



UAC NEWSLETTER

October 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union,

we are happy to present you with some information in this newsletter about **BLESSED JÓZEF JANKOWSKI SAC**, prepared by Fr. Jan Korycki, SAC, Postulator General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, along with other news from the UAC.

1. MEMBERS OF THE UAC ALREADY PROCLAIMED BLESSED

After our series on the Causes for Beatification in the Pallottine Family in this newsletter (*UAC Newsletter*, March 2010 to September 2011), I would now like to recall the two followers of Saint Vincent Pallotti who have already been proclaimed blessed, Józef Jankowski and Józef Stanek.

Józef **JANKOWSKI**, blessed martyr, Pallottine priest, born November 17 1910 in Czyczkowy in Pomerania (Poland), was baptised on November 20 1910. In the academic year 1924/1925 he began to attend the Pallottine school in Suchary and in 1929 he entered our Society. On August 5 1931 he made his first consecration as a Pallottine in Wadowice. Ordained priest on August 2 of 1936, he dedicated himself to pastoral work; he was a catechist in two schools. At the beginning of the Second World War, he gave great spiritual and material help to many civilians and looked after wounded soldiers. On March 31 1941 he was appointed novice master. He was arrested by the Gestapo on May 16 1941 and deported to Auschwitz concentration camp where, on October 16 1941, he was murdered by the camp guards. He was proclaimed blessed by John Paul II in Warsaw on June 13 1999, together with another 107 martyrs of the Church in Poland.



The documentation connected with his Process of Beatification presents Józef as a priest who lived out Saint Vincent Pallotti's model of holiness with unusual perseverance and coherence. His spiritual path could be characterised by the very words that he wrote in a letter addressed to his brother one year after his priestly ordination: "My ideal, naturally, must embrace God, my neighbour and myself... and the principal movement in this must be the love of God. ... I want to love God more than my own life".

In the fulfilment of this ideal, the worship of the Eucharist and a deep trust in the Mother of God were of particular value to him. In his act of consecration to the Madonna we read: "Mary, Most Holy Virgin, Queen of Apostles, my most beloved Mother, I want to love you... You are the Mother of Divine Love. Fill my heart with the love of God. Fill me with the Holy Spirit, as you filled our Father and Founder... I am confident that you will entrust many, many souls to me. May my life be destroyed so that your Kingdom will reign in the world, so that the Kingdom of Christ, your dearly beloved Son, will reign in the world". His faith and the richness of his personality were expressed in his pastoral ministry, which he was able to exercise for only five years. The witnesses unanimously highlight his exceptional pastoral zeal, driven by his love for God and neighbour, his holiness, his dedication, his sense of responsibility, his prudence and his justice but, above all, by his sensitivity to the needs of people, leading him even to heroic gestures.

During his stay of five months in the extermination camp of Auschwitz, a place of the greatest hardships with respect to work, hunger and humiliation, Fr. Józef endured much physical, moral and spiritual suffering and torture. On October 16 1941 he was tortured by camp guard Krott and, following the beatings he received, died in the sick ward. He was just 31 years of age. An eyewitness of the event, Fr. Konrad Szveda, reports: "Half killed by bloodthirsty Krott, he was admitted to the camp hospital. The next day I went to find him, but he was already dead, I don't know whether following the blows or a lethal injection, which was a regular practice in Auschwitz".

Fr. Józef, fulfilling in a radical way his Pallottine consecration in daily life, gave continual proof of the total giving of his life "for love of God". According to what the witnesses say, he declared himself, and not just once, ready to give his life for the faith. It is therefore no surprise that, finding himself in danger for his life, he went to bring pastoral and medical assistance to the sick and the dying.

During the interrogation he took all responsibility on himself, even though neither he nor the other prisoners were guilty of anything. By sacrificing himself, he wanted his brothers to escape the consequences of his arrest. On the basis of testimonies, it can be seen that his willingness to sacrifice himself for his neighbour, attested by his actions, his sufferings, his imprisonment in the camp and by his death, is more than a virtue – it is heroism, heroic charity which

follows in the footsteps of the love of Christ, because “there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13).

