



UAC NEWSLETTER

June 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

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

1. CAUSES FOR BEATIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE UAC AT DIOCESAN LEVEL

In the months of March, April and May 2010 the Causes of the Servants of God, Richard Henkes, Elisabetta Sanna and Josef Engling which are at Apostolic level were presented, now we begin with the first of the 13 causes of members of the UAC that are at diocesan level.

Stanisław SZULMIŃSKI SAC, a priest and member of the Polish Province, born on 10.07.1894 and died in the labour camp at Uchta (Russia) on 27.11.1941. The Cause for Beatification was officially initiated in St. Petersburg, Russia, together with 15 other martyrs on 31.05.2003. The Pallottine Postulator at diocesan level is Fr. Henryk Kietliński SAC. People refer to Fr. Szulmiński as ‘the apostle of reconciliation’ between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church.

Stanisław Szulmiński was already a diocesan priest before entering the Pallottines, he desired to dedicate his entire life and strength to uniting the Orthodox Church with the Catholic Church. He strove to fulfil this desire together with a very clear effort to live in complete faithfulness to the vocation he received. He was aware of his human weaknesses but was also very aware of his call to holiness. He wrote in his diary in 1934: “But God wants me to be holy. In Mary most holy I find hope and I entrust myself so that despite everything I may acquire holiness”. A priest who knew him well described him as “a soul who lived daily life with God and in God”.

In Poland Fr. Szulmiński founded an association called “The Apostolate of Reconciliation” as a section of the Union of Catholic Apostolate. At the beginning of 1937 various Pallottines belonged to this association as well as forty other persons; by 1939 this group already numbered one hundred persons. Some priests who were not Pallottines were members as well as some well-known lay persons. The Provincial Council of the Pallottine Priests and Brothers in Poland on February 3rd 1938 expressly accepted “The Apostolate of Reconciliation” as a section of the Union of Catholic Apostolate. Fr. Stanislaw wished that there would be Pallottines of the Oriental Rite. Several times he requested permission of his Superiors to travel into the Soviet Union in order to dedicate himself to pastoral work there. In 1939 he was sent by his Superior to the Pallottine house *Okopy Trójcy Świętej* (The trench of the Most Holy Trinity) near the meeting point of the three borders of Russia, Poland and Romania. He was arrested by Soviet guards on 24.10.1939 and was sentenced to five years hard labour at Uchta in the Western part of Russia on the White Sea.

At Uchta Fr. Szulmiński served his fellow prisoners in an heroic manner. In spite of a strict prohibition on exercising his priestly functions he celebrated Holy Mass clandestinely, he consoled the prisoners and was a Good Samaritan to all. When a pardon was granted to a large number of the prisoners he revealed to them that he was a priest and he celebrated Mass with those who were set free.

However, even though he himself had also received a document of release on 01.08.1941 he did not take advantage of it, he stayed on in the camp with the remaining 40 prisoners in order to be of help to those who were suffering. He accepted the hard labour, hunger and the humiliations he endured as a penance and offered them for reconciliation between the Churches.

Fr. Szulmiński dedicated himself completely to the union of the Orthodox Church with the Catholic Church in following the wish of Jesus Christ “ut unum sint!” (“that may they be one”). Worn out by ill-treatment and weakened by hunger and hard labour, he died in his sleep in the prison camp. The fame of his holiness and

martyrdom spread among the confreres and lay persons in Poland and in the Ukraine and remains very much alive.

2. The Feast of Mary Queen of Apostles and Pentecost.

The feast of our Patroness and Mother was celebrated in a variety of manners in the Pallottine world, here we bring you some information on just a few of those celebrations.

In Rome the members gathered in the Regina Apostolorum Parish, Via G. Ferrari, 1, where the original painting that Fr. Vincent Pallotti had Serafino Cesaretti paint in the 1840s is kept. The celebration consisted of a vigil of reflection and meditation with singing and prayer and was animated by various members and communities of the UAC; members of the local parish community together with the Parish Priest, Fr. Paolo Basili, also participated in the vigil. The concelebrated Mass was led by Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, President of the GCC.

In Santa Maria, Brazil, a large group of members of the Union from Santa Maria prepared and animated a vigil in the Sanctuary of the Medianeira in which numerous members of the Union participated together with the seminarians and their rectors of the major seminary from the Dioceses of Santa Maria, Cachoeira do Sul and Uruguaiana. In this way the dream of Fr. Vincent of uniting different vocations in a spirit of prayer and reflection was realized.

The following day six members of the Santa Maria Province made their perpetual consecration in the Chapel of the Sisters of Mary and a few days later they were ordained deacons in the Sanctuary.

In Ireland: the members of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, the lay members of the UAC and all those persons who are associated with the Pallottine family and its work, keep a fixed date in their annual calendars and it is the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Knock, in County Mayo, on the feast day of Mary Queen of Apostles. This year **ten persons made their Act of Apostolic Commitment in the Union** during Mass at the Shrine, 4 from Cahir, 3 from Thurles and 3 from Corduff. The main celebrant was Fr. Matthew Sanka, SAC and Fr. Emmet O'Hara gave the homily. Helen Mahon, a lay member of the Union, gave a testimony on how she lives the spirit of the Union in her daily life.

3. The first meeting of the persons with responsibility for Pallottine Formation in the UAC.

In article 11 par. 3 of the General Statutes it is envisaged that the Ecclesiastical Assistant "...taking account of the proposals of the National Coordination Council and with the consent of the General Coordination Council, nominates a person who, in close collaboration with him and the National Coordination Council, has responsibility for ensuring the initial and on-going Pallottine formation of the members of the Union in that territory". The first meeting of the persons who have been nominated for this service in formation will take place from July 15th to 22nd at the 'Il Cenacolo' Centre, Via G. Ferrari, Rome.

4. Sr. Bernadetta Turecka, SAC a member of the General Secretariat of the UAC since 2004 and General Secretary '*Pro tempore*' since April 2009, has been elected Provincial Superior of the Polish Province of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and began her period of office on June 20th. The members of the General Secretariat together with the General Coordination Council join in sincerely thanking Sr. Bernadetta for all the love, dedication and passion with which she served the Union and we wish her God's blessing as she takes up this role of service.

The UAC choir also adds a voice of thanks to Sr. Bernadetta, the initial idea of forming it came from her, she set about organizing it and encouraging all its activities up to and including the celebration at St. Peter's on April 11th this year. For this too, thank you.

There have been other changes in the Congregation in recent times, Sr. Mary McNulty was elected Provincial of the English-Tanzanian Province and Sr. Consuelo Burgos of the Province in Belize, Sr. Gail Borgmeyer was re-elected Provincial for a further period in the USA as was Sr. Helga Weidemann in Germany.

5. We pray for the repose of the soul of Mrs. Anna Gawinecka, a member of the National Coordination Council in Poland who died on June 17th.

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