things to all people and to belong totally to Our Lady; I want to be faithful even in the smallest things and to carry out the ordinary things in an extraordinary way”*. He was a member of the Marian Sodality and faithfully observed its statutes and was severe with himself when he erred. He was faithful to the daily examination of conscience and to prayer, obedient to the spiritual director of the seminary, Fr. Josef Kentenich, a Pallottine. On 19th November 1916 he was obliged to leave for military service. In 1917 he was sent to the Russian front and to the French front in 1918 and there he died on October 4th. While at the front and especially during the year of his death he prayed a great deal, he participated spiritually in the Eucharist each day, he recited the rosary, read religious texts and made an examination of conscience every evening. Four months before his death he composed a very mature prayer in which he entrusted himself to Our Lady. In this he wrote: *“My dearest Mother, Mater Ter Admirabilis, I offer myself anew to you... I desire to belong totally to you. I am yours”*.

In the 1930s, 40s and 50s Josef Engling's reputation for holiness was widely known. All the Pallottines in the Novitiate and in the major seminary would read his biography. Several biographies were published, the most complete of them was written by Fr. Heinrich Schulte, SAC, Provincial from 1941 to 1956.

In 1948 the Pallottine Province of Limburg requested the General Council to initiate the process of beatification. The Council decided to accept the request on February 25th 1948. The diocesan process took place between 1952 and 1964 in the Diocese of Treviri. The documentation of the process was taken to the Vatican on October 7th 1964. However this was not a propitious time for the cause for two reasons: the first being certain changes of mentality linked to an incomplete interpretation of the Second Vatican Council and the second was the exit of the Schönstatt Movement from the S.A.C. The cause of Josef Engling was left to one side although not completely forgotten. His reputation of holiness had existed since his death and now was widespread among the persons linked to the Schönstatt Movement.

Taking into consideration his reputation of holiness, the Pallottines decided to follow up on the cause. On January 7th 2000, the Provincial Assembly at Limburg took a decision on it and on May 2nd the General Council took a decision to pursue it and also invited the Schönstatt Movement to collaborate in the process, this invitation was accepted.

Given this situation the Postulator General of the SAC, Fr. Jan Korycki, requested permission from the Holy See to proceed with the cause. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints responded positively in June 2003. In order to undertake further research in Germany the Postulator General appointed two Vice-postulators on September 17th 2003, Fr. Vincenz Reinhart, SAC and Fr. Joachim Schmiedl of the Institute of the Schönstatt Fathers.

The Supplementary Process took place in Treviri, Germany, between 2005-2008, focusing on the continuing reputation of holiness of the Servant of God. The documentation of the process was given to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in September 2008.

The present situation is that we must initiate the preparation of the *Positio super virtutibus* (a book with proof of the virtues of the Servant of God), however this work has been delayed because discussion is on-going in the Vatican whether or not it is convenient to proceed with the processes of beatification of soldiers who took part in war. We hope that the candidates for beatification will be dealt with individually and that there will not be any difficulties with the Engling cause. He was not a career soldier and, despite the very hard war-time conditions, he managed to live according to the ideals of holiness and was faithful to the Gospel in his daily life, praying a great deal and helping the needy. Witnesses vouch for the unusual maturity of his spiritual life in which he showed that one can always be faithful to God even in the most difficult circumstances.

General Chapter of the Hildegardenschwestern vom Katholischen Apostolat: The General Chapter of the Institute took place recently and elected a new General Council, the Superior General is Sr. Dorotea Castaño, SAC, Sr. Ruth Bulnes, SAC, Vicar General and the Counsellors are Sr. Johanna Müller, Sr. Maria Pura Escudero and Sr. Antonia San Millán.

We wish the new Superior General and her Council every blessing from the Lord and we pray that the Holy Spirit guide them in their service of the Institute and of all those who come into contact with them.

National Coordination Council, United States of America: the National Coordination Council met on April 30th and May 1st and in the course of the meeting held elections for President and Vice-president. Mr. Robert Gay was elected President, Fr. Greg Serwa, SAC, Vice-President and the National Secretary, Mrs. Louise Gay, and the National Treasurer, Sr. Elisabeth Heptner, SAC, were confirmed in office. The term of office of the newly elected council will begin on June 15th and we wish the Lord's blessing on them and entrust their service of the Union to St. Vincent and Mary, Queen of Apostles.

National Coordination Council, Switzerland: the Swiss National Coordination Council met on May 4th 2010 and in the course of the meeting held elections. Sr. Daniela Schumacher, SAC was re-elected for a second term as President and Fr. Erich Schaedler, SAC, re-elected for a second term as Vice-President, Ms. Melanie Dähler was appointed National Treasurer.

We wish the new council well and ask the Lord to bless them and entrust their service of the Union to St. Vincent and Mary, Queen of Apostles.

The Pallotti Institute in Poland invited representatives of the various Pallottine entities to participate in a seminar dedicated to the Marian aspect of the spirituality of St. Vincent Pallotti, the theme was "From the spiritual espousal to the Union". Fr. Kazimierz Mek of the Catholic University of Lublin spoke of the historical events in the Mariology of the 19th century which may have influenced our Founder's devotion to Mary. Sr. Bernadetta Turecka, SAC, presented the topic "Mary in the life and work of St. Vincent" and showed how the presence and love of Mary for our Founder, her special protection of his foundation, moved Pallotti to live his life and apostolate in communion with Mary whom he venerated especially as Queen of Apostles. Sr. Małgorzata Wyrodek, SAC, introduced the participants to a reading of the three books which Pallotti dedicated to Mary, the "Month of May for consecrated persons", the "Month of May for ecclesiastics" and the "Month of May for the faithful". This conference awakened in the participants a desire to have the texts of these books and this was made possible thanks to Fr. Mariusz Małkiewicz the director, who together with the Council of the Institute prepared a CD with the texts in Polish. The speakers at the round table presented reflections on how Mary, Queen of Apostles can be taken as the true patron of the Union. In the discussion which followed some suggestions arose spontaneously: to celebrate the feast of Queen of Apostles in a more visible and solemn manner; to place copies of the painting of the Queen of Apostles in the places where the members meet; to meditate on the icon in order to discover that which the Lord wishes to communicate to us regarding the Union and so as to be in communion with her in daily life. The participants numbered more than a hundred and came from Poland, the Czech Republic, Belarus and the Ukraine and lived the seminar in a fraternal and prayerful atmosphere marked by a profound spirit of the Union, they felt themselves invited once again to take Mary into their lives.

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