



UAC NEWSLETTER

March 2012



Dear brothers and sisters in the Union,

we are very happy to present to you in this newsletter a synthesis of the life of Giacomo Salvati, adapted principally from the book, *San Vincenzo Pallotti, profeta della spiritualità di comunione (Saint Vincent Pallotti, prophet of the spirituality of communion)*, edited by Fr. Franco Todisco SAC, along with other news from the UAC.

1. EARLY COLLABORATORS OF SAINT VINCENT:

Giacomo Salvati (1779-1858), one of the first lay members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, became a symbol of the lay Pallottine vocation to the apostolate. Born on January 10th, 1779, in Rocca di Papa (RM), Frascati diocese, of rural origin, a coal merchant and cart driver, he became a transporter and merchant of various goods which he brought to the Castelli Romani (a collection of wine-producing hill-towns to the south-east of Rome) on horseback or by carriage or other light vehicle. Sixteen years older than Pallotti, he was also in prison twice as a young man. In 1808 he married Maddalena Menichini (1790-1861), who gave birth to eight sons and daughters, six of whom died prematurely. Having come to Rome in search of work, by 1828 he had a house and shop in via Salita del Grillo where he lived with his wife and his two daughters, Camilla and Maria Costante, the latter subsequently becoming a professed sister in the Convent of Divine Love. His wife, with the help of some workers, also made soaps which he sold in the shop. Giacomo must have amassed a considerable fortune if during the Ordinary Process of Beatification of Pallotti he was declared to be "*wealthy and to be living on his investment income*".

In 1832, his daughter Camilla was gravely ill. One day, Fr. Vincent came to the shop, where he found only Salvati's wife, who didn't know him, and he told her that her dying daughter Camilla was better and then left. She thought it was a joke and, as soon as her husband returned, she told him what had happened. Giacomo hadn't called the unknown priest, but he went immediately to his daughter, who hadn't eaten for three days. Camilla asked him for something to eat and shortly afterwards said that she felt fine. The following morning, the doctor found her healed and, confirming the disappearance of any symptoms of her illness, said: "*This is a miracle!*"

Giacomo found where Fr. Vincent lived and put himself at his disposal; in this way, the grace of God brought to our Founder a humble and constant collaborator, tireless in supporting his apostolic works.

Around that time, someone, perhaps the other lay collaborator Tommaso Alkusi, had translated the *Eternal Maxims* of Saint Alphonsus de Ligouri into Arabic. Fr. Vincent and other companions in the Union of Catholic Apostolate wanted to print at least ten thousand copies to give out to the many oriental Christians living in Rome and also to send some to the Middle East. The cost of printing was around four hundred scudi, which Pallotti didn't have. He thought of entrusting this to Giacomo Salvati, '...whose daughter – Fr. Vincent used to say – God had healed, and he asked him to obtain the amount through seeking alms. Salvati was worried about only one thing: Who would believe him? Would he not perhaps finish up in prison for a third time, seeing that in Rome, as elsewhere, there was no shortage of crooks asking for money for pious causes? He asked at least for a letter of presentation. Fr. Vincent cut him off; he took a crucifix from his breast and said: "*Go in the name of the Crucified One and you will find everything*". Giacomo made the sign of the cross and went out. Not one person sent him away empty-handed. In a short time he collected the considerable amount requested, and even fifty scudi extra. On returning home he told his wife what had happened and she too made the sign of the cross. From that moment on, Giacomo and Maddalena were always at Fr. Vincent's disposal, supplying him with material help, but above all with his work and his country wisdom. Also linked to Salvati's zeal was the founding and opening of the Pia Casa di Carità in Borga S. Agata, of which he also became the first Procurator. Ermanno Ponti, in his book '*La Pia Casa di Carità in Borga S. Agata, dalla fondazione a oggi*' (*The Pia Casa di Carità in Borga S. Agata, from its foundation to today* - Rome 1939, p. 33) doesn't hesitate to write that "... encouraged by the words of Pallotti, Salvati became the founder of a holy work".

