

## E-BULLETIN #134

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

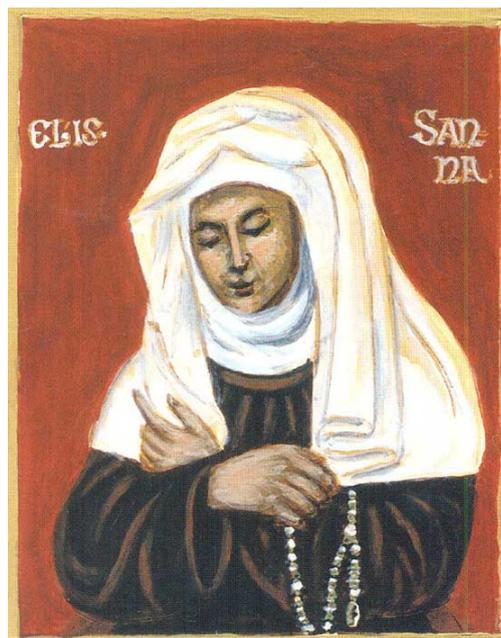
item 254

### she died with a reputation for sanctity...

**Elisabetta Sanna** was born in 1788 in Sardinia. She died with a reputation of sanctity in Rome on 17 Feb 1857 and was buried in the Church of SS Salvatore in Onda. Soon afterwards the recognition of her holiness became very evident, so much so that in just four months, on 15 Jun 1857, her cause for beatification was initiated. St Vincent Pallotti had been her spiritual director for 18 years and regarded her highly.

As an infant Elisabetta contracted smallpox when she was just three months old. The result of this was that she was never able to raise her arms. She was able to move her fingers and wrists but could not bring food to her mouth with her hands, nor could she make the sign of the Cross. Neither could she comb her hair, wash her face nor change her clothes. She could however knead bread, place things in the oven and remove them from it and raised five children.

Despite her physical disability marriage was proposed to her and it was a very happy marriage. Seven children were born to them, two of whom died soon after birth. Together with her own children Elisabetta educated other children of the town, teaching them catechism and preparing them for the sacraments. Her house was open to all women who wanted to learn hymns and prayers. Her husband died at the beginning of 1825 after seventeen years of marriage and she assumed full responsibility for the family and the administration of the home.



While growing in the spiritual life, Elisabetta was influenced by a Lenten preacher and decided to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land together with her confessor, Fr Giuseppe Valle. Thinking that her absence would be a short one, she entrusted the care of her children to her mother and her brother who was a priest. She also sought the help of a niece and some neighbours. The two pilgrims had difficulty in getting a visa for the Orient and had to abandon the planned journey in Genoa. They then went to Rome as pilgrims.

Because of serious physical ailments Elisabetta was unable to return to Sardinia. She entrusted herself to the spiritual direction of Vincent Pallotti who contacted her brother, Fr Antonio Luigi, to inform him that his sister could not undertake the journey by sea, but would do so as soon as she was better. However her ailments increased year by year and Elisabetta was obliged to remain in Rome.

Elisabetta suffered greatly because of the separation from her family. She wept a great deal but was not discouraged. Instead she entrusted herself to God, accepted this new situation and served others while remaining faithful to the teachings of the gospel and of the Church. She was often to be found visiting the sick and bringing comfort to them in the *Hospital for Incurables*, and in private homes. She knitted and the money she received for her work and the gifts given to her were used to help the poor and also the orphans in the two houses founded by Pallotti. She sought to bring peace to families, to convert sinners, she prepared the sick to receive the sacraments, and she took care of the altar linens and decoration of the Church of SS Salvatore in Onda. She participated in several Masses each day, in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and would pray with visitors in her room as many people came to her for advice. St Vincent and the first Pallottines also sought counsel from her.

Pallotti often stressed the merits of Elisabetta with regard to the UAC. Fr Vaccari reports: “Our Institute has been carried forward up to now by two persons; a poor woman, Elisabetta Sanna, whom you have heard of many times from Fr Vincent Pallotti, and by Cardinal Lambruschini” (*Summarium*, Rome 1910, p. 145, par. 33). She witnessed the foundation of the UAC and followed its development for 22 years up to the time of her death.



The cause of her beatification continues. We wait in hope for a clear miraculous sign obtained through the intercession of Venerable Elisabetta which fulfils all the criteria requested by the Holy See. Recently a case of healing which has certain indications of being a miracle was examined. Numerous persons pray with trust that it be recognized as miraculous or that the Lord give another sign.

