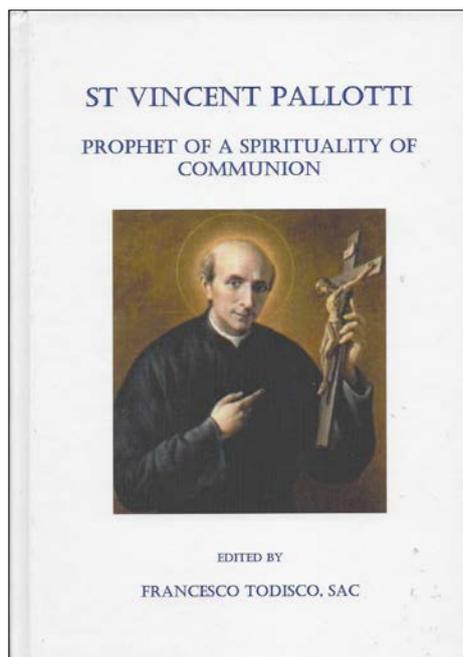


"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 443

St Vincent Pallotti – prophet of a spirituality of communion

The above is the title of the much anticipated English translation of a book edited by recently deceased **Fr Francesco Todisco sac**. It was initially published in Italian, in 2004. While the English version did not appear for a further 11 years, having now read most of it the wait has been well worthwhile.



In the early 1990's this tome was commissioned by the SAC General Council with the aim of it becoming available for the 150th anniversary of the death of Vincent. Fr Lozano, an internationally renowned professor of spirituality, commenced the work however, due to unforeseen circumstances, was unable to finish it. Fr Francesco was then asked to complete the task. He notes at the beginning: "my intervention proposes to make the text livelier." I believe he achieved that aim.

This book guides one through the various stages of Vincent's life, from a young boy to his death. As the reader one gains a good understanding of his spiritual path and the insights he received to institute the Union of Catholic Apostolate. This proved not to be an easy road and, as is the case with most good works, he experienced many trials – even to the point where the name itself 'Union of Catholic Apostolate' was suppressed. He remained undaunted. He pursued his work of developing the Union and responding to the needs of his times – opening orphanages, having many publications translated, desiring to reach out to missionary countries, writing, being a spiritual director. The list, as we know, goes on. To meet these many needs, in addition to lay people and secular priests who were following him, he founded the Society of Catholic Apostolate – both the female community of sisters and the male community of priests and brothers.

The history and culture of his time and the impact this had on people are interwoven into the biography, so that one gets a clear picture of the issues that Vincent faced and his effort to address needs as they arose. A surprise for me was the number of saints with whom he had direct contact. It seems that there were many people at that time who were responding in extraordinary ways to the call of God. Of course one of these was Elisabetta Sanna, whose beatification will be celebrated this coming 17th September, the first lay member of the UAC to be conferred with this honour.

A section that provided me a new insight was that around the membership in the Union. Vincent wanted ‘an oblation or offering of oneself to God for the work of the Catholic Apostolate’. In taking that step candidates offered themselves and their energies to God for the activities of the Union. The offering involved a simple *promise of commitment* to its apostolic aims, without vows or swearing under oath. The founder intentionally excluded vows because he wanted love rather than duty to be the prime reason for the decision to join and also that ‘the Union might be as open as possible to both lay people and religious.’ Reading the above it seems to me that this wish is reflected in how we have grown today. We are all called, as equal members, to follow the gospel of Jesus as apostles of the Father and to live lives of love in accord with our particular state of life.

Of course many are aware of all this already so one might question, why read the book? The reason I am writing is to say that for me – not an academic – the book is both readable and enjoyable. Here, in one somewhat large work, the whole of Vincent’s life is laid out before us in very accessible form. The language I have found engaging and the simplicity of the writing a joy to read. Frequently in the past I have found Vincent’s expressions, as a 19th century Roman, somewhat difficult to understand. Here his insights and urgings are clarified in a format that is easy for the ‘lay’ person.

I do encourage you to obtain a copy and to read it. It offers great insight into the man, Vincent, and the charism we follow. I thank all of those who over many years worked on the book’s translation and the financial commitment to bring it to us in the English language. Fr Francesco certainly left us a treasure.



One of Vincent’s passions seemed to be to ensure that literature was available in a person’s first language. So I am sure he is looking with delight on this work, while continuing to urge us to pray and live “totally for God and always working with him in mind and heart.”

