



UAC NEWSLETTER

December 2012



Dear sisters and brothers in the Union,

we are very happy to present to you in this newsletter a synthesis of the life of **Bernardino Fazzini**, prepared by Fr. Jan Kupka SAC, along with other news from the UAC.

1. EARLY COLLABORATORS OF SAINT VINCENT:

Bernardino Fazzini (1758-1837) was Pallotti's confessor and spiritual director for 30 years. Pallotti placed all of the most important decisions of his life into his hands and held him in great esteem.

Bernardino Vincenzo Fazzini, son of Bartolomeo Fazzini and Anna Bianchini, was born and baptised in Rome on April 6th 1758, in the parish of S. Maria in Monticelli. The Fazzini family lived in via di S. Bartolomeo de' Vaccinari. In 1782 he received priestly ordination in the Basilica of S. Giovanni in Laterano. In 1787 he was appointed curate and subsequently parish priest in the Church of S. Cecilia in Trastevere. During the Napoleonic occupation of Rome, he was exiled from Rome as a parish priest who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the emperor. He returned from exile in 1814. In 1825 he resigned as parish priest of the Church of S. Cecilia in Trastevere and became the chaplain of the Ospizio Apostolico (Apostolic Hospice) di S. Michele a Ripa until his death in 1837.

We have little information speaking about the direct collaboration of Bernardino Fazzini with Vincent Pallotti. Pallotti's relationship with him was of quite another character. Bernardino Fazzini was for Vincent the father and friend of his soul. Pallotti chose him at the age of 12 as his confessor and remained under his spiritual direction until his death in 1837. Pallotti went to Fazzini's presbytery at least once a week to confess. After having confessed, report some witnesses, he stopped to pray and prostrated himself before the tabernacle to perform his penance.

Fazzini represented the priestly spirituality of the 17th century - austere, militant, contemptuous of the world, ascetic and voluntaristic, with an intensely devotional approach. All of these spiritual traits in some way formed the spiritual figure of Pallotti, who made a vow of obedience to his spiritual director. This 30 year period was a time of frequent meetings and conversations, which were certainly not exclusively spiritual. Pallotti himself speaks of having found in Fazzini the example of a zealous priest and of having received from him "advice, exhortations and admonitions" (OCL II, l. n. 474, p. 233). All of this shows us that Bernardino Fazzini had a great influence on his life.

Two facts in particular demonstrate Pallotti's great faith in and spiritual union with Fazzini. On July 19th 1827, Pallotti's mother, Maria Maddalena De Rossi, died. One month later, in the middle of August, Vincent Pallotti withdrew to Camaldoli in Frascati to pray for his mother's soul. On August 29th, he wrote a letter from Camaldoli addressed to Bernardino Fazzini, his spiritual director, in which he remembers the life, the virtues and the last illness of his mother (cf. OCCC XIII, pp. 916-950).

The second fact is that the name of Bernardino Fazzini appears in first place in the list of 1835 of those numbered in the Pious Union of the Catholic Apostolate (cf. OCCC V, p. 3). It is significant that Pallotti wrote the name of his confessor in his own handwriting in first place and his own in second. This was without doubt a tribute to his holy director and a sign of great trust.

Vincent Pallotti assisted Fazzini throughout his long illness and didn't move from his bedside from the evening of Wednesday 20th to Monday 25th of December, 1837, the day of his death. On December 22nd 1837 Pallotti wrote to Sr. Geltrude Costantini: "From Wednesday evening I found myself assisting my spiritual father who was dying. Let us commend him fervently to God and to the intercession of the whole heavenly court".

Bernardino Fazzini died on December 25th 1837, Christmas Day, and was buried in the Ospizio di S. Michele a Ripa Grande, in Trastevere, of which he had been director for many years. A bust of him and a memorial stone in the sacristy in the Church of S. Michele a Ripa remember this Roman priest who Vincent Pallotti called "holy Fazzini".

2. Saint Vincent's Bible to visit India:

Following a request by a number of Union members to him during a recent visit to India to have a relic of St. Vincent made available there for public veneration, Fr. Jacob Nampudakam SAC will bring a bible of St.

