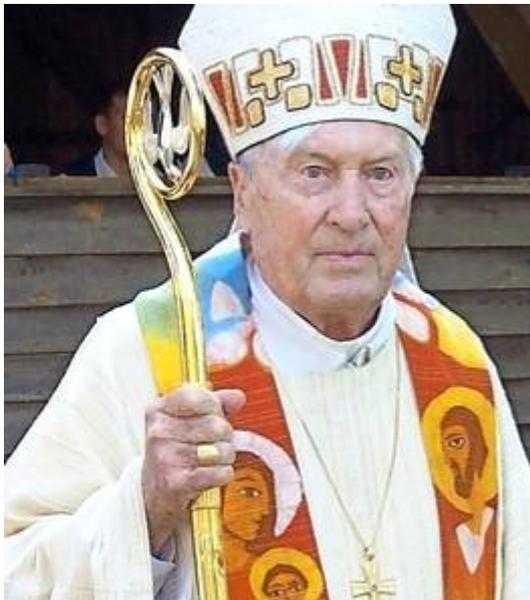


E-BULLETIN #130

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

item 246

Bishop John Jobst sac



The news that Bishop John Jobst had died brought back to me many memories. The first time I saw him was at Limburg in 1950, on the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul, in the church of the Pallottine Mission House from where he and other confreres were sent out as missionaries. Only twelve days later – also in Limburg – he was ordained a priest, already 30 years old.

Born in Frankenberg, Bavaria, on February 4, 1920, John was oldest in a family of 13 girls and boys. The family liked to visit the nearby Pallottine House in Hofstetten [Falkenstein]. The young Johannes was impressed by the joy that radiated especially from the brothers in their work on the farm. He heard of the missions of the Society and of a Minor Seminary in Freising and so he decided to join. There, in 1931, he began his secondary education, which he completed in Oberlahnstein, graduating in 1939. In October that year he began his novitiate in Olpe, Westphalia, together with 32 candidates. In 1941 he made his first profession but was immediately drafted into the German army for compulsory military service. After the war he continued his studies, and in 1950 was ordained. One of his sisters, Amanda, became a Pallottine Sister, and worked for many years in South Africa with aids orphans.

In 1951, together with other missionaries returning to Australia after home leave, four newly ordained priests – John Jobst, Ludwig Münz, Walter Silvester, John Lümmer – all left by ship from Genoa, Italy arriving on April 5 at the port of Fremantle. His first appointment was to Beagle Bay, in the northwest of the continent, where in 1901 the Pallottine mission had commenced among the aboriginals. But this did not last long – he was transferred to become the spiritual director of our novitiate in Sydney.

While there he was taken by surprise by his nomination as bishop, responsible for the Kimberley. Once it was said that the mission of the Oblates among the Eskimos in Canada and the mission of the Pallottines among the Aborigines in Australia were the two most difficult missions in the Church. Consecrated in March 1959 at Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral he inherited his Vicariate [raised to a Diocese in 1966] from another Pallottine Bishop, Otto Raible sac. He was to become, for the next 36 years [1959-1995], the good shepherd of the people entrusted to his care, by far the greater proportion of whom were aboriginal.

Since his diocese was the size of France, and the distances between mission stations great, with roads non-existent or poor, he soon studied to become a pilot. His exploits in the air were to become the stuff of legend!

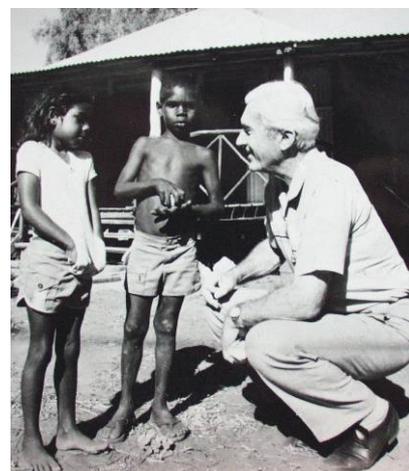
He quickly set about repairing the badly deteriorated infrastructure but, if there was an emphasis in his vision, it was surely in the field of education. His era saw the establishment of everything from kindergartens to a Catholic University campus. The development was nothing short of remarkable, as was the enthusiasm he enkindled amongst religious orders whose members, like himself, considered education the vital key to enable aboriginal people to successfully integrate into wider society. He had contacts worldwide but particularly in his home country whom he successfully approached for funding – a skill at which he was extraordinarily proficient!



With six other Pallottine bishops and the then Rector General Wilhelm Möhler he took part in all four sessions of Vat II. That Council was the fulfilment of his dreams: a new vision of mission, a new vision of liturgy. Now the sacraments could be celebrated in a language the people understood. He lost no time in encouraging prudent experimentation, and was enormously supportive of efforts to inculturate the Church's sacramental life, in both ceremony and language, and was happy to participate personally.

