



# UAC NEWSLETTER

November 2013



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

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

## **1. VENERABLE PAULINE-MARIE JARICOT (1799-1862):**

The 150th anniversary of the death of **Pauline-Marie Jaricot**, the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, was celebrated in 2012. The relationship of Saint Vincent Pallotti to Pauline Jaricot reveals the wide vision of these two protagonists of the needs of the Church and their total dedication to bringing to fruition the works inspired by God.

Pauline-Marie Jaricot was born on July 22nd 1799 in Lyon (France). She spent her infant years in prosperity. She received a good religious education in her family. The year 1816 marked a turning point in Pauline's life. Struck by the preaching of John Würtz, the parish priest of St. Nizier, she began her life of deep union with God. She dedicated herself to the poor and to the female workers in her family's factories. She established a group of 'Reparatrices (women of reparation) to the Sacred Heart' with which she undertook various charitable works. Sensitised by her brother Philéas, she became involved in helping French missionaries in China. In 1819, the idea of a methodical organisation of collections for the missions came to her mind. In 1820 she launched the Movement for the collection of offerings for all of the missions of the Church. Thus began the Society for the Propagation of the Faith which, on May 3rd 1822, passed to the direction of lay people involved in helping the missions. In 1826 she promoted the Living Rosary in order to revive the prayer of the Rosary. In 1830, she established the Bank of heaven with the social goal of supporting workers. During this year of intense activity she entrusted herself to the Virgin Mary together with her closest collaborators, formed by her into the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary in 1831.

In 1834 Pauline had a heart attack. Despite her poor health, she undertook a journey to Rome, where she arrived at the end of May 1835. There she was welcomed by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Trinità dei Monti. Having recovered her physical strength, she went to Mugnano del Cardinale (AV). On August 10th 1835, while participating in the Eucharistic benediction in the shrine dedicated to St. Philomena, she realised that something mysterious had happened to her: she could walk, she felt herself healed. Having visited Naples, she returned to Rome, where she remained until the end of March 1836. During this stay, she visited the city of Rome and met different people.

Silvio Beltrami states: "It turns out that in Rome, Jaricot met with Blessed Vincent Pallotti who, through his project of the Catholic Apostolate, aimed at the same goal as the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is well known that Pallotti began his Work in Rome in 1836, which then united with the Society of the Propagation of the Faith in 1837 by the will of the Pope. Apart from this meeting, we must recognise that there was no relationship between this journey in Italy and the beginning of the Society (Id., *L'Opera della Propagazione della Fede in Italia*, Roma 1961, p. 49). Francesco Amoroso SAC offers the same opinion: "In Rome, Pauline was based in SS. Trinità dei Monti and here she encountered the Saint and spoke to him about her initiative. It was in 1835 and Fr. Vincent recognised something of his own plan of universal mobilisation in the work of Jaricot" (Id., *San Vincenzo Pallotti romano*, Roma 1962, p. 128).

In the writings of Pallotti relating to the early years of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, we find references to the Society of the Propagation of the Faith.. From them it appears that he knew the Society of Lyon in detail: its organisational structure, its method of collecting for the missions and its spreading throughout the world. Seeing great advantages for the propagation of the faith, Pallotti was committed to promoting it. He wrote: "In 1836, at the request of some, with the approval of the Most Eminent Lord Cardinal Vicar (Carlo Odescalchi), the association for alms for the propagation of the faith was opened without publicity in the Venerable Urban College (and in some other communities) according to the rule of the French Association" (*Opere Complete* V, p. 193). When the time came to establish the Society of the Propagation in Rome, Vincent Pallotti became a member of the Roman Council on July 30th 1837. From that moment he committed himself wholeheartedly to promoting the Society of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.

In 1839, Pauline Jaricot returned to Rome for the canonisation of Alphonsus Maria de' Ligouri (May 26th 1839). We have no information on that occasion whether Pallotti may have met Pauline to report to her what effects his commitment to promote the Society of the Propagation of the Faith was producing. In fact, with the decree of Propaganda Fide of July 30th 1838, his Work of the Catholic Apostolate was declared a "completely useless and superfluous association" and therefore suppressed. Its members were invited to join the French work. Reflecting on this fact, Pallotti wrote that this 'was needed so that the Work of God might bear the image of our Lord Jesus Christ Crucified' (*Opere Complete* III, p. 24).