Vincent's to India on January 2nd 2013 for which a special reliquary is being prepared, with the aim of facilitating a spiritual and apostolic renewal among Union members and in the lives of many other people in India, particularly with a view to the New Evangelisation. It is proposed that the spiritual pilgrimage begin on January 6th, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, at the Mariarani Centre, Trivandrum, Kerala, followed by an initial pilgrimage to the various Pallottine communities in the State of Kerala. The rest of the itinerary will be decided upon at the meeting of the Indian NCC in Goa on February 5th. We share Fr. Jacob's hope (slightly adapted) that "the Word of God, as lived by our holy Founder, [may] be the source of inspiration and renewal of the Pallottines in India", and indeed throughout the world "especially in this Year of Faith".

3. New UAC website at <http://www.unionofcatholicapostolate.com>

developed by Fr. Norbert Sequeira SAC, General Bursar of the Union. (For technical reasons, the previous website at <http://www.unionofcatholicapostolate.org> will no longer be used.) The website is primarily in English, but a button at the bottom of the brown panel on the right-hand side of the home page allows automatic translation into your desired language, usually with reasonable results. Fr. Norbert is asking for information to be sent in, if possible in English, on events and initiatives which might be of interest to the Union as a whole, particularly with regard to the celebration of the Jubilee Year of St. Vincent's canonisation. Please send any comments, suggestions or enquiries to norbertsac@gmail.com

4. Opening of Jubilee Year of St. Vincent's Canonization in Germany - Symposium in Vallendar

As part of the Jubilee celebrations in Germany for St. Vincent's canonisation, the Pallotti Institute in Vallendar, in cooperation with the Pallotti Forum, is organising a symposium entitled "Union, our way of being Church" from January 21-25. It will examine St. Vincent's founding of the Union in its historical and theological context and then look at the extent to which his pastoral concept may provide an answer for our times.

5. Brazil: The second meeting of the NCC with Provincial/Regional Councils of Core Communities of the Union

took place on November 24th and 25th in Curitiba. Among the topics addressed: evaluation of pilgrimage of relics of St. Vincent, the Jubilee Year and closing celebrations in Aparecida on January 26, 2013, including the visit of the General Secretary of the Union at that time; joint preparations for World Youth Day in Rio and the World Meeting of Pallottine Youth in Curitiba in July 2013.

6. UAC in National and International meetings of Movements, Associations and New Communities

- **Brazil:** 4th National Meeting of Movements, Associations and New Communities - 5 Union members participated in the 4th National Meeting of Movements, Associations and New Communities from November 2nd - 4th 2012 in Recife. The theme of the meeting was Vatican II and its ramifications for laity in Brazil today. Approximately 280 people participated and discussed the topic, along with other current issues such as the Year of Faith, through lectures, group meetings and workshops.
- **Germany:** Munich, 8-10 November 2012 – The Annual International Meeting of Friends of "Together for Europe" (<http://www.together4europe.org/en>) was attended by two members of the Quinta Dimensione Community, bringing the charism of Saint Vincent into this project which was born in 1999 in order to help Christian communities and movements to make their own particular contribution to reconciliation, peace and fraternity in Europe. While the movements and communities are as varied as the cultures, languages and regions of Europe, the shared spirit, ideas, values and responsibilities are even stronger than what could separate them. The next international meeting will be held in Paris in 2013, and within the various cities and regions, the aggregated communities will continue to carry forward the project locally. The ecumenical and collaborative aspects of "Together for Europe" in particular reflect the Pallottine charism.

7. We continue to pray for:

- Josephine Grace Gay, and all victims and families of the terrible school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.
- the Pallottine family and all in the Goma region, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.
- peace for all suffering warfare and violence, including in Syria, Nigeria, Iraq, the Holy Land and Afghanistan.
- for the fruitfulness of the different Octaves of the Epiphany which will be celebrated by the Pallottine family in various countries, including Germany, Brazil and Italy, and for a growing awareness of and concrete response to Saint Vincent's conviction that 'in accordance with God's plans and with the intentions of our holy Church, it is the task of our holy Institute to celebrate this sacred octave with all possible solemnity, not only in the Church where the... Union was instituted, but if possible in the whole world, in all of the communities of whatever type, in all Catholic families' (OCC I, p. 339).