Fr. Vincent always remained a good friend of the Salvati family. One Christmas Eve evening, Salvati and his wife were about to accompany Fr. Vincent to Midnight Mass, when he asked Maddalena to stay at home. The good woman felt a little mortified, but obeyed and remained at home with the maid. That evening two thieves arrived, convinced that the Salvatis would all be in church and, to their surprise, finding people at home they fled hastily. In 1843, Pallotti celebrated the wedding of their daughter Camilla with Count Luigi Latini Maciotti, and also baptised their children and became godfather to some of them.

In his Deposition of February 17th 1853 to the Ordinary Process for Pallotti's Beatification, Salvati said: "I feel in myself affection, devotion and veneration towards this Servant of God... I who knew him, found him to be equipped with all of the virtues". His memory at seventy three years of age unfortunately was no longer sharp and he replied *I don't remember* to many questions. He remembered two things, however, with clarity: the healing of his daughter and the prodigious collection. He died in 1858, eight years after Fr. Vincent, and he is buried with his family in the church of SS. Nome di Maria (the Holy Name of Mary) at the Foro Traiano, in a chapel to the left.

2. New Members of the Union:

Italy: **Riposto, Sicilia:** On Saturday January 14, during a Mass in the Church of Maria SS.ma Addolorata which was part of the Octave of the Epiphany, presided over by the Bishop of Acireale, Mons. Antonino Raspanti, the President of CCA UAC Italian, Corrado Montaldo, received the Act of Apostolic Commitment made by a group of 8 young people. Also present were Sr. Beniamina Tropiano CSAC and other members of the Pallottine Sisters, the Provincial Rector, D. Antonio Lotti SAC, the SAC Councillor General. D. Martin Manus SAC, other guest priests, other UAC members and many people of the area.

Ostia, Roma: On March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, during a Concelebrated Eucharist in the Queen of Peace Church in Ostia, Rome, led by Fr. Antonio Lotti, the SAC Provincial, five people made their Act of Apostolic Commitment. The hymns were led by the UAC Choir.

Nigeria: During a Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday February 13th 2012 in St. Thomas Parish, Uke, Nigeria, the Rector General and Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Union, Fr. Jacob Nampudakam SAC, received the Act of Apostolic Commitment of 11 people, the first lay members of the Union in Nigeria. Also present were the Regional Rector, Fr. Bruno Ateba SAC, the four Pallottine priests from Nigeria, the postulant master, Fr. Sostene Abolo SAC, the parish priest, Fr. Peter Hillen SAC, some visiting priests and about 200 people in formation from the 17 UAC groups in the country along with faithful from the parish.

3. Catholic Day, Germany: The UAC in Germany has been given a wonderful opportunity to present our charism to the wider Church there. Having been offered a place in this year's *Katholikentag* (Catholic Day), a major national festival-like gathering in German-speaking countries organized by Catholic laity which takes place in Mannheim in May this year, the UAC leadership proposed a panel discussion as a means of trying to give creative living witness to our Pallottine way of being church: people of different vocations and states of life sharing as equals their vision of the Pallottine charism as a visible witness to the fundamental equality and active collaboration to which we are all called as God's people. Such witness has the potential to offer a very positive message to many situations in German dioceses and parishes where structures are changing greatly in these times and people are looking for new models of Christian community. Discussion will be on the theme, "We do not complain – we have a plan. How tomorrow's Church could look". The panel will be composed of Lissy Eichert UAC, who works with the homeless in Berlin, Alois Wittmann UAC, a married general practitioner and member of the Apostolatskreis Hofstetten UAC group, Sr. Simone Hachen SAC, a Pallottine Missionary Sister working with young people, Fr. Edward Fröhling SAC, Pallottine Priest and Professor of Theology at the Hochschule, Vallendar, and Matthias Terhorst, a Pallottine novice. We pray for the success of this initiative, that it may be a true inspiration and blessing for all those involved, and that it may inspire similarly creative and courageous initiatives in other parts of the Pallottine world in these times in which we are all strongly encouraged to take new apostolic risks in order to play our full part in the New Evangelisation as a Pallottine family.