



# UAC NEWSLETTER

May 2012



**Dear brothers and sisters in the Union,**

we are very happy to present to you in this newsletter a biographical note on Brother Angelo Palombi, prepared by Fr. Jan Kupka SAC from various sources, along with other news from the UAC.

## **1. EARLY COLLABORATORS OF SAINT VINCENT:**

Angelo Palombi (1810-1891) was the first brother to join the community founded by Saint Vincent Pallotti. He lived with Pallotti for eight years, initially in the community at Spirito Santo dei Napoletani and then in that of SS. Salvatore in Onda. He was, therefore, an eyewitness of the last years of our Saint, of his death and of the first steps in the constitution of the community of priests and brothers.

The biographical information on Angelo Palombi can be found in the testimonies that he himself gave during the informative and the apostolic Processes for the beatification of Vincent Pallotti.

Angelo Palombi was born in 1810 in Monte S. Giovanni Campano, south-west of Frosinone, in the diocese of Veroli. He was a barber by profession. At 33 years of age he decided to enter a religious institute. Not knowing anyone from whom he could get some advice, he turned to fellow townsman Fr. Serafino Pellegrini for a suggestion. Fr. Serafino, confessor of Vincent Pallotti, rejoiced to be able to give the first brother to the nascent Congregation of the Catholic Apostolate promoted by Pallotti. A few months after the death of Pallotti, which happened on January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1850, he left the Pallottine community and entered the Order of Cistercians of Saint Bernard in the monastery of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, Rome.

In 1890 during the apostolic Process, Br. Angelo Palombi spoke as follows about his life: "In the world I was called Angelo Palombi, but now Alberico Palombi. I was born in Monte Giovanni Campano on February 18<sup>th</sup> 1810. My deceased parents were Giuseppe and Maria Antonia Fiori. IN 1843 I entered the Congregation instituted by venerable Vincent Pallotti, first at Spirito Santo dei Napoletani, then moved to the house of SS. Salvatore in Onda as a coadjutor brother, where I remained for seven years. Then I went to the Cistercian Monks of Saint Bernard, as a lay brother in the monastery of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, where I made my solemn profession in 1860" (Archive ISVP-M/0667-2).

The question arises as to why Angelo Palombi left the community founded by Vincent Pallotti and entered the Cistercians. Br. Angelo himself explains the reason: "The reason I left it was because I wanted to enter a religious life from which I couldn't leave at will, but that I would instead have solemn vows which would bind me for my whole life. It was for this that I choose the Order of Cistercians. My departure happened, as I have already said, after the death of the Venerable but, however, right from the beginning I had conceived the thought and expressed this, my intention, to the Venerable himself who, far from disapproving of me, agreed to speak to the General of that same Order" (Archive ISVP-M/0667-2).

Br. Angelo arrived at Pallotti's community at Spirito Santo dei Napoletani in July 1843 and took the habit the following year. He carried out various tasks in the community: he was porter, sacristan and cook, and sometimes even plied his trade of barber. He was a witness to the apostolic activities which Saint Vincent developed at the Church of Santo Spirito. His testimony on the work of Pallotti and on his spiritual relationship with him is striking. Br. Angelo said: "(Pallotti) worked with great joy, dedication and patience, which seemed inexhaustible, and managed to infuse it into others, and also into me when he saw me in poor form. If I was not eager to get up to open up for those who came to him to confess and for other things, he would respond by proposing the example of shopkeepers, saying – see how quickly and eagerly they get up early in the morning to make money and do not get annoyed, and in the same way in the evening keep watch for many hours for shameful gain, and we will not do the same for God?" (Archive ISVP-M/667-1).

In 1846 Br. Angelo, along with the other members of the community of Spirito Santo dei Napoletani, moved to the house at the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. During the years of his stay in the retreat of SS. Salvatore in Onda he was an active member of the Pallottine community, participated in its historical events, carried out various trades and collaborated with Pallotti in his apostolic initiatives, above all during the celebrations of the Octave of the Epiphany. In 1850 he served Pallotti with loving care and

was a witness to his death, of which he has left a moving testimony: "He held in his hands (Pallotti) the medal of the Rosary and the Crucifix, and although he was very exhausted by the loss of blood, the constant fever, lack of food and diarrhoea, he still persevered in prayer, which was a marvel to me, and I recalled that great maxim that as we live, so we die: his whole life was a prayer accompanied by the exercise of all the virtues, and even more so was his death" (Archive ISVP-M/0667-1).

