



E-BULLETIN #103

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

item 193

Australian reflections

Over the course of a few days in late October, I had the opportunity to visit the communities of the Australian Region of Regina Mundi as well as meet with members of the Mariana community, and other members of the UAC beyond those who are part of the two communities. My experience was limited to the state of Victoria and was of a very short duration and so I offer these reflections not as a something definitive, but as part of an on-going conversation among members of the Union in Australia.



Sometimes there is a prevailing view within the Church and also within the Union that the number of members is the most determinant factor of whether ministries and apostolates can be successful or not. I do not subscribe to this view and, in fact, find it simplistic and, in some ways, clerical, in mentality. Large numbers sometimes leads to complacency, over-specialization, and can limit collaboration with other Church entities, lay people, priests, and those in consecrated life, as well as over-specialization. Smaller numbers, though, can lead to decline, stagnation, and an internal focus that does not have a wider vision of collaboration. Numbers do not tell the whole story. Quantitative analysis tells only a part of a story, qualitative analysis offers the rest.

The quality of apostolic work needs to be the focus. An assessment of quality cannot be done in a quick or facile manner.

My reflection (I will not say "analysis" since I was only there a short time) is that the Regina Mundi Region and the whole of the UAC in Australia have given a long contribution for the good of the Church in Victoria and, from my understanding, in Western Australia as well. That contribution to the pastoral care of Aboriginal peoples was in response to the needs of the Church at the time and the SAC in collaboration with others, particularly lay people, responded in a very significant way. The houses in Victoria were originally meant to serve this particular need and over time were adapted to their current uses. New ministries have developed in parishes as well. What I saw in Victoria is engagement in the life of the local Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The SAC in collaboration with other members of the UAC is known and appreciated, especially for the work at Pallotti College in Millgrove. The on-going potential for this facility is highly significant, particularly as a center for promotion of Pallottine spirituality and a witness to a collaborative way of being Church.



One consideration related to this facility and also throughout Australia and beyond is the possibility of both online and onsite activities for evangelization and faith formation. Given the relatively small office of evangelization for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, collaboration with this office in both the area of evangelization as well as in faith formation for the apostolate and also for church ministries could offer a very valuable contribution to the Church in Victoria, throughout Australia, and beyond. Long association by the SAC with theological centers and institutions of higher learning in Victoria could offer possible new avenues of collaboration centered around formative activities both at the house at Kew and at Pallotti College in Millgrove. Both locations, if more fully equipped technologically could provide both day and overnight programming that could be webcast to a broader and more remote audience in other parts of Australia and beyond.

While parish ministry has grown for the SAC in Victoria from one parish to five, it has done so through collaboration with members from the Epiphany Province in India. These parishes offer a rich opportunity to offer faith formation, particularly of lay people for the work of the New Evangelization and for other apostolic endeavors in a way that incorporates Pallottine spirituality. Some of this effort has already begun. The central aspect of this formation would not be to make new members for the UAC, which, in some ways, could be simply self-serving. The UAC instead could offer such formation as a service to the local church, offering a rich apostolic spirituality that can assist parishioners and pastoral workers in their apostolates and ministries. Many members of the Union are very well formed in Pallottine spiritually and could be potential members of a collaborative team that could offer such formation. The centers at Kew and Millgrove could be focal points for days and weekends of formation of parishioners as well as on-site activities at the local parishes.

Growth of online resources is also necessary today for good formation to occur. The UAC in Australia is growing its offerings of such sites and resources and these can continue to benefit the UAC throughout the English-speaking world. Today, in our ever-growing technological world, we cannot see collaboration as simply something that is accomplished only when people are in physical proximity to one another. Instead, collaboration in our globally connected world can be accomplished very significantly and with great effect through technological means.

All of these possibilities cannot occur without good collaborative leadership. Collaboration is not a word that replaces leadership. It is a way of leading. From a Pallottine perspective, collaborative leaders assist others in finding their God-given talents, invite those talents forward, and facilitate the coordination of those talents in a way that serves the needs of the Church and society through reviving faith and rekindling charity. All of this is done in collaboration with the Holy Spirit who nurtures, guides, and challenges. The Region with other members of the UAC can continue to offer such collaborative leadership that can lead to new opportunities for growth and development not only of the SAC and UAC, but of the Church in Australia.

