

E-BULLETIN #122

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

item 230

Brothers set off (to) become God-Seekers

On the last day of the visitation to the *Heart of Jesus* Province, Fr Jacob Nampudakam dedicated his time to two brothers at the Provincialate in Friedberg. His aim was to invite these brothers to give personal testimonies of their lives, works and vision for the benefit of the entire Pallottine family. In Pallotti's vision ours is always a community of priests and brothers (Law SAC, 1). So our Society is complete only when there are also brothers. For that to happen perhaps the most important point is that we all need to "feel like brothers" as Pallottines, with varied gifts and responsibilities. For a long time now the different General Assemblies, and Rector Generals, have been trying to give a new impetus to the vocation and mission of brothers in the Society and in the entire Union.

The following are the responses to several questions presented to Br Bert Meyer sac, the *Mission Secretary* of the *Heart of Jesus* Province in Germany and Austria:

Br Bert, would you kindly introduce yourself?

My name is Bert Meyer, 43 years old. I am from the northwest of Germany. I have been a Pallottine brother since 1991. Between 1987 and 1989 I was an apprentice carpenter in the Pallottine Mission House in Limburg. During my professional formation in Limburg I was impressed by the life and the work of the brothers in different workshops. My novice master in Untermerzbach was Fr Fritz Kretz (1989-1991). Just one day after my first profession the Provincial Fr Karl Heinen asked if I was interested to go as a missionary to Cameroon.

Br Bert, which are the apostolic works in which you became involved in Cameroon and are now doing as Mission Secretary of the Heart of Jesus Province?



During my 12 years in Cameroon I worked as a carpenter with local craftsmen. I became experienced in building construction and the development of a carpenter formation center in a small village called Elat-Minkom. Beyond that I initiated small scale projects and became known by people from the

German Organisation in the capital, Yaoundé. The work in Cameroon was hard but, reflecting back, this time was for me the real novitiate! My faith in God grew in Cameroon. In 2008 I handed over the workshop to Cameroonian hands and went back to Germany, full of experiences.

Today I work as the Mission Secretary in Friedberg and promote social projects in South America, Africa and Asia.

Br Bert, what is your vision or understanding of a Pallottine Brother?

Brothers set off on a path with God. They become God-Seekers.

Br Bert, what more can we do in order to give a new impulse to the vocation and mission of a Pallottine Brother in the world today?



Pallottines are not diocesans and don't feel like diocesans. They live and promote new awakenings of the Church (Cenacle and Small Christian Communities). They see themselves as missionaries, ready to go everywhere.

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02.04.14
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item 231

“let the holiness of your lives be a delightful fragrance...”

Pope Francis

This summer the Indian Pallottines will be blessed with *twenty* new priests hailing from different States in the country. Four for the Prabhu Prakash Province – Nagpur, fifteen for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province – Bangalore, and one for Khrist Jyothi Province – Raipur. In the recent past there has been a dramatic growth in the number of Indian Pallottines working across almost all continents, reaching out to existing Pallottine entities and also taking up new missions. We gratefully acknowledge God's gift of these new priests to our Society and thank these young men for choosing to be spiritual sons of our holy founder, St Vincent Pallotti.

Speaking to newly ordained priests in Rome, Pope Francis said recently:

“Let the holiness of your lives be a delightful fragrance for Christ's faithful, so that by word and example you may build up the house which is God's Church.”

After this primary exhortation, to sanctity of life, he told the newly ordained never to tire of being merciful in gathering people into the Church through baptism and forgiving sins in the name of Christ and the Church, never to hesitate in showing tenderness towards the elderly and to remember always that they are chosen from among the faithful and appointed on their behalf for those things that pertain to God. Finally he encouraged them to carry out the ministry of Christ the priest with constant joy and genuine love, attending not to their own concerns, but to those of Jesus Christ.



This message of Pope Francis has value for all priests but more so to the newly ordained so that they get their priorities right from the outset as they begin to unfold the call of Jesus to be His priests and serve in His vineyard. It is a clear invitation to sanctity and simplicity of life, a call to return to the Gospel and to bear witness to the crucified Lord. This was also the reason why St Vincent Pallotti stressed the importance of choosing 'the entire life of Jesus as the only rule' for our lives as Pallottines.

We congratulate our newly ordained priests and wish them all the very best as they assume their responsibilities later this year!

May these words of our Holy Father influence their lives so that they remain united to the One who has chosen them to be His priests and continue to spread the aroma of their holiness to all God's people. We acknowledge with gratitude the great sacrifice made by their parents and thank all their teachers, vocation promoters, formators and benefactors who have accompanied and helped them.

Let us continue to work together for the realization of our charism in the service of our Society and of the entire Church.

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sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

- on #121** Many thanks for both articles in this bulletin, our ongoing prayer will certainly be required for Bishop Bruno Ateba Edo. Taking on such a challenge calls for support from all UAC members throughout the world. Also it was wonderful to read of the *Eating and Learning* program in Germany. It caused me to consider the poverty in our own neighbourhoods in the Western World, so frequently hidden but calling for a response.

CS 25.05.14
- Thank you very much indeed for the recent contributions on the brothers. Their testimonies made inspiring reading. [The] e-bulletin, in its own unique way, brings us all closer together.

SB 28.05.14
- Thank you....So good to keep our eyes on the world realities.

MG 26.05.14