In June 1839, Pauline returned to Lyon and resumed her activity. Sensitive to the miseries of the working class, she

founded the Society of Workers and succeeded in equipping a workshop which would quickly have become a model work. In the carrying out of this final initiative, Jaricot was deceived by an unscrupulous businessman and the workshop failed. From that moment, Pauline experienced years of the Cross. In October 1856, she undertook a journey to Rome with the hope of receiving help, but did not find the solution to her problems. Abandoned by human beings, she found refuge only in God.

Pauline-Marie Jaricot died on January 9th 1862 in destitution, inscribed on the list of the poor of the city, but respected by all. The cause of her beatification was begun on June 10th 1930. Since 1935, her tomb is found in the parish church of St. Nizier. With the decree of February 25th 1963, one month after the canonisation of Saint Vincent Pallotti, Pope John XXIII recognised the heroicity of her virtues, proclaiming her "Venerable". We pray with all of the faithful for her beatification, so that the example of Pauline-Marie Jaricot may inspire many Christians to become involved in the mission of evangelisation, in order that all men and women of today throughout the world may discover Infinite Love, manifested in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

## **2. KERALA, INDIA:**

A Convention for Youth from Pallottine Parishes and Schools was held at St. Vincent Pallotti central School, Ollukara, Trichur on 13th & 14th of October 2013. It was attended by about 125 young people from different Pallottine parishes and schools in the state of Kerala. The two day Convention reflected on topics related to Youth Involvement and Leadership in the parish or school, the Missionary Vocation of young people, and the Use and Misuse of Social Media, Mobile phones and Cyber crime. An executive body was formed for each parish/school in order to help implement the local action plan prepared during the meeting and to further develop the work of Pallottine Youth.

## **3. MEETING OF UAC LEADERS IN OŁTARZEW**

From 8 to 10 November 2013, at the invitation of Fr. Marek Chmielniak, SAC and Sr. Anna Ozon, SAC, president and secretary of the Union in Poland respectively, leaders of the UAC communities and persons responsible for formation met in Ołtarzew. There were 47 participants: 5 Pallottine Priests, 9 Pallottine Sisters and 33 lay persons, representing 18 UAC communities from Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. Apart from UAC members, there were also 2 young women from a group that meets in Konstancin in preparation for joining the Union and 4 people from a community of families from Starogard Gdański, who have expressed their desire to begin UAC formation.

On Saturday, the main theme of the morning session was FORMATION. At first the participants took time to share on how formation is done in each community, the kind of themes addressed and how their retreats and recollection days are organised. During the second part of the meeting, Sr. Barbara Rohde, SAC, the person responsible for formation in the UAC in Poland and Fr. Mariusz Małkiewicz, SAC, director of St. Vincent Pallotti Institute in Konstancin, presented the foundations and principles of formation in the UAC. At the end there was an opportunity to speak of difficulties and ways to resolve them, as well as of needs and expectations of the core communities of the UAC given their particular responsibility within the Union, also in the area of formation.

The afternoon was devoted to collaboration in the Union at the local level. Group work meetings bore fruit in concrete initiatives which are to be undertaken in the near future. These meetings were a good opportunity to become acquainted with those living close to each other and to see what can be done together. It was a practical attempt to create Local Coordination Councils and to show why their existence really makes sense.

The third and last session, on Sunday morning, was dedicated to FAMILY and took the form of a workshop conducted by Iza Owczaruk, a lay UAC member and a psychologist. Among other things, the workshop helped to outline the needs of families and to give an understanding of how each community, and the Union as a whole, can and should support families.

Meetings in the evening gave an occasion for integration and interaction as well as providing information concerning the life of the Union in Poland and worldwide. All the participants highlighted at the end that such an exchange of experience, getting to know each other and building up relationships were very important and allowed them to experience that the UAC is a real Union where all the members are "one". They also expressed a desire and a hope that such meetings would be continued in future, at least once a year.

## **7. We pray for:**

- all those affected by the recent natural disasters in the Philippines, Vietnam, the US, Sardinia and elsewhere.
- all suffering the effects of warfare and violence, including in Nigeria, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, the Holy Land and Afghanistan.
- the fruitfulness of the different Octaves of the Epiphany in various countries, including Germany, Brazil and Italy, and a growing 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).