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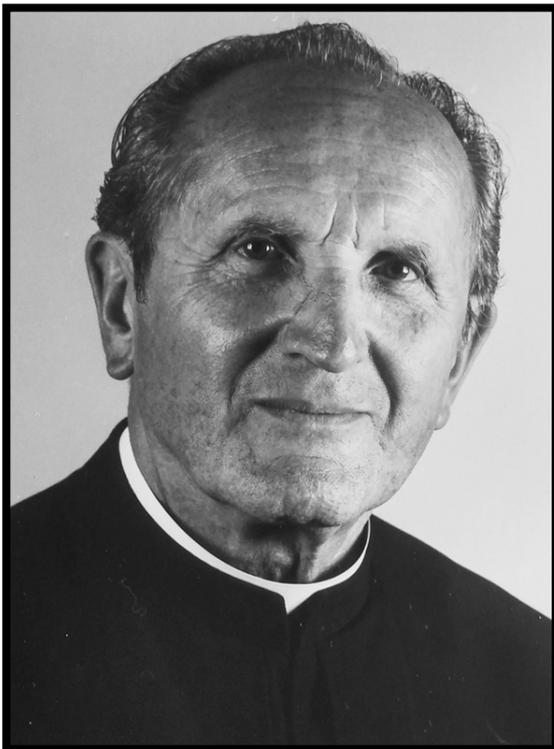
*"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)*

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item 355

### Fr. Bruno Bayer sac (1921 - 2015)

**Bruno Bayer** was born on June 21st, 1921 in Offenburg, Badenia. His father was a hairdresser. After five years of elementary school he attended a high school run by the Capuchins, but after a few years decided to start an apprenticeship at the Burda publishing house in his home town – Mr Franz Burda, the owner, was a good friend of his father – where he also continued to work after successfully passing an examination to become a clerk.



In 1941 he was drafted to the German army and in 1945 became a prisoner-of-war with the Russians. He was lucky to be discharged that same year – many of his comrades returned only after many years in Siberia.

He returned to his former employer but soon realized that this was not the way God wanted him to go. He wrote to his home diocese, Freiburg, applying to be admitted to the seminary. But because of his age – and the many vocations to the priesthood at that time – he was advised to go to the Pallottines who had a school for late-vocations. Bruno saw this as the will of God and joined our minor seminary in Hersberg [where later he would become a teacher, of French and Latin]. He started his novitiate in Untermerzbach in 1949, made his first consecration in 1951, and in 1955 was ordained priest.

Already during his studies at the novitiate and later, at the Vallendar-Schönstatt seminary, his extraordinary scientific talents were recognised and so, after his ordination, he was asked to do post-graduate studies in French and Latin at the University of Freiburg and later on also in Munich and Lyon.

During this time a French Carmelite, Fr. Victor de la Vierge, commissioned him to translate a little book he had written "Thérèse of Lisieux: teacher of the spiritual life". The famous Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote to the author: "Your book is the best of what has been written about Therese."

Fr. Bayer's health was never the best. After a time in a sanatorium, because of his lungs, he came to Rome in order to help Fr. Ansgar Faller (1910-1992), the director of the Pallotti Institute. Recognising his knowledge of the French language, he was asked to occupy himself with the life of Paul de Geslin, a Frenchman, one of the

first companions of Pallotti. The result of his painstaking studies, in Paris and Rome, was the volume "*Paul de Geslin, compagnon de Saint Vincent Pallotti*", and the publication of Geslin's writings and letters. Later he translated all the writings of Geslin about Pallotti into German "*Mit den Augen eines Zeitgenossen*" (Pallotti seen with the eyes of a contemporary). This book was also translated into Afrikaans which prompted a further translation from the original French into English and Polish.

Later on Fr. Bruno Bayer was for many years a preacher for the Charismatic Movement in the Diocese of Augsburg, many attending the retreats he preached. But then Pallotti again drew him back!

Our Society is very grateful for the many volumes of the **writings** of Pallotti, edited by Fr. Francesco Moccia. However, although desirable, it was impossible at that time to translate all those thirteen volumes from Italian and Latin into another language. However the idea of a translation of at least the more important writings continued to grow. Fr. Martin Juritsch (Rector General from 1983- 1992) asked Fr. Bruno Bayer and Fr. Josef Zweifel (CH) to accept this challenge. They selected and translated the texts, well known experts on Pallotti wrote the introductions to these texts, and in 1985 the volume "*Vinzenz Pallotti. Ausgewählte Schriften*" (selected writings) appeared. This book answered the needs of so many countries that it was quickly translated into many languages. Because of his profound knowledge of the Founder he was invited to give lectures and conferences on Pallotti and his foundation and to write many articles in our periodical about different aspects of his life.

In 1994 Fr. Bayer accepted the further challenge to publish the **letters** of Pallotti and moved back to Rome. Fr. Ansgar Faller had already collected much information about the people Pallotti had written to, searching in archives in Rome and abroad, and Bruno was very grateful for this immense help. Eight volumes of letters were produced, with an introduction and biographical notes about the events in the life of Pallotti at this time. For him it was not only a scientific work, he grew in the knowledge of Pallotti and his spirituality. Quite often he used to say: "I know exactly what Pallotti would write to me!" The General Council of the time decided to give a copy of the collection of all eight volumes to each of the Pontifical Universities here in Rome. They appreciated this gift very much as an important contribution towards a better knowledge of the church, of the city of Rome and of religious life at that time.