It is also important to make known the life and virtues of this Servant of God.

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**item 255**

**help us to keep on keeping on...**

Dr Patricia Heywood, who’s almost six decades in the Australian Pallottine Family included a term as inaugural Executive Officer of the UAC, died recently in Melbourne. Pat, as she was known in her many roles, was active in the UAC from her introduction to the charism of St Vincent Pallotti in the 1950s (!) until her death, from cancer, on 16 July.

Pat Heywood was one of many Australians who spent decades serving the UAC – before that acronym was recognised – after her introduction to Pallottine spirituality through apostolic groups that flourished in Melbourne in the 1950s and 1960s, fostered by priests such as Fr Walter Silvester sac.

In her last decade of life she instigated a free annual public lecture, named in honour of Fr Walter and held in conjunction with Australian Catholic University (ACU). This has developed since 2007 and attracted lecturers including Archbishop Mark Coleridge, then of Canberra-Goulburn; Dr Donna Orsuto, co-founder and Director of the Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas in Rome and Professor at the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University; former Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, Mr Tim Fischer; and Fr Frank Donio sac, Director of the Catholic Apostolate Centre in Washington DC. This year's event will include a tribute to her.

The establishment of this lecture, designed to make Pallottine spirituality more widely known in the Church, illustrated several of Pat's qualities – inspiration, perseverance, a desire to educate and a keen sense of collaboration with others. She sought advice from Melbourne's Office for Evangelisation, whose Helder Camara Lecture Series on Social Justice have been a well-established feature of life in the local church for almost 30 years and worked hard to make her own project a fixture in the Melbourne Catholic calendar.



The Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture was only one of Pat's UAC apostolates. She was also a key figure in the St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry, which offers financial and prayerful support to people wishing to study or work in this area; the development of a formation program in the Australian SAC/UAC context; the establishment of a spirituality team; and *Remember in November*, an initiative to gather people, many of them with a long association with the Pallottines, in the month of the Holy Souls to pray for those who have died. It is centred on a celebration of the Eucharist, at which is featured a book recording those who have passed away.

Following a Catholic primary and secondary education she completed a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education at Melbourne University and a Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy in Education at Monash University. She majored in English and History, with theses on *The Nature of Religious Belief and Its Bearing on Education* in 1975 and *Elementary Education in Port Phillip, 1836-1851*, the latter exploring early schooling in the earliest days of colonial Melbourne. She then went on to teach at a girl's school, followed by many years forming prospective teachers at Mercy College. As was noted in the days after her passing: "She was a born teacher ... She had a desire and also the ability to transmit the message she wanted to."

While her life was spent in Melbourne and its surrounds, she was a keen traveller, with a special affection for Japan. In recent years, she visited the Holy Land and also travelled widely within Australia.

Pat asked that there be no eulogy at her funeral Mass. Instead her last contribution to the *Pallottine Family Newsletter* was read, in which she recalled an advertisement for a paint company that used the slogan: "Keeps on keeping on".

"According to Christians, each person's basic design and materials are God-given, but maintenance and improvement are collaborative," Pat wrote. "In our lives then, it's good to check with the Maker and plan together for the future. What area(s) of my life need attention? Is there a special 'colour' I'm being asked to use?" She concluded with a prayer:



at Masada

*Lord of our lives, help us to keep on keeping on.  
 Thank you for different coloured blessings you give.  
 Grant us a share in Your faithfulness of love  
 That we too may renew the world  
 With all our sisters and brothers  
 Each day, every day praising and  
 Blessing, seeking and finding,  
 On and on.  
 Amen.*

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 18.08.14  
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**you commented...**

**on #132** Thanks for edition 132, in particular I enjoyed reading of Judith's journey, so much so I was spurred to Google her website and found a gem.

**DM 10.08.14**

A little late in responding to last week's bulletin (10/8/14) but I write to say thanks for people like Judith Lynch speaking of recognising God in the ordinary – while I did not find her life ordinary - always open to following the call of God in her life, certainly a very “Pallottine” spirituality. Then with some encouragement this week it was suggested I look at her website. A wonderful array of articles and gospel reflections – from someone who lives within my own city but her writings have, until now been unknown to me! So if you are interested in perhaps getting some ideas and different perspectives on the Sunday scripture readings I would suggest opening her website - [www.tarellaspirituality.com](http://www.tarellaspirituality.com).

Also many thanks to Joe Kallani for his article in the same bulletin, thank goodness for a patient God.

**CS 18.08.14**

**on #133**