

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

item 377

## hospice-palliative care in Poland

Pope Francis has announced the *Year of Mercy*, which has just started, and which will inspire us through the next months, to preach and, even more, practice merciful actions in our pastoral activities.

### EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016

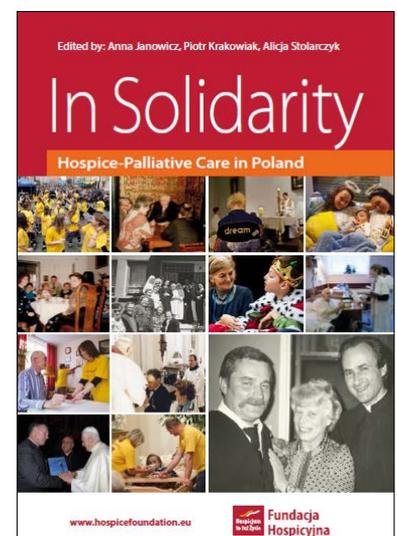


As a Society we have recently embraced the reality of a socio-charitable apostolate in the SAC for the first time in our history. In 2010 Fr Jacob Nampudakam urged the *General Secretariat for the Apostolate* to study the socio-charitable apostolate, which was done under the guidance of General Counselor, Fr Martin Manus sac in various meetings and study visits. Workshops for Pallottines and lay cooperators involved in this apostolate were held in Rome in 2011 and 2015. Socio-charitable matters were researched on field trips to Poland in 2011, to the US in 2013, and to India in 2014. In 2016 a study visit, focusing

on work with refugees, will be made to Germany. At its conclusion the first ever book regarding the socio-charitable apostolate in SAC will be published in English. This will have been the result of a joint effort, a valuable resource for all those who would like to study this topic in Pallottine history. I hope that other language versions will follow, adding the particular histories of this ministry in all the various continents and countries where the UAC serves those among us in need.

Encouraged personally by Fr General, after his recent Visitation to Poznan in Nov. 2015, I would like to present to all confreres the recent book, which I and my lay collaborators have edited. This focuses on Poland. Entitled **"In Solidarity. Hospice-Palliative Care in Poland"** it is the first resource of its kind and is published in both Polish and English. It is available in print and as an open resource online.

I am introducing it because Polish Pallottines, as well as Missionary Pallottine Sisters, with many lay professionals and volunteers (some of them in the UAC), have been very involved in establishing and developing the hospice-palliative care model here. Pallottines run, or cooperate in, the activities of hospices for adults and children across the country. Through their educational activity they continuously serve, in over 400 centers, people reaching the end of their lives, as well as their relatives.



The editors' intention was to present a history of the establishment of hospice-palliative care in Poland as broadly as possible – by identifying its sources and inspiration, through the personal experiences of people involved in end-of-life care and through the stories of particular centers and the organizations supporting them. We invited all from residential and home care centers for adults and children in Poland to participate in this book. We invited contributions from veterans and carers, from those in newly opened facilities, both state-run healthcare institutions and non-government institutions run by churches, religious orders, foundations, associations and informal groups of volunteers.

### **history of hospice movement**

The first part of the book is an outline of the history of the hospice movement, reflecting a variety of human attitudes to the sick and dying throughout the ages. Christianity has influenced the development of the modern hospice movement in Europe and across the world, being continuously an inspiration for end-of-life care.

In the history of modern hospices there is a special space for volunteering. In this book we have tried to describe the selfless commitment of thousands of people, of diverse professions, which has been the foundation of the Hospice Movement in Poland since 1981. Cooperation among health and social care professionals, involvement of the Catholic Church (Pallottines were very involved in this process from its beginnings) and other faith communities, and the social involvement of volunteers, continues to play a vital role, being a distinguishing feature of the Polish Hospice Movement.



### **personal stories of key people**

The next part of this publication is filled with the personal stories and experiences of key people involved in end-of-life care: doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, clergymen, nuns and others. The first of these voices has been given to the late **Fr Eugeniusz Dutkiewicz sac**, who was the first National Chaplain of Hospices and who, since his death in 2002, has been called: "Father of the Hospice Movement in Poland".

