



E-BULLETIN #193

08-Nov-15

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

item 367

**"Be a flower that blooms -
rather than a tree that never blossoms!"**

Cicero said: "Gratitude is not only the greatest virtue but the parent of all others."

On behalf of the Pallottine family present here I wish to extend heartfelt thanks to our three Generals.

We, the Pallottines of India, are proud of you and touched by your concern for us. As we celebrate this *Year of Consecrated Life* you have dedicated yourself to preach the UAC retreat in India. We appreciate your initiative. Indeed, it has been an historical event for the UAC family in India as well as across the world at large. You yourselves have been a model and burning example for all of us. We thank you and are grateful for your ongoing guidance of Pallottines across the universal church.

Our heartfelt thanks to **Fr. Jacob** for instilling in us a deeper sense of the practical application of our charism. Also for a deeper love of our evangelical counsels with greater freedom, total dedication and commitment. You have challenged us to become other-centered rather than self-centered in our apostolate, and to realise that there is a tremendous amount of Christian joy in giving rather than receiving. Thank you.

Our sincere thanks to **Sr. Isabela** for revitalizing us to become more authentic Pallottines after our founder St. Vincent. You enabled us to rediscover and identify the uniqueness of our charism, which our founder envisaged ahead of his time. Empowered by your spiritual reflection we have grown to love him even more. Thank you.

Words of appreciation too, to **Sr. Ivete**. You delivered a sound theological reflection, based on scripture as the foundation of our consecrated life. You have 'revived our drooping spirits' for when we face challenges ahead. Your words have inflamed us with the spirit and we will radiate that spirit to others. Thank you too.

Marcel Proust says, "let us be grateful to people who make us happy. They are the charming gardener who makes our souls blossom."

Our immense gratitude also to the host, Prabhu Prakash Province and the community of the Pallottine Animation Center, as well as to both the Pallotti Niwas and Pallotti Bhawan communities. Thank you for your tireless and selfless service towards all – the meticulous planning, the physical arrangements for our comfortable stay, the meals and transport. And too for the beautiful ambience for an excellent retreat.



I also thank the office staff, kitchen staff, laundry department, domestic staff, different volunteers for the liturgy group, prayer group and other supporting staff for their dedication and commitment. May our holy founder bless them.

My special thanks to all the Provincials, Vice Provincials, Consulters, Khrist Sevika and Cenacle Sisters. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Finally I want to say that this retreat was truly a unique experience for all of us as one spiritual family. My biggest impression was that we must learn to trust God at all times. Let us celebrate our consecrated life by making God the center of our lives, with a holy cheerfulness and by radical living of the gospel like our founder.

Let me conclude by repeating the line which Mother General Sr. Isabela quoted in one of her reflections. They are from the words of St. John Paul II who spoke to the Pallottine family in 1986.

“Continue to multiply your commitment so that, as St. Vincent Pallotti prophetically announced and Vat II authoritatively confirmed, it might become a blessed reality, and that all Christians might become authentic apostles of Christ in the Church and in the world.”

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item 368

a unique and historic retreat

Being a participant at the Pallottine retreat, held from 19-23 Oct 2015 at the *Pallottine Animation Centre* in **Nagpur**, was a remarkable experience. I thank God that I was able to be part of such a memorable event. The experience was extraordinary in many ways. It was a Pallottine retreat jointly presented by the three Superior Generals of the Core communities – Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, Mother Ivete Garlet and Mother

Izabela Swierad. As such it was a unique initiative. I do not know if ever a retreat was given by three Superiors General in the history of the Pallottine family in any part of the world.



Together they witnessed our common vocation and mission. They showed it was our Pallottine consecration that was the basis of our common call and mission. We share the charism of St. Vincent Pallotti and we profess the same commitment to his prophetic vision of the Union of Catholic Apostolate. So their very presence together sent a very strong message of communion in the true Pallottine sense.

They also showed the common commitment of the Core communities “to ensure the unity and apostolic efficiency of the entire Union” as per the General Statutes of the same Union. In this sense I pray that this will have been a prophetic event. Hopefully it will be the beginning of a renewed effort of the Core communities to rise up to their important task within the Union.