Ms Cheryl Sullivan – Melbourne – AUSTRALIA
11.08.16
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item 444

Permanent Deacons’ 10th anniversary
deacons guide parishioners through all stages of life with a caring and sympathetic approach



From tending to the sick and those seeking refuge, to co-ordinating religious education and adult formation programs, and celebrating the sacraments of marriage and baptism, **Albert Atkinson** and **Paul Stacy** have been kept busy this past decade.

The pair were ordained as Permanent Deacons on 29 June 2006, along with 12 of their brothers, and today remain as passionate as ever about their ministries.

Permanent Deacons are men – married or single – who are called to be ordained ministers of the Church, undertaking a spiritual role in the Archdiocese at a specific parish or location. Deacons can preach, celebrate baptisms, marriages, conduct Communion Services and other liturgical celebrations such as funeral services but are unable to celebrate Mass, anoint the sick or give absolution.



Deacon Atkinson’s journey as a Permanent Deacon began in the Belmont/Redcliffe Parish. However, after the parish was amalgamated with the Cloverdale Parish he was appointed as Chaplain of Royal Perth Hospital. “This was a very challenging time for me, but also a very rewarding time,” he told *The eRecord*.

“Perhaps an interesting experience for me was when a Muslim lady asked me to visit her husband who was in Intensive Care. I had the opportunity of praying with him and gave him a blessing. He died the next day.” Deacon Atkinson served as Chaplain of Royal Perth Hospital for five years, before taking on a new role at Notre Dame Cloverdale Parish, where he continues to serve today.

As part of his role at Notre Dame, he brings Communion to those who cannot attend Mass, such as people in aged care homes, the housebound and the detainees at Perth Immigration Detention Centre.

Deacon Atkinson said he often left the detention centre feeling sad about the refugees’ plight, but was comforted by the knowledge that he was serving the Lord.

“One day while talking to my parish priest about my visiting the detention centre, he quoted Matthew 25:36 to me, ‘When I was sick you visited me...When I was in prison, you came to see me’,” he recalled.

“My hope is that God will give me good health to continue serving him through the work that I am doing at this time, for I must always remember that a deacon is a servant.”

Unlike Deacon Atkinson, Deacon Stacy has spent the entirety of the last decade at one parish – North Beach.

It is a fitting role for Deacon Stacy, who has been involved with North Beach for 35 years, first as a parishioner and later as Chair of the Parish Council and an acolyte.

Deacon Stacy said he had experienced “a very full life as a Deacon” since being ordained, including being involved in weekend and daily Masses, Liturgies of the Word, and Stations of the Cross and Benediction during Lent. “I also conduct most of the baptisms. This also involves a prior meeting with the parents to prepare them for this sacrament,” he said. “I have celebrated a number of marriages but the priests usually prefer to do this themselves. Mostly I celebrate marriages for people who know me personally.”

Deacon Stacy also brings Communion to the sick and aged and co-ordinates the Parish Religious Education Program for children attending non-Catholic schools. He shares the role of leading the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is a member of the Parish Council and the Finance Committee.

Outside his parish, Deacon Stacy has served as a chaplain on cruise ships, which he described as “an interesting and rewarding experience”.

However, he said celebrating the sacraments and developing relationships with local families brought him the most satisfaction.

“On one occasion, I baptised a young girl and discovering that her parents were married outside the Church, I arranged a validation of their marriage,” he said.



“I then went on to assist the mother to be received into the Church and because she subsequently died from cancer, I arranged her funeral. I felt very honoured to have had this close association with the family.”

Deacon Stacy revealed that at one point he had considered becoming a priest, but was now concentrating on continuing to serve the North Beach Parish for “as long as possible”.

Rachel Curry – *The eRecord*



Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

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you commented...

on #235

The Bulletin 235 about our confreres was very good. It's very well known that Holy Father looks at us with love.

JEF 29.08.16

Thank you for this week's powerful reminder of the murder of these 3 priests and 2 seminarians. Last year, after the UAC Congress in Brazil, I was blessed...to be able to visit Argentina and to go to St Patrick's parish in Buenos Aires. Being in the small chapel, where the carpet referred to in the article hangs on the wall, was very poignant. The bullet holes in the carpet made it very real....We worshipped in the church where the priests had presided and walked around a little of their parish. This made the events that took place so much more

graphic for me. We were also taken to the parish of Mercedes where we were the recipients of wonderful Pallottine hospitality and met Dick Kelly, the brother of Alfredo Kelly, who took us to visit the simple graves of the three priests.

AD 28.08.16

*In 2006, 14 men were ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Perth.
A decade on, the Deacons talk to The eRecord about how their work as deacons has inspired them.*