



UAC NEWSLETTER

May 2013



Dear sisters and brothers in the Union,

we are very happy to present to you in this newsletter an **historical note on the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda**, along with other news from the Union.

1. THE CHURCH OF SS. SALVATORE IN ONDA

The construction of the church dates from the end of the 11th and beginning of the 12th centuries. The church is dedicated to the Most Holy Saviour, SS. Salvatore, to which is added 'in onda', probably due to the frequent flooding of the Tiber.

The first historical mention of the church is attested in a bull of Honorius II from 1127. It originally had the form of a basilica with three naves. Innocent VII (1404- 1406) gave it to the monks of St. Paul the Hermit who remained there until 1445. By concession of Eugene IV (1431-1447), the church and adjacent house passed to the Conventual Friars Minor from Santa Maria in Ara Coeli, who established the headquarters of their general procurators there. On August 14th 1844, Gregory XVI (1831-1846) gave the church and adjacent house to the Roman priest Vincent Pallotti, for the community of priests and brothers of the Catholic Apostolate founded by him. From that time, members of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) have served there. In 1845 St. Vincent initiated restoration work and in 1846 transferred there together with his community. Pius IX (1846-1878) confirmed the granting of the church to the Society of the Catholic Apostolate with a brief in 1847.

Restoration of the church by the Cassetta family under the direction of the architect Luca Carimini began in 1867. This raised the level of the floor and gave the church its present appearance. On August 6th 1878, the church was reopened for public worship with a Eucharistic celebration led by Mons. Francesco di Paola Cassetta. The most recent restoration/cleaning work dates to 1984.

The church has three naves, divided by 12 columns, each different from the others, as are the capitals. The roof is formed by coloured wooden panels (19th Century). It is illuminated by ten coloured glass windows and by a large semicircular window on the facade overlooking the choir loft, which is equipped with an organ. The Stations of the Cross are by Domenico Cassarotti. At the back of the church are two confessionals commissioned by St. Vincent.

At the end of the central nave is the principal altar, under which is the precious urn by the sculptor Arnaldo Brandizzi which holds the incorrupt body of St. Vincent Pallotti, clothed in priestly vestments with face and hands masked in metal. In the apse is seen the beautiful fresco of the Transfiguration by Filippo Prospero. In the centre over the tabernacle is the image of the Madonna and Child and on the sides are frescos representing the Apostles Peter and Paul and, above them, two small round images of Saints John Nepomucene and Philip Neri.

At the beginning of the right-hand aisle is a terracotta statue of Our Lady of Sorrows, put there by Saint Vincent. Continuing along the aisle there is the statue of Saint Anthony and a large marble plaque containing historical information about the church. Then follows the Chapel of the "Virgo Potens", an image given by Ven. Elisabetta Sanna, one of the first collaborators of the Union, who died in Rome in 1857. Ven. Elisabetta, whose process of beatification is ongoing, is buried under the floor. The walls are adorned by paintings of Cesare Mariani: 'Judith and Holofernes', 'the Immaculate Conception', 'the Annunciation' (all three from 1875), 'Esther e Ahasuerus' (1876). At the end of this aisle, the marble altar is dedicated to Saint Joseph and to the holy martyrs Cosmas and Damian. The picture, painted on canvas, was done by Alessandro Massimiliano Seitz (1811-1888).

Along the left aisle are found the statue of Jesus the Nazarene in plaster, the statue of the Child Jesus in *papier mache* belonging to Vincent Pallotti, who had the faithful kiss it during the Octave of the Epiphany, the plaque which records the place where the body of Saint Vincent was kept from 1850 to 1950, a copy of the painting depicting Mary Queen of Apostles done by Serafino Cesaretti based on the design of Johann Friedrich Overbeck and the plaque in memory of the visit of John Paul II to the church on June 22nd 1986. At

the end is the altar of Saint Alexander with a marble high relief which St. Vincent had placed there.

The Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda is the Spiritual Centre of the Union. It is open to the public and to various groups of pilgrims, with priests available for confessions, every day of the week from 10.00 to 12.00 and from 16.00 to 19.30. Masses are at 7.00 and 18.00 on weekdays, and 8.00, 11.00 and 18.00 on feast days. There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers at 18.45. Mass with the special participation of members and collaborators of the Union of Catholic Apostolate is celebrated every Wednesday at 18.30.

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COORDINATION COUNCIL

The General Coordination Council (GCC) of the Union met in Rome from May 10 to 16, 2013. For the first time ever, substitutes had to be called upon, primarily due to the unavailability of some GCC members through illness. The meeting was marked by an atmosphere of family and of prayer, and included a period of silent adoration together at the end of each day in the spirit of the Cenacle in order to pray together for the work of the GCC and for the entire Union. Items on the agenda included the following: a report each from the President, the General Bursar and the General Secretary; a presentation by the Ecclesiastical Assistant of challenges facing the Union and proposed solutions; a meeting with the three Core Community General Councils; a meeting with the International Formation Commission of the Union; discussion of and discernment on themes such as the Pallottine Charism at the service of the New Evangelisation with a special emphasis on the place of the family, the role and functioning of the GCC and its members both during and between annual meetings, and the nature and role of Local Coordination Councils; planning for the meetings of National Formation Promoters and of lay communities of the Union and for the next General Congress and General Assembly of the Union; matters for GCC consent, including the approval of National Regulations (Ivory Coast and Ukraine) and formal recognition of new National Coordination Councils and their elected Presidents and Vice-presidents, and approval of the appointment of National Formation Promoters (Colombia, Ivory Coast, Portugal, Rwanda/DR Congo and Ukraine); the selection of further appendices to the General Statutes to be studied and finalised during the coming months. The participants expressed their happiness both at the gradual growth of the Union around the world and the time of particular grace for the entire Pallottine Family experienced during the 50th anniversary Jubilee Year of St. Vincent's Canonisation. At the same time, it was recognised that the proper and effective growth of the Union requires much closer attention and accompaniment by the General Coordination Council, National Coordination Councils, National Formation Promoters and Core Communities. There needs to be an ongoing process of creative, critical and profound reflection on all aspects of the Union, further strengthening of the leadership teams and existing structures at all levels, ongoing deep study and experience of the spirituality and charism of St. Vincent Pallotti which alone will enable us to understand and implement his charismatic vision, ongoing spiritual and apostolic formation of the members leading to concrete apostolic and missionary activities. A series of action points is in preparation in order to focus and guide the work of the GCC members and of the General Secretariat during the coming year.

3. 175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE PALLOTTINE SISTERS AND MISSIONARY SISTERS

Congratulations to the Sisters (CSAC) and the Missionary Sisters (SAC) of the Catholic Apostolate who together marked 175 years of foundation with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, SAC, at SS. Salvatore in Onda on Pentecost Sunday.

4. NEWLY RECOGNISED NATIONAL COORDINATION COUNCILS

During its recent meeting the GCC approved the establishment of the following NCCs and their elected office holders: **Ukraine:** Fr. Jarosław Olshewski, SAC, (President) and Halyna Zakrasina (Vice-president); **Ivory Coast:** Mme Christine Boussou Ovo (President) and Mme Eugénie Modeste Diallo (Vice-president).

5. NEW MEMBERS

Portugal: On April 25 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Febres (Diocese of Coimbra) during a Eucharistic celebration led by the NCC President Fr. Jan Piotr Stawicki SAC, 37 people made the Act of Apostolic Commitment to become the first lay members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate in Portugal.

6. INDIA - MEETING OF UAC NATIONAL FORMATION PROMOTER WITH MISSIONARY SISTERS' FORMATORS

On April 30th, Fr. Vijay Thomas, SAC, the Indian National Formation Promoter, met the Pallottine Missionary Sisters' formators to discuss the role of the Union in the formation programme of the Sisters' Province.