The retreat started with the votive Mass of the Holy Spirit invoking guidance and inspiration for the entire retreat. Without the help of the Creative Spirit of God we can never achieve any renewal. Our discussions and deliberations only bear fruit when they are accompanied by genuine moments of prayer and contemplation.

The first theme for reflection was our Pallottine consecration which is rooted in the sacrament of baptism. To be consecrated means to be “sacred”, to be “set apart”! In this *Year of Consecrated Life* the retreat was a reminder of our religious consecration, that we are consecrated for a mission, to continue the same mission of Jesus. It is this consecration that binds us together as Pallottines!

Then we reflected on the evangelical counsels and their practical implications for our daily life. The three counsels free us from inordinate attachment and increase our interior freedom to love God with joy and serve our fellow human beings selflessly. By becoming poor, we hope to be filled with the richness of the grace of God; by denying our will, we try to make the divine will our own. The key words are freedom and joy.

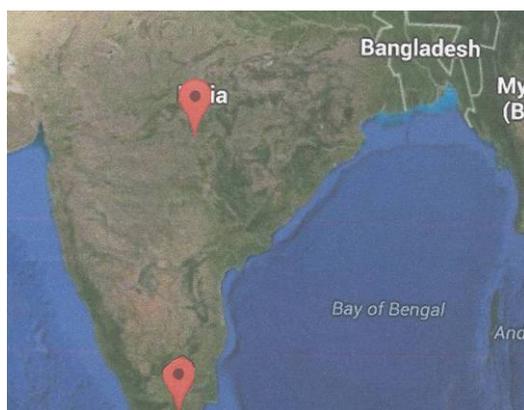
An entire day was dedicated to the Union of Catholic Apostolate. Starting from the divine inspiration given to St. Vincent on 9th Jan 1835, we tried to understand the three fold dimensions of our founder’s charism: to propagate Catholic faith among non-Christians, to revive faith among Catholics and to engage in spiritual and

corporal acts of mercy. How wonderful it would be if we Pallottines could offer our charism as a response to these challenges in the Church and the world! Discovering and sharing the great spiritual treasures of St. Vincent should be treated as a great priority for the entire Pallottine family.

The last day was dedicated to community life and mission. Our mission will be fruitful to the extent that we are able to share in it together, as a community of faith and charity. Communion is a fruit of love and where there is love there is God. So God himself, rather the Most Holy Trinity, is the source of communion. The Union of Catholic Apostolate only has a future to the extent that it becomes truly a project of God.

As a Cenacle Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, belonging to a young community, this common retreat increased my sense of belonging to this bigger spiritual family. I hope that every effort will be made in the future to provide similar opportunities to smaller communities and individuals in the Union across the world.

Previously I had the good fortune to participate in the annual course on Pallottine spirituality in Rome. Beside the studies that was a tremendous opportunity to glimpse the Universal Church and the Pallottine family. Being able to be in Pallotti's room and praying before his body in the church of SS. Salvatore in Onda were unforgettable experiences for me. Experience is something that goes beyond description and learning. Here was a saint who learnt the true meaning of Christian discipleship kneeling in front of the Calvary scene late in the night all by himself. As members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, we cannot think of any other way than living the paschal mystery. It is truly a mystical journey.



I wish and pray that many more such spiritual events may take place in the Pallottine family. In this way we can become more authentic apostles of Jesus before attempting to form others to be apostles. This is the big and life-long challenge for every member of this family.

The recent solemnity of All Saints reminded us of their call to a life of holiness. As consecrated men and women this is our call too. Our apostolate originates and culminates in a life of sanctity. This is Pallotti's way. Indeed this is Jesus' way.

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01.11.15
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you commented...

on # Like wine, maturing with age, he [Fr. Wolfgang Weiss] is only becoming better and even more original. Holy cheerfulness is his trademark. He sings a little less these days in the corridors of the Generalate, probably trying to give good example to the many young student confreres! We wish him a hundred and more years of happy and healthy life!

JN 05.11.15