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*"Fate risplendere la santità di Dio". "Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5,16)*

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**ITEM**

**The Significance of the Jubilee Year for the (Indian) Pallottines**

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee year of the canonization of our founder St Vincent Pallotti stands out as a particular kind of celebration, as it commemorates the official Church recognition of this great person as holy and virtuous and as it marks a significant length of time of acknowledgment for his daring vision and his courage to dream. The English word 'jubilee' comes from the Hebrew word 'yobel' meaning a trumpet or ram's horn. These rams' horns were blown on the Day of Atonement to announce the start of the year of Jubilee.

**First** of all the Biblical concept of the Jubilee was a time of joy, a special year of remission of sins and universal pardon. In the Book of Leviticus (Lev 25,8-12), a Jubilee year is mentioned to occur every fifty years, in which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest. It was a time for people to return to right relationships with their God, to live out the covenant. It was also a time to return to right relationship with their fellow men, to offer forgiveness, to meet out justice. For re-establishing right relationships was the prerequisite to celebrate the mercies of God. As Pallottines we will do well to seize this opportunity to re-establish right relationships and qualify for a joyful celebration of God's mercies.

**Secondly**, the Jubilee year was a time for letting the land lie fallow. It in essence means providing time out for ourselves. We need to cultivate stillness, solitude and reflection, to recharge our batteries, to answer the basic question of 'where am I heading?'. In short it is a time of "rest". It is meant to be a time to listen to and answer the voice of God. The upcoming UAC retreats in India are expected to facilitate such a spiritual renewal and inject a new apostolic fervour.

**Thirdly**, the observance of Jubilee required a "return" to property and family. What was underlined was not that one's property "was returned" to the owner but that one "returned" to the property and family. The call to return became an overriding message of the prophets. They insisted that the people "return" to their God and to the covenant promises symbolized by the land. It was a call to turn back to the source of life, good and blessing. The Jubilee celebration of the canonization of our founder is an appropriate time for us Pallottines to renew and "return" joyfully to the vigour of our earlier response to God. We once again claim our "property and family", our spiritual inheritance. It is an invitation particularly in the context of the rediscovery of our charism, to be lived and promoted by the UNION of the Catholic Apostolate, to return to the source and original vision of our founder. It is the right time to take seriously the exhortation of Pope John Paul II to "continue to increase [our] commitment so that that which Vincent Pallotti prophetically announced, and which the Second Vatican Council authoritatively confirmed, may become a happy reality, and that all Christians become authentic apostles of Christ in the Church and in the world!" (Teachings of John Paul II, 9/1 [1986], p. 1899).

Jubilees in the Catholic tradition, generally involve pilgrimage to a sacred site, normally the city of Rome. Of course, a tour on the footsteps of Pallotti, visiting and familiarizing ourselves with all the historical places including the spiritual nerve centre of the UNION at San Salvatore in Onda, would be a most desirable thing to rejuvenate and reinvigorate the members. But considering the costs involved, it would be fitting to offer it to those who have never had a chance, particularly by participating in all the summer programme as well as the events for the Jubilee celebration organized at the Generalate level.

Another focus during the jubilee celebration would be to make available materials, articles, literature, audio visual aids, etc. related to Pallotti and Pallottine spirituality. Care also would be taken to deepen knowledge and understanding on Pallotti through quizzes, writings, symposiums and seminars. Promotion of popular devotion to the saint and disseminating of his vision would also occupy our mind particularly during this year. Thus, our endeavour would be to make this celebration a memorable one – a celebration of what has been achieved and the wonderful future that lies ahead. For it occurs only once in fifty years and for most of us only once in our life time!

**Joy Palachuvattil sac – Mysore – INDIA  
30.03.12**

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## **ITEM**

### **FIRST PALLOTTINE MISSIONARIES FROM NIGERIA TO SOUTH AFRICA**



In 1922, 90 years ago, the first Pallottine Priests and Brothers came to South Africa. Among them was Bishop Francis Hennemann from Germany. They had previously been missionaries in Cameroon, but because of the First World War had to leave this flourishing mission. Going to South Africa they found it very difficult to adapt to the hard and stony soil of the mission there.

On March 13, 2012, two young Pallottine priests from Nigeria, **Frs Marcel Emeribe** and **Cosmas Onwukwe**, were sent to help in the still challenging mission in South Africa. We are happy that our young and dynamic Cameroon-Nigeria Region can contribute strongly in the mission *ad gentes* of the Society.

**Peter Hillen sac – Mbaukwu - NIGERIA  
13.03.12**

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## ITEM

### FIRST AFRICAN PALLOTTINE MISSIONARY FROM CAMEROON TO AUSTRALIA



Pictured in Perth are the oldest and the newest arrivals from overseas to the Regina Mundi Region of Australia. **Fr John Lümnen sac**, 92, emigrated to this country from Germany with 3 other confreres in 1951. **Fr Thaddée Mbock sac**, 47, came from Cameroon just last year.

Thaddée writes from Melbourne: *“There is an interesting link between the (Australian) Pallottine community and Cameroon. The first Pallottine missionaries left Germany for Cameroon in 1890. On Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 1890, they celebrated the first Mass at Marienberg, a small village near Douala. They consecrated the new mission to Mary, Queen of Apostles and worked in Cameroon for 25 years. When Germany lost the First World War all German people were expelled from the colony, going in different directions. Some went to South Africa. Others, for example – Fr Georg Walter, came to Australia.*

*In 1964 the Pallottine family came back to Cameroon. After 30 years of hard work and prayer, God gave them their first Cameroonian Pallottine fruit – a priest who was ordained on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1994 – myself. I feel humble that my community appointed me to come to Australia to share my experience of the love of God as a Pallottine and as a priest, and to add my input to the wonderful work of the Pallottine family in this country”.*

**Ray Hevern sac – Shelley – AUSTRALIA**  
**17.04.12**

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