



UAC NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month brings biographical material on the cause for beatification of **Jan SZAMBELAŃCZYK 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 (continued)

Jan SZAMBELAŃCZYK SAC a priest and member of the Polish Province was born on January 23rd 1907 at Radowice in Poland and died in the concentration camp at Auschwitz on July 2nd 1941. The Cause of Beatification was officially opened together with that of other martyrs on September 17th 2003 in Warsaw. Fr. Henryk Kietliński SAC is the Postulator at the Diocesan level.

Jan entered the Pallottines in 1924 once he had finished his studies at the Minor Seminary, Collegium Marianum, in Wadowice. He studied Philosophy at the Pallottine Major Seminary in Poland and studied Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained a priest on July 30th 1930 in Rome. Having completed his doctoral studies he returned to Poland and became a professor, he spent two years teaching Philosophy at Wadowice and then went on to teach Dogmatic Theology in the Pallottine Major Seminary at Ołtarzew. He was a professor who expected high standards from his students and was well regarded by his students, he was sincere and open with them, he would willingly explain topics or points that were not clear to them and always prepared his lectures with great care.

On May 23rd 1941, like many other priests at that time, he was arrested by the Nazi and was imprisoned in the Pawiak prison in Warsaw. Later he was sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz in the same train which also carried St. Maximilian Kolbe. There he was known as a man who would think more of the other prisoners than of himself and would help them in whatever way he could. He received severe beatings from his jailers, he was exhausted by the hard work and hunger and fell ill with dysentery. In the second half of the month of June 1941 he was transferred to block number 14 where the prisoners who were suffering from typhus and cholera were housed. He died there on July 2nd 1941.

An eyewitness, Fr. Konrad Szweda, wrote that Fr. Szambelańczyk, stood out because of his strong faith and his invincible hope. With the example of his life and with his prayers he would help his fellow prisoners by consoling them and encouraging them to cling to life. With faith and strong conviction he would encourage them by repeating: "Friends, never give up!" He remained conscious until the very final instant of his life. He knew he was dying and grew weaker day by day. Fr. Szweda remembers their final conversation on death. Fr. Jan saw it as a difficult task for which it was necessary to prepare himself. He stressed that death is "the most important moment of all human pilgrimages, which is realized in the day to day efforts. Death is an encounter with Christ if one has served him faithfully on earth...". The evening before his death, Fr. Szweda heard his confession, and said that through his numbed lips he repeated over and over again "Oh my Jesus!". He died that night. (from the Archive of the Province of Christ the King of the Society, Warsaw).



2. UAC in Italy. The Union in Italy was saddened by the unexpected deaths of Fr. Antonio Celona on 7th February and of Fr. Mario Proietti on the 12th. Fr. Antonio Celona, who was at that time a General Consultor,

was appointed a member of the first commission which drew up the initial draft of General Statutes for the Union, he coordinated the work of the commission and presented the first draft of the Statutes in 1989. Fr. Mario Proietti was administrator of the Centro di Spiritualità san Vincenzo Pallotti in Grottaferrata from 2002 up until the time of his death, he was a well-known figure to all those who passed through the Centre. He was also, since 1986, President of the Council of Administration of the Pia Casa di Carità founded in 1838 by St. Vincent Pallotti, the 'Casa' is home to twenty girls under the guidance of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate. Let us thank God in prayer from both of them and for their Pallottine commitment while we commend them to the eternal love of the Father.

3. UAC in South Korea. With great joy the General Secretariat of the UAC received from Fr. Kasimierz Czulak, Provincial, during a recent visit to Rome, a copy of the General Statutes in Korean, they had been translated and printed there. The Pallottines work in South Korea since 1990 and a new departure in apostolic work is a monthly printed copy of Apostles for Today, currently they print 5000 copies which are then distributed among the persons associated with their apostolate, this is indeed an excellent way of spreading our Pallottine spirituality.

4. The National Coordination Council in Brazil. The members of the NCC in Brazil met in a National Assembly in Porto Alegre from January 28th to 30th. In the course of the Assembly the NCC was renewed, the following were elected: President Mr. Dario Ivatiuk Junior (currently a member of the General Coordination Council), Vice-President Sr. Ines Casarin, CSAC, Bursar Mr. Joaquim Accioly and Secretary Mrs. Leni Bressan. We wish the new council the blessing of the Lord in all that it will do to animate and promote the Union in Brazil.

5. Rome. The anniversary of the death of the Venerable Elisabetta Sanna falls on February 17th and was celebrated this year on the 19th with a concelebrated Eucharist in which Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, the Rector General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, was the principal celebrant. At the end of the Mass Mr. Gianfranco Casu, President of the Sardinian Committee for the Beatification, shared with those present his own devotion to the Servant of God and he informed them of the preparation of a new book on her. The Postulator, Fr. Jan Korycki spoke of the diocesan process of investigation into a cure attributed to the intercession of the Venerable which is taking place in Brazil. The Liturgy was animated by a new Sardinian male choir called *Su Cuncordu Corronzanesu*, under the direction of Mr. Luigino Cossu, at the end of the Mass they received hearty applause. (Video and photos at www.sac.info)

6. Sr Salete Cargnin, CSAC, a member of the General Secretariat of the UAC celebrated her first twenty five years of consecrated life on February 9th together with the community of her Sisters in Mozambique where she was visiting the community. We wish her continued joy and the blessing of the Lord Jesus, origin and goal of her Pallottine vocation.

Sr Maria Landsberger, SAC, also a member of the General Secretariat of the UAC visited the communities in Codò, Maranhao in the north-east of Brazil and wrote: "Sr. Madgalene Klein, Vice-provincial of the German province and myself visited the 4 communities of the Missionary Sisters here, we received a very pleasant surprise from the members of the UAC who welcomed us with a great celebration. This is a young UAC community, made up of families with young children, catechists, persons who are engaged in all the various pastoral activities of the area; each one prepared something to share in an abundant agape. They told us of the Novena celebrated around the feast of St. Vincent, of the Octave of the Epiphany which was started by them two years ago and in which many people participate. In Codò there are 2 Pallottine parishes where the priests and the sisters and about 90 lay members of the UAC work together as a true Pallottine family.

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