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*"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)*

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item 478

### Pallotti's feast day – Prabodhana

With immense joy and profound gratitude, we the Pallottine student community at Prabodhana – our Theology Study Centre at Mysore, India – celebrated our founder's feast day on 21 January, 2017 with much grandeur. The community had toiled in their preparation for this great day well in advance. The whole house was illuminated adding splendor to the natural beauty of the setting. Pallottine Sisters, together with students, assisted in the seminary chapel with their floral decorations.



The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Mysore Bishop Thomas A Vazhapilly. In his opening address he acknowledged the prominence of St Vincent and his dream for mother church. He fondly recalled his visit to our Generalate in Rome and his visit to the incorrupt remains of Pallotti.

The homily was delivered by Fr James Justin Dhiraviam sac. Very informative, he emphasised Vincent's life and vision of 'Union of the Catholic Apostolate' and the beginning of 'Society of Catholic Apostolate'. The guests were reminded of Pallotti's extra-ordinary holiness, untiring works and constant union with God. His message accurately reflected an invitation to everyone gathered, without any distinction or merit, to become an apostle and to become part of UAC without necessarily becoming a fully fledged Pallottine or without changing their respective congregation, order or state of life. The only requirement was an ardent love for the church and the spread of her mission throughout the world through a 'revival of faith and renewal of charity' in all activities. In the very words of Pallotti himself:

"Can you pray for the salvation of men? pray, you will be an apostle... Can you give good example? do so, you will be an apostle...Can you exhort your neighbor to do good? exhort, you will be an apostle".



The feast day celebration was well attended by numbers of diocesan and religious clergy, women religious and lay faithful from the neighboring parishes of the diocese of Mysore. The angelic choir consisted of students and Pallottine sisters, who with their melodious singing augmented the celebration of the Eucharist.

The festive celebration ended with an Agape.

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item 479

## evergreen memories

*"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards"*

- Søren Kierkegaard

It is indeed a pleasure to share the memory of my life experiences back in Prabodhana. Having lived there for 5 years, up until the end of my theological studies, those memories are still fresh in my heart and mind.



It was on June 3, 2008 that I entered and the end of November, 2011 when I departed – with a grateful heart! Now, whenever I think of Prabodhana, I can hear the professors' teaching and the conversations of the

students. I can feel the spirit of oneness we had in the community and the serenity. I can smell the aroma of the books in the library, the soil and sweat of all the students and formators. I can see, in my imagination, a green paradise.

That happened due to the competent teaching of the professors which enlightened my theological horizons. The spiritual activities – recollection times, spiritual direction, celebration of the sacraments, community prayers, etc. – led me one step closer to God. The weekend pastoral activities and the social work experiences triggered an understanding of both the novelty and challenge of parish communities and the realities of the world. The community activities – celebrations, cultural events, competitions and the inter-relationship with neighbouring communities formed me to become a good community person. The fun and laughter we had together, the arguments and misunderstandings among ourselves especially at recreation, the support we rendered and received regarding studies, the keen attention to the campus environment and the constant accompaniment of the moderators and formators, all made me feel that the institute had played a major role in shaping me.



Prabodhana, the major seminary of Pallottines in India, is – according to me – not just the final stage of our seminary formation but also a launching pad for everyone to enter into another realm i.e., ‘Priestly life’. Prabodhana endures as a lighthouse to show me the right path.

In short, looking back through my intervening five years as a priest, I can say with contentment that this institute certainly taught me:



‘To dialogue with everyone without ego,  
To love all without any condition,  
To care without expectation,  
To pray without selfishness,  
To serve without expecting reward, and above all  
To do everything for the greater glory of God’.

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## sac asia oceania e-bulletin

### you commented...

#### on #256

Many thanks for your article in last week’s E Bulletin Fr Jacob and congratulations to the new Bishop Thomas Thennatt. I was struck by the emphasis in the article that we are all, regardless of race or religion, created equally. How important it is to keep this in the forefront of our minds and hearts at this time when Muslims in particular are so frequently being demonised.

CS 23.01.17