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

item 363

World Meeting of Young Consecrated Men and Women

The *Year of Consecrated Life* begun with the First Sunday of Advent 2014 and will end on February 2, 2016. Declared by Pope Francis, it has been dedicated to celebrating and offering thanks to God for the gift of consecrated life. The whole year shows that in a modern world, which in some cases has nothing to do with God, religious sisters, brothers, and priests stand today as a rich testimony of the blessings and grace God bestows upon those who have embraced the consecrated life.

Pope Francis chose an appropriate theme – “Wake Up the World!” – calling religious to ‘wake up the world’ with their charisms, the particular ways in which God has called them to live out the consecrated life.

The whole idea of ‘waking up the world’ accurately reflects the charism of St Vincent Pallotti. Long ago, way ahead of his time, he called priests, brothers and sisters to go and proclaim the word of God, proclaim His love. This is what we do as the Society of the Catholic Apostolate. By our consecration, by our work of evangelization, we are called to make this world ‘awake’, conscious of the fact that God is greater than the sin, pain and ignorance that sometimes seem to rule the lives of many.



On September 15th, 2015 representatives of various forms of consecrated life met at the Vatican to reflect on the huge importance of consecrated life today – a so-called ***World Meeting of Young Consecrated Men and Women***. Each day consisted of lectures, laboratories, prayer and just being together. I myself was sent from the *Annunciation of the Lord* Province, Poland.

Each day I spent in Rome, reflecting on the value of consecration, made me realize that being a Pallottine, being a consecrated person is a pure and privileged gift of God. Seeing so many people from all over the world, from many different communities, different countries and cultures made me realize that God’s grace, his calling is able to unite everyone into one community of faith and prayer.

What was even more amazing is the fact that, during our lectures, our group meetings did not theorize about consecration. It was actually the opposite. We realized that, despite different formation programs and places of life and work, despite many cultural differences, we still share the same problems. After each lecture we had time to ask questions and reflect on the practical ways of formation, consecration and evangelization.

There are of course many reflections worth mentioning but I will limit myself only to those that made me realize how valuable is our consecration:

- First of all we as consecrated persons, young people, are called by God to be the carriers of love. We are called to carry love to all the places in our world, which lacks love. But we will not be able to carry any love in our lives, words and actions if we live in communities that are not able to love. This may sound odd but when we think about our communities we will surely find some that lack love. We have to and need to live by the rules of love in our communities in order to carry love out to the world, in order to wake up all those parts of the world that need love.
- Secondly a community that does not invest in formation invests in its own death. Formation is not supposed to end after a few years but needs to last until the end of our lives. Formation makes us more open to the charism given us by God and by our founder.
- Thirdly every brother and sister living with us in our community is not only a gift from God but also, so to speak, a challenge to fulfill. And this is possible only through graces given us by our Lord. All we need to do is open our hearts to receive them. Our holy consecration makes it possible through obedience, chastity and poverty.



After the *World Meeting of Young Consecrated Men and Women* in the Vatican, we began our Pallottine meeting. As a small group from different countries we reflected on the value and essence of our own consecration. We had great opportunities to share our own thoughts and ideas about Pallottine consecration. At the end, we also had this amazing

privilege to meet, talk and pray with our Fr General Jacob Nampudakam sac. He told us that our consecration has to be always a fundamental part of our lives; it has to be something we live by. Also that we should never in our lives and communities create any negativity, any gossip because those are the things that destroy community life. We as Pallottines are called to produce positivity through the charism of St Vincent.

In conclusion, this whole experience made me realize that not only is my consecration part of God's plan for this world but also that, through my consecration, I can live my life in accordance with the calling God has given me, through the community I live in, through the work I do, and most importantly through prayer and evangelization.



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21.09.15
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novitiate in Cameroon

On the 14th September 2014 five young men, all from Nigeria, commenced their training as Pallottine novices in Cameroon. Situated in the east, in the *Diocese of Doumé-Abong' Mbang*, this new novitiate is located in a remote village called **Mbala**.



In 2009 the Pallottines purchased this property from a Spiritan priest who was at the end of his mission in Cameroon. He had been helping poor people suffering from leprosy. Although this disease is considered eliminated throughout Cameroon one can still find traces of it in Mbala.

Our land comprises 2 acres on which there are 3 small two-bedroom houses. The area is pleasant to live in, however we urgently need to build an appropriate Community House. We have begun to repair the existing buildings but they can accommodate only 6 novices whereas we need a building for 20 at least.

The experience of having 5 novices in that first year was not too bad. Together with the novice master, a spiritual formator and one intern student we numbered 8 in all. Officially our novitiate was planned for French speakers but all our novices were from Nigeria, and were Anglophone! Because of that they came to Cameroon 8 months early for French language training.

Regrettably this was not a helpful experience in terms of integration – an important aspect of our Pallottine charism and spirituality. So to resolve it we made an effort, from time to time, to interact with other groups of novices, e.g. the novices of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate. That proved to be very enriching as, with **Sr Ana Kot sac**, their novice mistress, we were able to organize many activities together. She has had a long and rich experience as a religious and as a novice mistress. She is very kind.

Reflecting on this 2014-2015 experience we concluded that it was a quite exciting initiative. We learned many things and hope that the 2015-2016 experience will be even more interesting. This year we are waiting for both Cameroonian and Nigerian novices. We know that, in a few months time, it will become difficult because novices will be living two to a room, but after that we look forward to having a new house.

We want to already say 'thanks' to potential donors! And we request prayers for our novitiate as well as for the whole Pallottine community in Cameroon-Nigeria.

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04.09.15

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sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #190 many thanks for the Asian Bulletin today, it was great to read it.

Sr Liesel worked in our Formation House in Thurles from about 1971 to 1974, together with two other German Pallottine Missionary Sisters. She had a great spirit of fun and would joke with us. However what I most remember her for is her deep commitment to a life of prayer, she and the other two sisters, Juliana and Donata, would ALWAYS be in the chapel before any of the rest of us every morning. They read books on prayer and spirituality and were unofficial spiritual guides for us students. Sr Liesel introduced me to the writings of St Teresa of Avila. She went on to work in the Pastoral Centre in London Colney and then on to Peru, a great example of a readiness to move to wherever God was asking her.

DM 18.10.15

I could add a lot more. She remained closely linked to her Community in England. Sr Marie, when Provincial, visited her in the Andes. Riding a donkey for the first time in her life.

She wrote a monthly report. One sentence will always be in my memory: "I never felt more a Pallottine Missionary than at present in Peru."

On my visit an Australian missionary priest, working in the rainforests, told me:
"When I came on my days off, she had always a bottle of my favourite beer on the table, and she had time to listen"

CB 12.10.15