Frank Donio sac [IC] – West Hyattsville – USA
28.12.13
fatherfrank@catholicapostolatecentre.org

“go and make disciples..”

“Go and make disciples of all the nations...” (Mt.28.19) is a mandate of the risen Lord for men and women of all times. Our Founder was a faithful follower of this missioning. This divine mandate from the Lord has been re-emphasized in the church since Vatican II. All the more, the year of faith was a significant moment in which we were invited to the *New Evangelization*. As a Pallottine family we surely have a specific role to play in any *New Evangelization*, where the Cenacle becomes a place of empowerment and missioning.

As we know, each of us has been given a unique and indispensable role in the mission of the Church, and maybe it was providential that, in the year of faith, we three Indian sisters – **Sr Rini, Sr Shinty, Sr Jyothi** – received a call to a new mission in the US. “The wind blows where it pleases...” (Jn.3.8). The invitation was from Sr Olivia Reginella, the Provincial Superior of the Immaculate Conception Province of the US to the Italian Queen of Apostles Province, to which we belong, to support the Pallottine mission in the US.

Since the total number of sisters of the Immaculate Conception Province is 30 and most of them are elderly, having a few young sisters in their midst must surely be a cause for hope. On our arrival at Monroe, NY on 13th August 2013, we experienced that through their warm welcome and the continuous care and appreciation they have for us. Since then, from their life sharing, we have come to know the hardships the sisters have undergone to continue the mission in this land. Their joyful witness and exemplary life encourages us to continue with the new mission.



Well, let us now switch gears a little, and talk about our new ministry. At present we are in the Queen of Apostles Convent at Monroe, NY and are engaged in the Pallottine Teenage Federation (PTAF). The Teenage Federation was originally a program of the Archdiocese of NY and for two years the SAC Immaculate Conception Province has been in collaboration with it. Today it has been renamed ‘Pallottine Teenage Federation’ where teenagers receive leadership training and formation. These programs are run at the St Vincent Pallotti Center right on our property in Monroe.

One of the most beautiful experiences we had over here was the 52nd PTAF Conference from 6th to 8th December 2013 at Ellenville, NY. There were about 235 participants including advisors, animators and Sisters. The conference had a Pallottine theme: “*God Always and in Everything*”. At the inaugural ceremony it was very moving to watch how each county marched with a banner with different symbols which spoke of the same theme. And it was much more touching to see how the different speakers and rappers interpreted the theme in the modern language of youth. On the second day of the conference, the eucharistic celebration was presided over by Bishop Gerald T Walsh.

We have also become involved in Hispanic youth ministry for children of Mexican immigrants. These Spanish speaking people have great faith but are financially poor, so these youngsters need a lot of help and support. We conduct meetings, catechesis and different classes on leadership skills. In this way we help them to overcome their fears and insecurity. The principal aim is to make them able leaders in the future. Sr Michele Ruggiero helps these families in various ways, especially to obtain their documentation.

We also reach out to a few other small groups of children and youth in our parishes.

We are slowly getting into the youth apostolate in this new land. It is one of the ways of responding to the challenge of communicating faith and love in this ever-changing society. Our God is a 'God of Exodus' and so, too, are we who are called to be 'in motion'. God's presence and blessing accompanies our new journey.

We are thankful for the prayerful support and encouragement of all our Sisters, Brothers and the Lay Members of our Pallottine family. We will surely have to face many unknown challenges but we do believe in the promises of the One who has called us.



Sr Rini Panakkal csac – suorini@gmail.com
Sr Shinty Anjikkal csac – shintysac@gmail.com
Sr Jyothi Divyanand csac – majod29@gmail.com

10.01.14
Monroe - USA

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

- on #101** Thank you more one time for e-bulletin#. It's very big deal for me. **FJE 05.01.14**
- on #102** The true life story of Nicolas and Francis is one of the most beautiful stories that I have ever read. How true it is when Jesus says that the Kingdom of God belonged to little children! But it is even more amazing to see when an adult person can also express the same language of a child with all its beauty and simplicity - the poetry of God. That is what Francis is! Eusebio and party must be truly happy to guard over them! **JN 12.01.14**
- Thanks a lot for the information that you send, I' so glad to hear about Pallottines always. You too enjoy .God Bless. **RP 13.01.14**