### **stories of particular centers**

The third part of this book includes stories of particular centers, presenting their huge diversity.

### **support organisations**

The final part is a presentation of Polish organizations supporting hospice-palliative care, which originated from the need to share knowledge and experience in their daily work around the terminally ill and their relatives.

One of them is the **Hospice Foundation**, which was created by the National Chaplain of Hospices in Poland, **Fr Piotr**



**Krakowiak sac** in 2004. It supports hospice-palliative care through international projects, various nationwide initiatives and through publications [in the series of the Library of Hospice Foundation]. See more information on these activities at: [www.fundacijahospicyjna.pl](http://www.fundacijahospicyjna.pl).

The socio-charitable apostolate, which has been essential since the very foundation of the UAC, has a chance to become the center of our attention in the *Year of Mercy*. It continues to be an important part of our Pallottine identity and apostolic mission.

**Piotr Krakowiak sac – Chełmno – POLAND**  
**04.12.15**  
[piotrkrakowiak@wp.pl](mailto:piotrkrakowiak@wp.pl)

item 378

## from the Formosa mission



It has been quite some time since we shared something of our life as missionaries in Formosa. We are so grateful for the providential blessings of God that inspire us every day to work more enthusiastically in His vineyard. Everything we have comes from a good God through generous people and that makes us grateful. 'Thank you' is the phrase most often found in the conversation of a courteous man – his conversation with God in prayer, his conversation with others.

Right now I would like to say a grateful 'thank you' also to **Fr Adrian Willi sac** for visiting us in Formosa, together with his friend Fr Josef Stuebi, from 14 to 21 Oct 2015. Their visit – a first – proved very fruitful and encouraged us all.

While here he met our Bishop, **Most Rev Thomas Chung**. He celebrated Holy Mass with him, following which they had a long conversation.

Fr Adrian also made it a point to visit the places where we minister. These included Holy Rosary Church, Douliu, where I presently serve as assistant pastor to Fr John the Baptist Wu, the Vicar General of our Diocese. Again they shared a conversation and discussed our ministry here. He later met our confreres working in the Diocese of Taichung.

Subsequently we all had a brief meeting with him in which he expressed his happiness in coming to Formosa and encouraged us to work more zealously in realizing the vision of our founder St Vincent Pallotti. His patience and his humble gestures were noteworthy. We really thank Fr Adrian for his magnanimity in spending quality time with us, especially for his depth of spirit and largeness of heart.

It has often been said that our God is a 'God of Surprises'! Recently we were indeed surprised that a young Taiwanese man, **Joseph Shi**, expressed his willingness to enter our congregation – the first Pallottine vocation from this country. He is presently completing his minor seminary formation in our newly established training facility at Bacolod, in the Philippines. He joined the community there on 23 July last to which, together with his parents, we accompanied him.





We were extremely impressed to experience the hospitality shown by our confreres – Frs Binay [Rector], Komal, Sarjit and Sanju Pani. We stayed there for two days, enjoying a ‘pilgrimage’ on which Fr Binay accompanied us, touring many famous churches and several other seminaries in the vicinity.

Joseph’s parents were likewise very favourably impressed with their reception.

In conclusion, while on one hand thanking God for the first vocation from Taiwan, on the other we seek the grace of perseverance for those He calls to priesthood. And this also extends to another candidate who has expressed his willingness to join us in the coming year.

Together with our founder St Vincent we pray:

“Queen of Apostles and all the angels and saints, pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into Your vineyard and spare your people that united with Him and the Father and the Holy Spirit we may all rejoice for ever and ever.”

**Solomon Raj Titus sac [BA] – Douliu – TAIWAN**  
11.12.15  
[solomon\\_titus@yahoo.com](mailto:solomon_titus@yahoo.com)

## sac asia oceania e-bulletin

### you commented...

**on #197** Thank you for the e-bulletin. I share them with our province members. The second article in this one, in particular, I appreciate greatly given that it is about my local community. It is an honour to welcome confreres from around the world to Pallottine Seminary at Green Hill.

FD 06.12 15