



E-BULLETIN #120

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

item 226

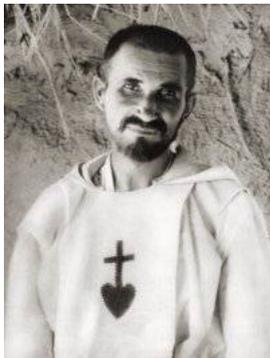
"Like a bird on a tree, ready to take off in the direction of God" personal testimony of Br Richard Kley, the gardener

I am Brother Richard Kley, 84 years old, a member of the *Heart of Jesus* Province in Germany.

My life as a Pallottine brother was always a happy one. I was a shoe maker by profession before coming to the Pallottines. I entered the Society on 17 April 1950. After the novitiate I worked for seven years as a shoe maker in our community in Bruchsal and also helped out in the farm. Then for the next 54 years I worked in Pallotti House in Friedberg. I worked as the house keeper, doing a great variety of things. At the moment I work only in the garden and the park. I provide fruit and vegetables to the kitchen especially in summer. We have about 1.5 hectares of land in Friedberg.

My novice master, Fr Ebner, years ago told me that the life of a Pallottine brother was a life in God and for God; it is a life of interior journey with God. Ever since I have been trying to live this lesson that I learnt in the novitiate. The life of Jesus is the perfect example for all of us; to follow Jesus is my goal in life.

A Pallottine brother can be engaged in diverse apostolic activities. He must be always faithful to his vocation and mission in the community.



The examples of the mystics in the Church show us that we do not need all that the world offers us. These mystics have inspired me to live a life of simplicity and trust in God. I was greatly inspired by the life of the modern mystics **Charles de Foucauld** and St Elizabeth of the Holy Trinity. I am now reading articles and small books on mysticism and on holy persons. The Carmelite mystics have also inspired me always. To live the life of a poor man for God with the help of Mary is my plan of life.

As a message what I would like to say is that we must hold in our hearts the whole of the human race, big and small, rich and poor. We are part of a big family, embracing the whole world. We must consider each other as children of one God. We have the responsibility to look at each human person as our brother and sister. This is the challenge for all of us. Perhaps we do a lot of talking on all subjects; it is not needed, in my opinion. We must indeed live a life of simplicity and honesty. I am not particularly fascinated by highly intelligent speeches. Faith in God is something else. It is marked by simplicity. The Mother of God was also a simple person. A life of simplicity - this is the way of the Gospel, the way of Jesus, that which ensures a secure life in God.



In fact, we must be like a bird on a tree, ready to take off in the direction of God - I say this to myself everyday. If we follow this path, we are on a safe journey!

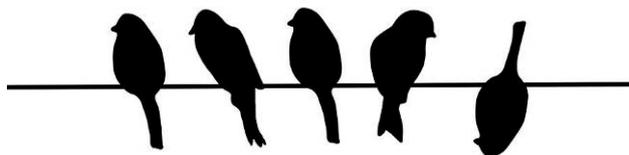
Richard Kley sac [CJ] – Friedberg – GERMANY
01.04.14
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item 227

do we 'dare to be different'...?

That question is from the homily given by Fr Jacob Nampudakam at the opening of last UAC General Assembly, held in Rome in January 2012. At the time his words struck me. I wondered if ever, or how, we might have dared to be different?

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT



I was reminded of a quote which I had heard not long beforehand which went something like: 'if you continue to do what you are doing, then you keep on getting what you are getting'. Then, during that Assembly, we had the pleasure of a presentation from Donna Orsuto, again endorsing this theme. When speaking on *New Evangelisation* Donna emphasised the need for us to go out of our tents, open our doors, go out to the stranger and welcome them.

This challenge has lingered with me ever since. Recently I have been struck, when reading articles in this E-Bulletin as to how in fact it is being achieved in small and large ways, and on a continuing basis. One example is the E-Bulletin itself, its spread and articles from people around the world, presented in a short and readable manner. This is a great way to learn of the work being undertaken in the spirit of St Vincent, and stimulates each of us to think of our own different ways to respond and 'dare to be different'!