And at the Council there started a lasting connection with another Bavarian, Joseph Ratzinger. Since all the bishops are invited to come every five years to Rome for an 'ad-limina' visit, he was staying often at the Generalate House here in Rome, especially at the time when his classmate, Ludwig Münz sac, was Rector General. Since I was one of the drivers at the Generalate I accompanied him often to and from the airport.

Twenty years ago, when I had the joy and privilege of visiting Australia, we "changed" roles, as he drove me to the mission stations. Travelling with him was always an interesting event, listening to his plans, hearing of his joys and hopes, of his disappointments and sorrows during those many years as bishop.



At 75 years of age he accepted that he had to retire, initially to Perth but soon back close to Innsbruck, Austria. In his last months his health deteriorated and on July 5, 2014 he died in Patsch in Tyrol - the last German-speaking bishop who attended the Council – 94 years old, 73 years a Pallottine, 64 years a priest and 55 years a bishop.

Requiescat in Pace.

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10.07.14
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item 247

Bishop Heinrich Vieter sac

Heinrich Vieter, a Pallottine and member of the Holy Trinity Province, was born in Kappenberg, Germany, in 1853. He died in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 1914, the first Bishop in that country. His cause for beatification was

initiated there by the present Bishop, Victor Tonye Bakot, in 2005. Fr Norbert Hannappel SAC has been appointed by the Pallottines to the role of temporary vice-postulator of his cause.

Heinrich completed his elementary school education in 1867. He then became a carpenter and, in 1873, a member of the **Kolping Association***** [www.kolping.net/en] and in this capacity he travelled through Europe (Germany, Switzerland and Italy).

In Rome he discovered the Pallottines and entered the Society. He studied theology at the Gregorian University and was ordained in 1887. While still a newly ordained priest he was appointed Rector of the Pallottine Missionary College at Masio, in northern Italy and spent two years there. In 1889 he departed for Brazil and became parish priest of an Italian community at Caixas do Sul.



The following year he was named first Apostolic Prefect and superior of the mission to Cameroon. He travelled there with a group of confreres, Fr Georg Walter SAC [who later, in 1901, was to start the Australian mission together with Irish Pallottine Fr Patrick White SAC], five brothers and one seminarian. As their first base they settled in **Douala** and in December 1890 Mass was celebrated in a simple church adjoining the first Pallottine house at Marienberg (Our Lady's mountain), which they themselves had constructed. Fr Vieter consecrated Cameroon to our Lady and placed it under the protection of Mary, Queen of Apostles.

The beginning of this missionary outreach in the tropical climate of Cameroon was very difficult. Several contracted malaria, often with fatal results. However, their missionary spirit and desire to bring the gospel to the people there was even stronger. In 1892 they were joined by Pallottine Missionary Sisters.



Heinrich Vieter was named first bishop of Cameroon in 1904. He was consecrated in Germany in the cathedral of Limburg on January 22nd 1905. The Apostolic Prefecture in Cameroon was elevated to an Apostolic Vicariate.

Bishop Vieter proved to be an energetic pastor with boundless energy and untiring zeal. He was also very forward looking. In 1906 he organized the first Pastoral Synod, later founding a school for catechists and another for elementary school teachers. He also prepared the foundation of a seminary for candidates to the priesthood. He died on November 1914 and was buried in Yaoundé.

Cardinal Girolamo Maria Gotti, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, in a letter to the General Curia of the Society in 1914, wrote that in the course of twenty four years of fruitful ministry led by Vieter the Pallottines had baptised 30,000 and that there were 18,000 catechumens. He concluded by saying that the mission mourned its founding father.

During the First World War [in 1915 and 1916] the German Pallottines had to leave Cameroon. The Congregation of the Holy Spirit replaced them as missionaries in 1922. In the six year gap the Catholic faith was preserved thanks to catechists who had been formed by Bishop Vieter and thanks to the pastoral ground

work of the Pallottines. The figure of the first Bishop was, and continues to be, fundamental for the history of the evangelization of the country.

The centenary of his episcopal ordination of was celebrated in 2005 and on that occasion the current Archbishop of Yaoundé informed the participants of the initiation of the preparatory work for the process of the beatification of Bishop Heinrich Vieter.

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*** KOLPING INTERNATIONAL forms a world-wide network with over 400,000 members in more than 60 countries. Within the association, the members actively participate in a socially just transformation of society. The organisation is named after the Catholic priest Adolph Kolping who founded Journeymen Associations in the 19th century to combat the misery of young crafts journeymen in the era of industrialisation. He is co-founder of the Catholic Social Teaching, which has been the basis for the work of KOLPING INTERNATIONAL until today.

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #129

I especially welcomed the inclusion of the article on Hieu Van Le. Perhaps because I am South Australian however more so for his extraordinary story that is told. I met him a few months ago. He spoke at the opening of the new Our Lady of La Vang, Catholic School for students with special needs here in Adelaide. A beautiful man. A truly human man! My goodness when will our country recognise that we are one world! Why is fear so dominant? ...perhaps I need to see what stops me from doing things because of fear.

JC 20.07.14