

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

item 326

### **EUCCHARISTIC SISTERS of St Vincent Pallotti**

We are a female religious institute of pontifical right, a religious family that has rooted its vocation and mission in the mystery of the Eucharist. Eucharist is the heart, the life, the reason for being of the Congregation of the Eucharistic Sisters of St Vincent Pallotti.



**Mother Anna Sardiello, born 20 July 1894,  
of Vincenzo and Teresa, at Francavilla Fontana (BR)**

With great joy Mother Anna Sardiello consecrated herself to the Lord, soaking up the spirit of St Vincent Pallotti. After several ups and downs, with firm and resolute will, she was in San Prisco [a municipality 30kms north of Naples] to create the work based on Eucharist with the specific purpose to repair the sins of the whole world, especially for the souls that poorly match the sublimity of their own state of life. Always rooted in an ardent love for the Eucharist, from which she imbued the wonderful characteristics of true humility and deep prayerfulness, she managed to obtain official recognition for her Institute on 09 June 1973, just 22 yrs after its beginning.

Her departure took place on July 22, 1982 – the date that she wanted so much because on July 22, 1941 she obtained the conversion of an obstinate sinner, and so on July 22, 2014 we celebrated the beginning of the Diocesan Enquiry for her beatification.

### **CHARISM**

*We are dedicated to the love and the worship of the Eucharist, vivifying all our works and apostolic activities, welfare and education with evangelical love and prayer of adoration, praise and reparation for the offenses to Jesus in the Sacrament and for the infidelity of his consecrated.*

### **APOSTOLIC ACTIVITIES**

- *We collaborate in the redeeming work of Christ, building the kingdom and the civilization of love through adoration of the Eucharist and community life so that our Congregation can keep intact the charism of the foundress, striving to be a "Sentinel of the Eucharist", drawing strength from adoration for a constant reparation of sins.*
- *Pastoral and parish catechesis*
- *Kindergarten*
- *Assistance to the elderly*

On July 22, 2014 we celebrated with a solemn celebration the beginning of the Diocesan Enquiry for the cause of beatification of our foundress Mother Anna Sardiello.

Now we must continue to spread the fame of holiness of our foundress, and always be ready to witness to the Gospel.



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item 327

## **the Nicodemus Night: a pastoral initiative in the centre of Rome**

I was requested to write something on a new pastoral and spiritual initiative which we have developed here in Rome at the church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, the spiritual center of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate – a so-called *Nicodemus Night*.

For a better understanding of the “Nicodemus Night” it is necessary to know something about the gospel person called Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, a teacher of the Law, who according to the Gospel of John, was looked on favourably by Jesus. He appears three times in John’s account:

- when coming one night to meet Jesus, and to listen to his teaching (Jn 3:1-21)
- to confirm the law regarding the question of arresting Jesus during the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:45-51)
- after the crucifixion, assisting Joseph of Arimathea in the preparation of the body of Jesus for burial (Jn 19,39-42).



His encounter with the Lord set the stage for the speech of Jesus on the “New Birth” (Jn 3,1-21), in which Jesus confirms the necessity for each person to “be born again” (Jn 3,3), being born through water as well as through the Spirit (baptism). Nicodemus is sometimes identified as a secret disciple of Jesus or as somebody who represents those lacking sufficient faith to support him openly. However, when appearing the third time in the Gospel of John, at the burial of Jesus (Jn 19, 38-42), Nicodemus, who previously had come to Jesus when it was night, came during the day, carrying with him generous quantities of spices to help Joseph of Arimathea prepare the body of Jesus to be laid in the tomb and turning his discipleship public.



This “Nicodemus Night” is the fruit of a sharing of members of the General Council who, during a visit in the Czech Republic, had the opportunity to participate in such an experience. It was also motivated by the invitation of Pope Francis to open the doors of our churches, and go out to meet the people.

In view of that a team of confreres of the community of the Generalate and some lay people came together to implement this experience in our own church in Rome. The initiative has been successful and today the animation team of the

“Nicodemus Night” numbers about twenty persons who welcome dozens of people for a moment of encounter with the Lord every Friday from 2000 hours to 2200 hours.

The “Night” has as its purpose to bring the people closer to Christ through welcome, moments of silence, adoration and listening to his word. The dynamics it uses are quite simple: after preparation of the sanctuary, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and there is first a moment of common prayer. Accompanied by background music, in the street and at the door of the Church, members of the team invite and welcome people who are passing in front of the Church, in via dei Pettinari [an almost obligatory passage for the thousands of tourists who come to Rome, and gather at places like Campo de Fiori (pictured below) and Trastevere].

Those who follow the invitation, when entering the Church, receive a burning candle and are accompanied up to the altar. After putting the candle before the Blessed Sacrament, they receive a message from the bible and are invited to maintain a moment of adoration. During two hours of adoration the gospel is proclaimed, a motivational homily for the special intention of the night is given and, interspersed with moments of silence, spontaneous prayers are pronounced and reactions shared. There are moments of deep interiorization, where people from diverse nationalities, even of other religious denominations, who don’t feel up to sharing any of the message they received, rather let themselves be guided by a moment of encounter with the Lord. At the end of the adoration a blessing with the Sacrament is given. Also some prayers, pictures of Jesus, of Pallotti and other information on the church and Pallottine spirituality are distributed.



We can say that the visitors feel much involved and valued. When leaving the Church they thank us for the marvellous experience and ask us to continue with this initiative. Many persons have already made this moment of adoration a regular practise and return every Friday.

We feel that the invitation to Nicodemus to “be born anew” is a challenge for all of us. Constantly we are invited to turn, like him, from being anonymous disciples, to becoming true apostles and witnesses of Christ.

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**sac asia oceania e-bulletin**

**you commented...**

- on #169** I love these bulletins, especially that they are good reading and information for our lay members of the UAC. **MR 01.06.15**
  
- I am delighted to receiving all the info you post. God bless and keep you so as to be feeding us with these heart thrilling and accommodative info. **GO 05.05.15**