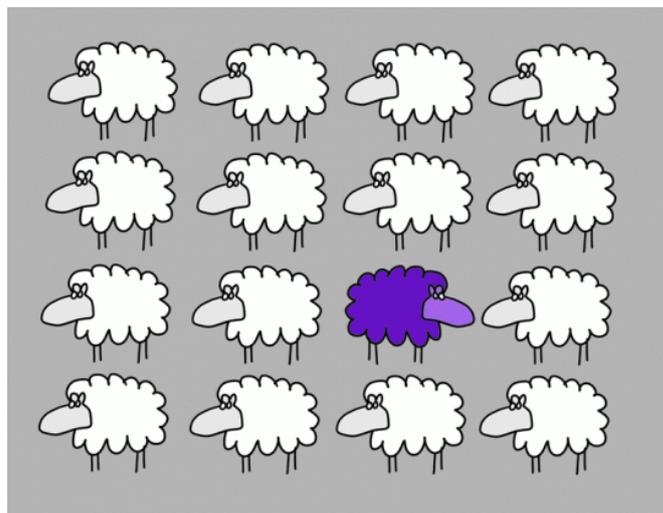
I have abridged some recent Bulletin examples of this 'daring to be different' which have struck me over recent months:

- School children, young adults and members of the UAC working together to collect warm clothes and toys for orphans in Afghanistan.
- A program for young children in South America.

- A soup kitchen in Barbados which serves 100 meals weekly. Empowerment programmes, legal aid, counselling, educational assistance for children with reading disabilities and special needs, etc., provided by 50 volunteers with constant support – monetary and in-kind – from the community.
- A little girl of about 9 years old in India whose faith inspired her to do something different. When viewing the bible of St Vincent she touched her house key and pen on the Bible quietly without anyone noticing. Deaths and illness had struck her family. With this in mind the little girl believed that God’s blessings would come to the house and that all would keep good health. As for the pen she believed God would bless her with a good memory and that she would do well in her studies.
- Pallottine missionaries in Mozambique who don’t just build and do things for people, but try to develop a sense of participation by encouraging people to share of the little they have – thus creating a mentality of not just receiving but giving, learning to be part of the church by sharing.

In Australia itself, the area I am familiar with, we have also, in small ways, done things a little differently. This has included:

- Introduction of *Gather and Share* sessions in local Pallottine ministered parishes, with the aim of introducing the vision of St Vincent to local parishioners, highlighting their vocation as laity.
- *Sacred Retreats* offered by the Mariana Community (I am a member of Mariana). At our last retreat two young mothers spoke of their search for such a time and space.



- The employment of a specialist UAC Formator who is offering ongoing formation programs and retreats in Pallottine ministered parishes and centres. Lorraine has a deep passion for the role of the laity and, in addition to having formal qualifications, is a wife and mother of six so certainly understands the pressures of modern day family life.
- The SAC looking to the possibility of extending an outreach ministry to Myanmar.
- The process of developing a ‘formal’ UAC membership list, hearing stories of people who have lived the vision of St Vincent – many for the past 50+ years – and how they continue to pray through that charism on a daily basis for all of us. In turn reminding me of St Vincent’s idea that when we can no longer be active apostles, we are still full apostles through prayer.

Of course there are still many challenges ahead. Again to quote the words of St Vincent spoken on his death bed:

“The Society will develop and be blessed by God. You will see. I tell you this not because I have trust but because I am sure”.

May we continue to believe this and look at how we are being called to ‘dare to be different’?

Cheryl Sullivan [UAC President] – Melbourne – Australia
April 2014
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you commented...

on #119 Thank you for sending this Bulletin..the bulletin helps me get to know the Pallottine Family better and I enjoy learning about St. Vincent Pallotti. I am in formation for the UAC as a lay person. I have become very close with the Pallottine sisters from Monroe, NY.

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