There are still so many things one could say about Bruno Bayer, about his discipline and working ethos, his love for the liturgy of the church. He was always ready to share his immense knowledge about Pallotti and the Pallottine family, about classical music and the beauty of the Latin language.

In 2010 he had finished this great task and returned to Germany. In 2013 Vinzenz-Pallotti-Haus, Herberg, became his home. There, where his Pallottine life had commenced, his earthly journey came to an end. He died on July 21st, 2015 and was buried in the little cemetery beside our house. The Pallottine family remembers Fr. Bruno Bayer with deep gratitude.

**Helmut Scharler sac [CJ] – Friedberg – GERMANY**  
22.08.15  
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item 356

## **Vincent Pallotti: a saint in eternal contemplation**

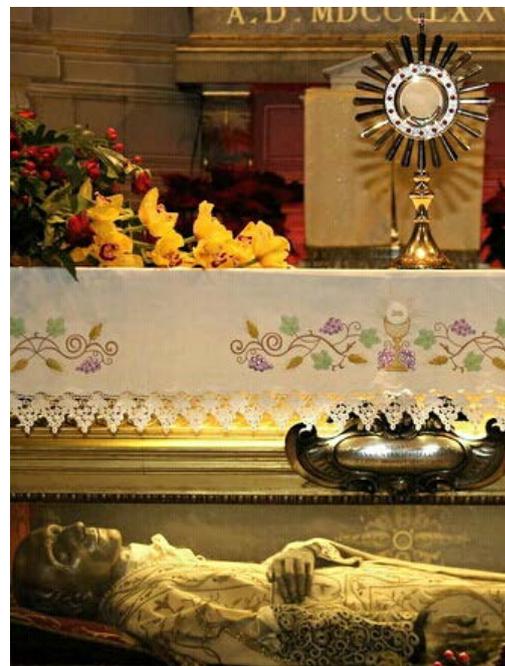
Almost every day we sit and pray before the incorrupt body of St Vincent Pallotti in the church of SS. Salvatore in Onda. We meditate on the silent figure of the Roman saint in a state of deep contemplation. He seems to be in perfect peace. We have tried to listen to him rather than speak to him. We feel fortunate to be in front of a saint; it is no fantasy or imagination. We have tried to imagine what he wants to communicate to us. What might be his spiritual advice for us, simple people, trying to live our Christian life as best as we can?

We feel that he would not speak many words to us. But we can certainly see the loving and caring gaze of a father. He is a person of compassion who can penetrate our outer self and see our innermost being. He has the powerful eyes of a man of God who can scrutinise our deepest aspirations and fragilities. He knows that we are unworthy and poor; we are nobody before him as far as the life of sanctity is concerned. Yet his gaze is compassionate and non-judgemental. He is someone who extends his hands to raise us up! We are reminded of his insistence on the God of infinite mercy. Mercy is God's love in action.

St Vincent, like Jesus himself, finished his public ministry after a short span of life. He died at the young age of 54. Thereafter it is as if he remains in a state of eternal contemplation of his Eucharistic Lord. Above him, at the altar, priests celebrate Mass every day, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and adored every evening.

Our earthly life is so short. We are in a constant hurry to meet the daily challenges of life. How often we live as though this earthly life is unending until we are caught unaware with a mortal illness or accident! St Vincent invites to be contemplatives, gazing continuously at the Eucharistic Lord, the Bread of Life! How we wish that adoration of the Blessed Sacrament be done in all parts of the world!

The words that follow are typical of those of so many saints. They support the invitation of St Vincent Pallotti to be perpetual adorers of the Blessed Sacrament:



“I have a burning thirst to be honoured by men in the Blessed Sacrament, and I find hardly anyone who strives, according to my desire, to allay this thirst by making me some return of love” (Jesus Christ to **St Margaret Mary Alacoque**).

“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us. Next to holy communion, no act of worship is so pleasing to God, and none is so useful, as the daily visit to our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament dwelling upon the altar” (**St Alphonsus Liguori**, Bishop and Doctor of the Church).

“Devotion to the Eucharist is the most noble because it has God as its object; it is the most profitable for salvation, because it gives us the Author of Grace; it is the sweetest, because the Lord is Sweetness Itself” (**Pope St Pius X**).

How beautiful it would be if we begin to enjoy the bliss of divine contemplation especially of the Blessed Sacrament like St Vincent Pallotti himself! His mortal remains in the church of SS. Salvatore in Onda continuously remind and challenge us to be contemplatives in action!

These words of our Lord constantly pass through our minds as we glance at St Vincent in contemplation:

*And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Mt 26, 39-41).*

**Lucia and Marta Carboni – Rome – ITALY**  
**23.08.15**  
**[lulu.carboni@gmail.com](mailto:lulu.carboni@gmail.com)**

**you commented...**

**on #186** Thank you... A very moving story. We are very graced to be living in a much safer, freer country.

**AD 20.09.15**