

E-BULLETIN #101

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

item 189

my wishes for the Pallottine family in 2014

This question posed by our Father General is intriguing and inspiring. It is important always to desire great things, though perhaps many of them will remain mere ideals. But one thing has remained in my head lately, a thought about Pope Francis, the Pope who "came from the end of the world."

1. What I want most for the Pallottine family is that we remain faithful to what when we are experiencing and living at the moment in the Church. Being faithful could mean many things, but I try to be more realistic.

2. What does the Church invite us to? We are a community established to serve the Kingdom of God, as part of the Church and in the Church. We must therefore follow the current trajectory of the Christian community, not as spectators, but as actual characters that are part of the story.

3. The Pope has asked us to be open to the weak and needy of our world. But first of all we need to take care seriously of our own relationship with God. It should not be a relationship in fulfilment of an obligation, but a real encounter with a person, knowing that we are infinitely loved by that person.

4. I also think of a second approach that validates the first. We cannot fall into material comfort. Our charity has a real spiritual dimension. This charity comes from the heart of our prayer. And it should originate from a deep faith conviction because faith and life come together.

5. Another thing I find important is to take very significant steps in what concerns our community life, knowing that this is the soul of our consecration. Perhaps community life is too formal (can we say "polite"?) so it is less convincing or attractive. Community life when it is "authentic" becomes a signpost, it tells the world that it is good to follow Jesus. We know that brotherhood implies a range of dimensions, and an endless desire to understand each other with all of our various weaknesses.

6. It would be desirable in 2014 to come closer to others, to have more relationships and friends. It also means to be attentive to all the signs of this prophetic moment of renewal. We know that all our institutions from time to time need to be updated. The Church has always understood this truth. How can



we Pallottines update ourselves today? We need a spiritual awakening, but also a humanization of our internal structures. When there is renewal within our communities, there will also be a renewal in our missions and our apostolates.

7. Constantly we need to "give life" to the institutional body that we are, to make it like a human family. We all know how good it feels to be part of a family: with the father, mother and siblings. This same or similar feeling should be present in our communities. "How good it is when brothers live closely united together," sighs the psalmist thirsty for brotherhood. So we need to desire to grow in spirituality and brotherhood. These are two pillars that will help us keep the pace demanded by God and they are necessary because we can be more effective collaborators of God's Kingdom.

8. I think these two desires are not so far from our reality. These things are so fundamental that they should be our "daily bread".

Our fidelity to these two things is what I wish for myself and for the whole Union, and gradually we will reach that goal desired by the Holy Father and the Church today: the need for a welcoming church, full of joy, self-giving and open. Finally, a Union which is more open to discipleship and more and more missionary. With a heart that beats to the rhythm of the heart of the Church and the needs of the men and women of today!

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item 190

I dream that...

The end of every year is a very opportune moment to review our life, to consider what has passed and to identify a goal to be accomplished in the coming year. Each of us knows our own deepest intentions and aspirations, and the personal projects we want to realise.

As a member of the Pallottine Family, I could not wish for anything more than working with faithfulness in the mission entrusted to me.



As a student of the Bible, my goal in 2014 is to challenge myself to welcome the Word of God deeply, through study of Holy Scripture.

While nurturing this dream, I also reflect on how to achieve it. How can I find appropriate ways to bring it to completion?

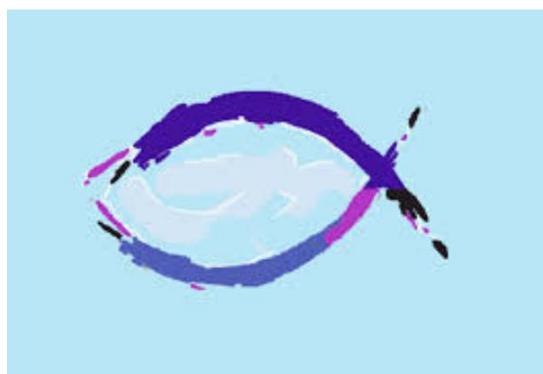
I think of the community which has entrusted me with this mission and the motive with which it has done it.

I think of the numerous Christian communities in many regions and missions in the world, waiting for years for the proclamation of the gospel of Christ. I think even of those places where the gospel has already been announced but the Christian spirit needs to be revived because of religious indifference and hostility. I think especially of people who maintain their faith with true heroism, surviving in the midst of the cruelty of religious intolerance.

All these thoughts inspire me and stimulate me to embrace with passion the study and meditation on the Word of God, trusting in God's grace. Because, as he says, "without me you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

I dream that, as a Pallottine Family, in 2014 we can together do more to promote the missionary consciousness of all our communities, as advocated by Pope Francis: "... get out of your own comfort and have the courage to reach all the suburbs that need the light of the gospel" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 20).

I'm really aware of the pastoral demands that already overwhelm us, however a glance ahead into the distance is essential because, as John Paul II writes, "missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new motivation" (*Redemptoris Missio*, 2).



This dream is to be realised through faithful testimony to the gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily life, as we are challenged in 2014 to remember the great truth : "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Mt 6:21) .

I hope that 2014 will be also marked in the life of every Pallottine by a search for deeper communion with Christ and with others. Thus, the proclamation of peace and love of God will be understood and accepted more easily by the people.

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sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #100 Congratulations on reaching the 100 edition. Another Aussie achieves a century!!
Thanks a million especially for the articles dedicated to the Brothers

SB 01.01.14

with all my heart I wish you a Christmas full of joy and God's abundant blessings for the New Year. Thanks for your E-Bulletins! It's really a great thing!

WW 23.12.13