

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

item 318

a chain of prayer across our formation houses

The General Secretariat for Formation, under the guidance of Fr Francois Harelimana sac, General Secretary for Formation of the Society, undertook a valuable initiative recently to celebrate the *Year of Consecrated Life* – a **chain of prayer** across our formation houses.

This **chain of prayer** began on January 22, 2015 in the formation house at Dublin. It was then extended to all our formation houses and concluded on February 23, 2015. The celebration of the last day was held in two communities in Rome – the College of San Silvestro in Capite and the Generalate Community.



Italy

Commencing on the feast of our Holy Founder, the **chain of prayer** lasted for 33 days in imitation of the so-called "thirty-three points" which Pallotti

recommended as a Rule to follow the life of Jesus. We were inspired along the way by the theme: "The joy of being Pallottines" – a way to capture the grace of the *Year of Consecrated Life* and to deepen our identity.



Ivory Coast

On the final day the community at the Generalate conducted exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, from 9:00 to 18:00. Members of the local community took turns the whole day to be in the presence of the Lord, after which a solemn eucharist was celebrated.

The theme chosen and prayed for during the Mass was 'vocations to consecrated life'. The **chain** concluded with the celebration of Vespers.

www.facebook.com/FormazionePallottina regularly updated the initiatives undertaken in our fifty training houses scattered in eighteen countries. We noted with pleasure that, in addition to members in formation houses, other confreres were also actively involved in this initiative, which has introduced all of us fully to the *Year of Consecrated Life*.



Philippines

In order to give a fuller picture of this spiritual initiative, below is the letter which Fr. François sent out to all members of the Society.

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*"I want to say one word to you and this word is joy.
Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!"*
Pope Francis

Dear Confreres involved in the work of Formation,

In this *Year of Consecrated Life*, the General Council has examined and approved some initiatives of the General Secretariat for Formation. One of these is a **Chain of Prayer** to be accomplished in our formation houses.

This Chain has as its objective, to put all those in formation in communion with each other in prayer and in meditation, in order to deepen our understanding of our vocation to consecrated life, a vocation received from God and to Him generously offered in the following of Jesus Christ chaste, poor and obedient. In fact, our Founder, Vincent Pallotti, considered the life of Jesus as "the fundamental rule" of our Society (ref. OOCC III, 40).

The chosen theme is: "**The joy of being a Pallottine**", because our life should be always a joyful life, generous in order to be a gift for the pilgrim People of God, in the image of Christ, the Apostle of the Eternal Father.

How can one put in place the Chain of Prayer?

1. The Chain of Prayer will begin on January 22, 2015, the Feast of our Holy Founder. In the list accompanying this letter you will find the calendar with the prayer duty of each house of formation.
2. The Chain will last for 33 days in imitation of the "*33 Points*" that our Holy Founder, Vincent Pallotti presents as a Rule to follow the life of Jesus.
3. Each House of Formation will organize itself as it believes best, but in order to remain in communion with everybody else, we propose to you the following:

- To find a moment during the day for personal meditation on “*the joy of being a Pallottine*” and on the point indicated on the table of prayer duty, and also to organize a moment of community sharing on that experience.
- To organize a night vigil of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in community or individually (for example, one hour each). Let us remember the words of Jesus to remain vigilant: “*Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak*” (Matthew 26:40-41), humbly we want to become more aware of how our weaknesses impede our desire to “stay awake”, to “bear fruit” in our identity of having been created for love, for freedom, for joy,
- The Eucharist, when and where possible to be offered for the intention of vocations to the consecrated life;
- The Queen of Apostles accompanies us on our way! We will seek to recite the Rosary, the prayer that St Vincent Pallotti esteemed as being “the most efficacious means for converting those who have gone astray and sinners”.



Poland

4. We will seek more and more to remain in contact with each other, for example, by means of Facebook (Pallottine Formation) so as to share our experiences, to follow how other members are getting on in formation and to strengthen our fraternal bonds as Pallottines.

The formative journey, accompanied by our formators and by the community, must lead us to a way of living where others can recognize in us the features of Christ Himself. Let us allow ourselves to be “invaded” by the joy of being consecrated people!

Fr François Harelimana sac

item 319

“Preserve the freshness...”

In these days of grace, preparing for Easter, we members of the **General Coordination Council** met in the spirit of the Cenacle, giving priority to prayer, dialogue, listening and sharing in communion....

With Pope Francis we too want to “Preserve the *freshness of the Charism*; Welcome and accompany men and women of today, in particular, the youth; never forget that the most precious good, the seal of the Holy Spirit, is *Communion*.

Once again, the icon of the *Queen of Apostles* in the church of via Ferrari was the model for the choice of the new President of the Union. For the first time a lay member, a woman, was elected to this role. For all of us, this is a prophetic sign, and we hope that it will be so for the entire Pallottine Family. Together with all of the members of the GCC, as expressions of their countries of origin, we will share the responsibilities. She will be supported by our prayer, and will enjoy our respect and trust in order to help the Union to grow in continuity with and in gratitude towards the President who preceded her.

In his talk, the Ecclesiastical Assistant gave a new impulse towards a deeper understanding of the pedagogy of the Cenacle, reminding all of the members of three fundamental aspects: entering into, remaining in and going out from the Cenacle, in order to carry out the apostolate in going towards the peripheries of life.

The talks and the exchanges of experiences during these days underlined the growth of the Union in various countries, but also the urgency of having formators who can guide the members and collaborators in a serious personal and apostolic formation. We all feel the need to commit ourselves in concrete apostolic projects as Union, and also to appreciate and accompany the family in a growth in faith so that it can be more and more a domestic Church.



We also said that news should be circulated through the website of the Union, and we realise the importance of the media for evangelising and for sharing experiences throughout the world.

The meeting with the representatives of the three Core Communities, during which we reflected together on their specific role of guaranteeing the unified apostolic life of the Union, was highly effective; with them we also continued our reflection on the identity and role of the GCC (cf. GSt,78).

In all of our meetings, above all in prayer, you were with us and the presence of the Spirit sustained and enriched our life.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we will continue to deepen our sense of the beauty and preciousness of our Charism, which is always current in responding to the appeal of the Church.

May St Vincent and Mary, Queen of Apostles, intercede for us so that we may always rejoice in the Gospel and proclaim by word, by witness of personal and community life our only rule: the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your brothers and sisters on the GCC

Rome, March 31st, 2015

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #166

I am very happy to receive your news, this helps me to live the communion among us.

IG 05.04.15

After reading in *316 - "We must never deprive the world of that joyful message" - there comes to my mind an incident where a non-catholic person goes to a village parish priest and asks him for some material to read and this priest had nothing but a New Testament book hands him this book after reading the book comes back and says to the parish priest "I feel I am delivered " and says why did you not share this message earlier to us.

AM 08.04.15