



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

ITEM 34

Conviction growing about UAC

The visitation to the Mother of Mercy Region in Brazil has given me a renewed conviction and enthusiasm for the charismatic vision of our holy Founder, St Vincent Pallotti - the Union of Catholic Apostolate. In almost every parish that I visited I came across lay people filled with knowledge and love for the spirituality and charism of St Vincent. I addressed them, always stressing the importance of a deep God-experience in the context of a formative experience in the Cenacle, and always in service of the mission of the Church. These are lay men and women who, after a full day of work, gather together to know more about this saint. They feel a new sense of dignity in being members of the Church of Jesus Christ. Most of our confreres are always supportive of these people and encourage them to continue their journey of faith.

I celebrated Holy Mass for the first time in the Portuguese language on 21st April 2012. Five lay members made their apostolic commitment during this Eucharistic celebration. Many more are preparing themselves to make their apostolic commitment.

It is sure that we have a hidden treasure in our charism. When the Church is looking for ways and means to realise a new evangelisation all over the world, we have the right response in our charism. "*The Pallottine charism as a response to the challenge of New Evangelisation*" is the theme of a seminar to be organised in Rome in the last week of September 2012.

So do not lose hope - we are not poor: we have the hidden treasure. All that is required now is to sell all that we have and buy this pearl of the greatest value.

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ITEM 33

Visit to the Holy Land

The Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas arranged a study tour to the Holy Land from 20 to 29 April 2012 for all its students pursuing Biblical studies. It was indeed a deeply moving spiritual experience to be in the land where God's saving act began, to touch the historical realities which underlie our confessional faith in one God, and to walk in the streets along which Jesus Christ Himself walked exercising His ministry of preaching, teaching and healing.

This study tour was aimed at familiarizing ourselves with the environment of the Bible (geography, archaeology, ancient customs and daily life in the east). We visited most of the ancient cities in Israel which were excavated in recent years like the cities of Acco, Beth Shearim, Meghido, Baniyas, Sabistia, Qumran, Masada etc. It was certainly an enriching experience to be in the cities built by our patriarchs and the kings who ruled Israel for thousands of years. These cities reveal meaning and connect to our Christian roots.

Walking in the countryside where Jesus lived and walked was yet another spiritually inspiring experience. We began in Nazareth where Jesus' birth was announced to the virgin Mary, then proceeded to Bethlehem where He was born, then to Galilee where He began his public ministry, and finally to Jerusalem where He was condemned, died and rose victoriously. Making this journey was like being with Jesus as He was going through all these events in His life. It was like the pages of the Gospel coming alive. No doubt that this outward journey has triggered in me an inward journey to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

This itinerary also gave me an insight into why our founder St Vincent Pallotti always insisted that the only rule for our lives should be the Gospel which unfolds the very life of Christ. In fact St Vincent Pallotti passed far beyond this outward journey and was already at the summit of an inward journey in a deep mystical union with Jesus Christ. This deep awareness and intimate communion led him to imitate the life of Christ radically and exhort all the members to copy the life of Christ as He lived and walked on this earth.

I thank God for this opportunity of being present in the Holy Land, to touch the past and to be inspired for the future. May God bless us all through the intercession of Mary Queen of the Apostles and our founder St Vincent Pallotti.

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ITEM 32

KHRISTSEVIKAS ELECTIONS

This is to inform you that we have started our General Assembly today, the 5th and we had our Elections this morning.

Our newly elected team consists of:

- Ms Crispina D'Costa – President
- Ms Virginia Malathi – First Councillor
- Ms Joyce Almeida – Second Councillor

We request you to support us with your Prayers.

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