

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

item 291

to all of you joy and peace ...!



Dear brothers and friends! To all of you the joy and peace that Jesus brought as our Saviour and brother in his birth! Christmas is the celebration of the family who gave us the Triune God as a model for our life together as brothers and sisters.

After a year full of celebration, both in Rome and at my home in Germany, my superiors have called me back to my previous job in social work "**Lar dos Meninos**" in the parish of Presidente Prudente, which many of you know.

Although I was very happy, I want to thank our Pallottine communities in Rome who enabled me to be near the grave of our founder Vincent Pallotti. Being near to the founder of our Society I was always united with you in prayer and sacrifice.

I'm obviously happy to be called back again to my second home in Brazil, where my spiritual children have welcomed me with enthusiasm and joy, together with my brothers and a vibrant parish community. It gives great joy to see that people love us. I am particularly grateful to my good friend Klaus Greßbach, who despite living with some pain at this moment, came to Rome and accompanied me back to Presidente Prudente to be with you.

The accompanying photos show the joy and celebration at our arrival in "**Lar dos Meninos**". Thank God that the work



has been well maintained, supported by our Provincial Superior with a very efficient team. The financial assistance of German benefactors still enables us to continue the great relief work that is

done for about 1000 socially vulnerable people – of which more than half are children. For all this, my cordial "God bless you!".

In the parish, and in the community of the Pallottine house, I felt right at home. I was pleasantly surprised by the numerous requests for confessions even from young adults. I've formed the impression that the number



of requests for confession that we have had here in a month is equivalent to the number across three years in Rome! In the confessional I have always tried to be not only a pastor but a family companion, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, a doctor, and especially a friend.

In our St Paul Province we have joyfully participated in the ordination of six theology students who became priests. Our Pallottine community also sent two priests as missionaries to a very poor area in Peru.

With the Risen Jesus, your friend and brother wishes you happy holidays and a blessed 2015!

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item 292

Mariana Community

living a life of love in and for the world

***“Before God, Source of All Being, and Mary, Mother and Queen of Apostles I, -----, declare that, united with Christ I will strive to live a life of love in and for the world.
In the power of the Spirit and with the help of Mary I promise to live Chastity, Poverty and Obedience as a Consecrated Secular Woman according to the Mariana way of life.
United with, and strengthened by, my sisters in the Mariana Community I pledge loyal service to God in the service of others.”***

In these words every Easter, after renewing their Baptismal Promises, members of the *Mariana Community* also renew a lifetime commitment to living a consecrated secular life. That *Community* is a member body of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, listed as such in its Statutes. What follows describes our charism and style of life. Currently we number nine women in Australia.

Going back to the 1950s, members of the Pallottines in Melbourne [Vic.] initiated ‘Younger Set’ groups at their central house close to the city. They aimed to share Vincent Pallotti’s charism and enthuse those young people participating, mostly in their 20’s, to live out of it. It was from these groups that a community of women arose, numbering initially ten in 1957, to whom Fr Walter Silvester SAC committed himself as their spiritual director. Originally they took the name *Ver Sacrum Mariae Lay Institute*. However over time, and prompted in part by Vat II, that name evolved [1983] into the *Mariana Community* of today.



Perhaps surprisingly we do not live in a physical community. We find our own accommodation [on occasions living in up to 4 different Australian States simultaneously!]. Instead we share a common-unity in our commitment. We strive to live a life of love in the world, each according to her own circumstances and giftedness. We are committed to an active life of prayer, including formal daily Community Prayer which links us spiritually. We gather on occasions for meetings, liturgy, ongoing faith formation and renewal, as well as for fun times just being together. We reach out in support of one another whether in tough times, when we are vulnerable, grieving or facing difficulties or in joyful times, when we are rejoicing and celebrating. We are conscious that other members are praying for us, and are on the phone, sending emails, visiting us, sustaining us through their presence as well as in practical ways.

We are each responsible for our own finances, employment, housing, retirement plans, etc, sharing the same realities of mortgages, budgeting, etc. as all lay people. We are thus fully immersed in the world to which we see ourselves called and sent. Ideally we show those we encounter the love of God.

Our Community Prayer begins with the words: 'With joy we pray to you, O God.....' Through it we share an inner joy that comes from a deep personal relationship with God, also nourished by encountering the presence of Jesus in all those we meet.

Members of our *Community* are very involved in the life of the UAC in Australia. Our current co-ordinator has served two terms on the General Council and is currently the President of the National Council. Another represents the *Community* at the national level, while I am vice-president of a Local Council. Our members are on many UAC committees, such as those for formation, the Australian 2015 Congress, the Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture. We attend and assist in providing hospitality on many occasions. Although beginning initial formation in 1983, and becoming a consecrated member in 1987, I am today still the newest member! While ours is a way of life to which I feel sure God's Spirit may well animate others to follow, in the present climate in this country we have to face the real possibility of decline and maybe even demise. Accordingly we are examining how the *Mariana Community* charism might live on and in some way be preserved.

Please pray that other women may come to value and continue our way of being in the world.

Three members of the Mariana Community will be participating in the international meeting of UAC Lay Communities of Consecrated Life at Grottaferrata from 02 to 06 January 2015.

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20.12.14
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you commented...

on #152 Thank you for publishing my reflection on the last meeting of the Congregation for Consecrated Life. Only, I am SDB not SVD.

some familiar faces in amongst lay people in Côte D'Ivoire



The Municipality of
Presidente Prudente



Flag



Coat of arms

Presidente Prudente is a city in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. The city has a population of 207,625 inhabitants and area of 562.8 km². The city is named after president Prudente de Morais. Prudente is located 558 km from the city of São Paulo.