



UAC NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month brings biographical material on the cause for beatification of **Norbert PELLOWSKI**, 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)

Norbert PELLOWSKI, SAC, a priest and member of the Polish Province was born on January 27th 1903 at Pszczółki near Danzig, and died in the concentration camp at Auschwitz on March 15th 1942. 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.

Norbert finished the seven years of elementary school and went on to study for five years in secondary school which prepared future elementary school teachers. He then taught for a few years in an elementary school and his vocation to the priesthood matured in this period, he decided to enter the Pallottine community and began the Period of Preparatory Formation (novitiate) on October 7th 1925.

From 1926-1928 he studied Philosophy in Poland and then went on to study Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome from 1928 to 1931, he was ordained in Rome on July 19th 1931. As a priest his principal ministry was teaching religion to young persons. When the Second World War broke out he was bursar at the Pallottine Mayor Seminary at Ołtarzew where, for a period of time, seminarians from several Polish dioceses studied together with the Pallottine students (in 1940/41 they numbered 38 and 45 for the academic year 1941-42).

Fr. Pellowski was arrested by the Nazi on May 23rd 1941 and detained at Pawiak prison, in Warsaw, he was later transferred to the concentration camp at Auschwitz, the number assigned to him was prisoner 16769.

Due to a combination of hunger, hard labour and exhaustion he collapsed and was confined to the infirmary where many patients suffered and died from dysentery, abdominal typhus and diarrhoea, illnesses which were to cause a great number of victims in Auschwitz because the prison guards laced the food rations with saltpetre which caused burning of the digestive tract with an ensuing paralysis of the stomach.

Fr. Konrad Szweda, a fellow prisoner and a nurse, testified to Fr. Norbert's optimistic struggle against his illness and said that in the periods when he felt better he would help the other patients by cleaning bedpans, attending to their wounds and giving spiritual comfort to them. They called him the merciful Samaritan. He himself was very grateful for every gesture of help. As a way of thanking Fr. Konrad he composed some poems which Fr. Konrad treasured until his own death. Notwithstanding his optimism and his trust he was too weak to leave the infirmary and died there on March 15th 1942.

His Pallottine confreres and many lay persons remembered him as a zealous apostolic priest, one who was capable of sacrificing himself for others.



2. The first National Congress of the UAC in Argentina took place at the Casa de Retiro San José, Adrogué, Buenos Aires, from 1 – 3 April 2011. Close to 120 person participated including some from Uruguay and Bolivia. María A. Timinkas (Loli)- a member of the Amor Infinito community, wrote: "A NEW TIME!!!! Perhaps these words 'a new time' found a strong echo in my heart and so brought me to the first UAC Congress in the Argentine with special enthusiasm. Each one of us is responsible for the historical time in which we live and to plan together 'a new time' is both a source of hope and a mobilizing force. Recognizing that we are active participants in history and especially in the history of the Church on earth we cannot remain immobile,

dormant on a mattress of memories and resting on our laurels. Rather such a realization enthuses us, fills us with projects and communicates to us the hope of working together that will be fruitful and powerful.

The theme of the Congress “UAC: a new time to revive faith and re-ignite charity”, was what initially mobilized me to be part of it. It is thus that everything begins, with the decision to take part, to go out and search, not to remain inactive. With such a spirit answers are found to our worries and desires. It is true that the phrase ‘a new time’ sounds great, but how do we go about it?

The first day centred on “Pallotti invites us to recall our journey” and was fundamental, we looked at where we are now, at what we have done, at where our brothers and sisters are at this moment. It is only when we know where we are that we can catch a glimpse of where we want to go, of the dawn of this ‘new time’.

Having lovingly recalled the history of Pallotti in our lives our hearts and spirits were filled with the certainty that we are not alone, that we are many persons journeying in a constant search.

The second day was very important because it focused on the centre and marked our direction with the theme “everything changes when Jesus is the centre of life”. Here the way forward is defined, there is no other option, He is the centre, the way, the life, the axis.

And finally, the ‘how’? The theme of the final day was “the great challenge, to be formed for mission”. Having been enriched by the contributions and work of so many persons we found the means for forming ourselves which will enable us to grow and discover strategies to live the ‘new time’ in our hearts and in our communities.

The Congress was a mixture of efforts, hopes, initiatives, memories, plans and proposals in order that each member of the UAC be part of the ‘new time’ where, with Pallotti and, from Pallotti towards the Church we can revive faith and re-ignite charity in the world.” For further material consult the website of the UAC in Argentina at www.uac.org.ar

3. New websites: the NCC in Canada has re-launched its website, you can visit it at: www.pallotti.org

A Youth Group in Riposto, in Sicily, has a website and a blogspot and invites others to contact them, the address is: <http://www.giovaniuac.blogspot.com>

The Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in Germany have a new website at: www.pallottinerinnen.de

4. Australia: on March 19th 2011 the tenth anniversary of the establishment of PAS - Pallottine Aboriginal Scholarship was celebrated. The Archbishop of Perth, Msgr. Barry Hickey was present for the event and the guest speaker was Professor Lyn Henderson, an Indigenous woman and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame, Broome Campus. This year 13 persons were awarded study scholarships.

5. Poland: on Saturday March 12th 5 persons of the Queen of Apostles group of which Fr. Stanisław Rudzinski, is the moderator made their Act of Apostolic Commitment in the UAC.

Sr. Monika Szupryt informs that the National Secretariat of the UAC in Poland has a new e-mail address: sekretariat.krzkak@gmail.com

6. The annual meeting of the General Coordination Meeting: the GCC will hold its annual meeting from May 18th to 24th 2011 at the Centro di Spiritualità san Vincenzo Pallotti, Grottaferrata, Rome, we ask for your prayers for the success of the gathering.

7. Mysore, India: a Theological Symposium on the topic “Theological Foundations and Pastoral Implications of the Pallottine Charism” will take place at Prabodhana, Mysore, the Pallottine Mayor Seminary, from June 24th to 29th 2011 with the participation of about 115 persons.

8. 1st May 2011, Beatification of the Servant of God, John Paul II. With the entire Church we unite in giving thanks to God for this gift. On Divine Mercy Sunday we recall the experience of St. Vincent Pallotti: “...that my soul, being created by God in His image and likeness, is also a living image of His Mercy because God in His essence is eternal... oh, what a grace, oh, what a precious gift was bestowed on me by God in creating me like Him, a living image of His mercy!...” (God, the Infinite Love, med. XVII).