The fame of the martyrdom of Fr. Jankowski, which began immediately after his death, became stronger and stronger among Pallottines and among ex-prisoners of Auschwitz camp, and then more widely among the faithful who, seeing his charitable pastoral ministry, regarded him a saint. An expression of that faith are the numerous reports and reminiscences written by eye witnesses, the celebrations of the anniversaries of his death, the numerous publications about him, and finally, the beatification itself which took place on June 13 1999 in Warsaw. Different graces obtained from God have also been attributed to his intercession.

2. The General Assembly of the Union in January 2012: The theme of the General Assembly is ‘authentic apostles of Christ in the Church and the world’ (cf. Decree of the PCL, General Statutes, p. 12), with a particular emphasis on the Universal Church’s call to a New Evangelisation and our concrete response to this as a worldwide Pallottine family. We pray that the General Assembly will become a source of new energies, of a new creativity in the life of the whole Union, leading to a time of greater apostolic dynamism in the service of the kingdom of God in the Church and the world.

3. Year of celebration for 50th anniversary of St. Vincent’s Canonisation: There will be a year-long celebration leading up to the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of St. Vincent on January 20 2013, beginning on January 20 2012. A letter will soon be sent out from the President of the Union with further details about the celebration of this time of grace in the life of the whole Pallottine family.

4. Germany: The German Episcopal Conference has decided to include the feast of St. Vincent Pallotti in its National Liturgical Calendar as an optional memorial, as well as those of Blessed John Paul II and Saint Damien de Veuster SS.CC (Damian of Molokai). This decision has been communicated to the Holy See and is awaiting official confirmation.

5. Significant progress in Elisabetta Sanna’s Cause for Beatification: The beatification process for the Venerable Servant of God Elisabetta Sanna has recently taken further significant steps forward. On July 23 last, the Postulator General, Fr. Jan Korycki SAC, handed over the documentation on the **presumed miraculous healing of a woman from Brazil** received through the intercession of Ven. Elisabetta to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints. After this, Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, Prefect of this Congregation, decided that the *New Position on the virtues* of the Servant of God would be given to the Commission of Theological Consultors and then to that of the Cardinals and Bishops for their judgement in 2012. It is worth remembering that this *Positio* was already given a positive judgement by the Historical Commission on April 22 1997. Without wanting to anticipate the final judgement of the Holy See, but with great hope, we await the positive evaluation of the Commissions, and then the Decree on the heroic virtues of Ven. Elisabetta, formulated by the Holy Father. Subsequently, we look forward to the recognition of the healing as miraculous and to the beatification itself. For all of this, continued prayers on the part of all of Ven. Elisabetta’s friends are needed.

6. Celebration of the Union: The eighth anniversary of the formal erection of the Union in the Universal Church was celebrated on Saturday October 29th in the Church of Spirito Santo dei Napoletani, via Giulia, where St. Vincent was Rector from 1835 until January 1846. Members of the UAC in the area of Rome gathered at 15.30 for an hour of prayer ‘in the Cenacle’, interceding for a renewed gift of the Spirit of God for the entire Union, followed by a concelebrated Mass at 16.30 led by the President of the Union Fr. Derry Murphy SAC, during which all of the Union members present united in publicly renewing their Act of Apostolic Commitment together.

7. New Members of the UAC:

Poland: On Sunday, October 9, four young women were accepted into the Union in Ursus, Warsaw, having completed 4 years of formation for young people in the Wieczernikowej Community followed by another 5 years of UAC formation. They made their Act of Apostolic Commitment in a celebration presided over by Fr. Peter Karp SAC, Provincial Secretary of Christ the King Province.

8. We ask you to remember specially in your prayers:

- **The preparations for the General Assembly of the Union (January 14-17 2012)**
- **Poland:** The election of lay members to the Polish NCC is currently underway. The new NCC plans to meet on November 19 for the election of office holders.
- **Fr. Joji Babu Tuneti SAC:** A message from Fr. Joji to all the members of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate: Greetings and best wishes from Fr. Joji Babu Tuneti, India, for whom you have been praying all these days. I would like to express my sincere thanks and Gratitude for your prayers for me. Because of your prayers I am responding well to the medicine and recovering faster. As per my reports my condition was worse, because of your prayers my blood counts became normal. I am proud to be a Pallottine and to belong to the Union. I request you all to intensify your prayers as I am going to get a stronger form of chemotherapy. Thanking you all. Yours in St. Vincent Pallotti, Fr. Joji Babu.