After leaving the community founded by Pallotti, Br. Angelo lived for more than 30 years as a lay brother in the Order of the Cistercians. In the monastery of the Santa Croce in Gerusalemme in Rome he made his profession on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1860. In this monastery, first he was cook and then doorman. In 1887 he was transferred to the Cistercian monastery in Terme di Roma, where at 81 years of age he died on November 7<sup>th</sup> 1891. His remains rest in the cemetery of Campo Verano in the Cistercian tomb.

**2. Pallotti Institute, Rome, Convention on Holiness:** The Convention on Holiness took place in Rome from May 15-19 with the participation of almost 90 people from the different components of the Union from various countries. The general themes for each day were, respectively: 1 - Saint Vincent's canonisation in words and images from the time; 2 - Holiness in general; 3 - Pallottine Priestly Holiness; 4 - Holiness of the Lay Faithful; 5 - Holiness in Consecrated Life. The Convention also included visits in Pallotti footsteps in Rome and a trip to Frascati on the anniversary of St. Vincent's priestly ordination to celebrate the Eucharist in the church where he celebrated his first Mass.

**3. Guiding daily themes of a number of Triduum celebrated around the birthday of Saint Vincent: Curitiba, Brazil:** St. Vincent Pallotti Community: Day 1 - "the UAC, a dream of St. Vincent Pallotti"; 2 - "Pallotti, animator of the lay apostolate"; 3 - St. Vincent's birthday; 4 - Mass incorporating procession followed by a barbecue.

**Santa Maria, Brazil:** attended by 4 SAC General Councillors, Frs. Gilberto Orsolin (Brazil), Adam Golec (Poland), Martin Manus (Germany) and Francisco Harelimana (Rwanda). Day 1 (Our Lady of Glory, Camobi) - "the holiness of Pallotti as an example for youth" - prepared by youth; 2 (Saint Anthony, Patronato) - "Today, Pallotti invites all to the Lord's mission"; 3 (Our Lady of Sorrows, Santa Maria) - "holiness in St. Vincent Pallotti" - opening of Jubilee Year - followed by a delicious agape for all.

**Avella, Italy:** Day 1 - "Together to say THANK YOU" - "Mary Queen of Apostles - remembering Mary as Patron of the Union"; 2 - "YOU ARE AN ETERNAL PRIEST" - "remembering St. Vincent's priestly ordination"; "I WILL PRAISE YOU FOR EVER" - "remembering St. Vincent's first Mass"; 4 - "ALL APOSTLES" - "remembering St. Vincent's Appeal to God's holy people". Members and friends of the Union also prepared and sold local delicacies to raise money for Pallottine Missionary projects.

**4. New Leadership Council/Team for Khristsevikas:** On May 5th, the first day of their General Assembly, the Secular Institute Khristsevikas elected a new Council as follows: Ms. Crispina D'Costa - President; Ms. Virginia Malathi - First Councillor; Ms. Joyce Almeida - Second Councillor. We wish them every blessing and the outgoing Council every blessing in their service of the Lord and his people.

**5. Catholic Day, Germany:** in the March 2012 Newsletter, we mentioned an open panel discussion involving people representing different components of the Union at the National Catholic Day festival in Mannheim. This took place on May 15<sup>th</sup> and was a great success. Around 150 people attended, with more having to be turned away for lack of space. The discussion was lively, and people were interested in finding suggestions for their way to be part of the Church, to be encouraged and to share their faith. And the panellists were excellent, giving concrete answers and pointers from their own experience. Even in this large group, it was a real experience of sharing faith, of talking about God and how to promote his kingdom, without losing sight of reality. Afterwards some people gave feedback on how encouraging the meeting had been for them.

**6. Annual Meeting of the General Coordination Council of the Union:** The first meeting of the newly-elected General Coordination Council of the Union took place in Rome from May 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Derry Murphy SAC was re-elected President of the Union and Sr. Adelheid Scheloske SAC was elected Vice-President. Many thanks to Corrado Montaldo for his service as Vice-President for the last three years. Further information on the decisions of the GCC and initiatives arising from the meeting will be communicated in due course.