

E-BULLETIN #119

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

item 224

consecration of a new altar St Mary, Queen of Apostles, chapel – Morschach

Although 3rd May 2014 was a rainy and cold day, it was really a joyful moment for the Pallottines in Switzerland, because on this day a new chapter was added to its history through the blessing of a replacement altar of St Mary's chapel, Morschach by Rector General Rev Fr Jacob Nampudakam. This solemn consecration was witnessed by about eighty invited guests and priests. The occasion was blessed by the presence of Fr Martin Manus, general consulter, Fr Helmut Scharler, provincial, Fr Michael Pfenning, vice provincial of Sacred Heart province Germany, Fr Alexandre Pietrzyk regional superior (France) and bursar Fr Mariusz Futyma, Fr Conrad Burri, the parish priest of Morschach, Sr Theonilla Steger, the provincial councilor from Ingenbohl monastery, members of Apis and UAC and fathers and brothers of the Swiss province.

The solemn ceremony began with a procession to the chapel accompanied by melodious flow of music from alphorn and from the newly installed pipe organ.

Fr Adrian Willi the Swiss Provincial received the main celebrant Fr Jacob, and concelebrants and guests, with words of welcome. The ceremony began with the renewal of baptismal promises, followed by the consecration of the new altar and the



eucharist. The chanting of the Litany of All Saints and the installation of relics at the altar added to the sacredness of the celebration.

The highlights of this day were the altar itself and two portraits, installed in the St Mary's chapel.

The altar is cylindrical in form, carved out of green-gray Gotthard stone by sculptor Roman Brunschwiler. It is



divided down the middle into an oval, with a bronze strip. The top of the altar is covered with a bronze plate. The altar inspires people to be not just spectators but real participants in the holy eucharist.

A painting on the wall of the sanctuary of the 'Cenacle', by Latvian artist Anita Kreituse from Hamburg, is really an eye-catching focal point. It portrays not just our blessed Mother with the apostles but people from different nationalities. By doing so this painting conveys the true vision of St Vincent Pallotti: "Everyone is called to be an apostle".

The bronze sculpture by Brunschwiler, hung on the wall at the right side of the sanctuary speaks to us – "St Vincent Pallotti is opening the heavy door of a church to the world" – welcoming everyone to be an apostle in a universal church. Fr Willi expanded on this idea in his sermon. He also used the occasion to express his gratitude to all those who stood by him to transform this dream into a reality.



The concluding words of this ceremony were from Fr General confirming this chapel as an expression of genuine Pallottine spirituality. He hoped that this house of prayer would become a place where the faithful really experience the grace of the Holy Spirit.

The day ended with a sumptuous meal, with sharing and an exchange of experiences of the liturgical celebration. It was really an unforgettable moment for us Swiss Pallottines and a new chapter in our history.

Adrian Willi sac [CH] – Gossau – SWITZERLAND
07.05.14
willi.adrian@pallottiner.ch

the joy of being a hidden worker **the testimony of a young Pallottine Brother from Germany**

I am Br Thorsten Thiel, born in Wattenscheid, in the western part of Germany. I am 41 years old. I made my first profession in the Society of the Catholic Apostolate in 2012 in Salzburg. I am a member of the Heart of Jesus Province [*Cor Jesus – CJ*] in Germany/Austria.



I became connected to the Pallottines in Dortmund through the Catholic Forum, a programme of adult faith formation. I came to know St Vincent and his writings through these Pallottines. I was particularly impressed by Pallotti's idea that all of us are given an apostolic vocation, not only priests or bishops. All can make use of their talents to serve God and all can be apostles. I was also fascinated by Pallotti, the Mystic.

I do believe that Pallotti's message is very modern and can be very relevant to our times. The pity is that not many people know anything about him. We have to go to the people and tell them about Pallotti and his spirituality of the infinite love of God. And that everyday people can do more in the Church. Perhaps some of the bishops and clerics may find it difficult to accept this argument.

I have decided to remain a Pallottine Brother. One reason is that being a brother, doing normal work inside and outside the house, will give me many opportunities to be in touch with ordinary people. Another reason for my choice is that I am already 41 years old and it would be difficult for me to go

through all the language and the theological studies. I am interested in all these studies and I will try to do them by myself. I am doing a theological course at the moment. I get the materials from Wurzburg and I study them at home. I meet with a group of people doing the same theological course in Munich. We have a professor to follow this group and we discuss the theological subjects. My Provincial insists that the brothers too should have the basic theological studies.

My choice is also due to the fact that I do not feel the vocation to priesthood at the moment. Perhaps one day I could be a Permanent Deacon - if God so wills.

We have very few brother vocations in our Society. For many people, the priest is seen as a very special person; brotherhood is seen somewhat negatively. Maybe many people think that a brother is not that important. Priesthood may have better prestige and position in the eyes of people. For example, a priest can be the rector of a house or a Provincial whereas a brother cannot assume these offices. A priest is seen as an ordained person who is in touch with God; a brother is not seen in the same way.

For me personally, the brothers are hidden workers. They do a lot of things in the house and outside. We do not see how they work but we see the results. They work in silence. I have the role of sacristan and I like this work. I also take care of the reception of guests. I ask them if they are happy with our service. Sometimes I also find ungrateful attitudes. I have been told that I had to do more and it was difficult for me to understand.

I think the brothers are the oil to burn the lamp, the little machine in the watch to keep it running. The love for Jesus is very important to do such works. I have mentioned in my testament that when I am faithful in

little things, I will also be faithful in greater things. I pray to Jesus to give me strength to carry on with my life and apostolate; such a relationship to Him is very important.

In some countries of the world, there seems to be a cultural problem with regard to brotherhood. As Br Stephen Buckley is doing, it is important to speak about brothers and make presentations of the works of the Pallottines. It needs to be said clearly that brother vocations are also required in our Society. Brother vocations have the same value and dignity in the heart of our Founder.



Everyone who is interested in the Pallottine brotherhood, just as Jesus said, "come and see" and try it out. I want to say it very honestly that I am content to be a Pallottine brother.

Thorsten Thiel sac [CJ] – Freising – GERMANY
28.03.14
malmeister1@gmail.com

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #118

thanks...One small mistake...it is written, in the Introduction, French Region...it is the Rwanda-Congo Region of Holy Family

JN 04.05.14

Thank you for this apostolate that is becoming really catholic! However i found unclear what was said about Kibeho that the apparitions are not approved by the Holy See when we know that these apparitions are up to now, in Africa the only recognized officially. More clarifications are needed.

MN 04.05.14