



E-BULLETIN #201

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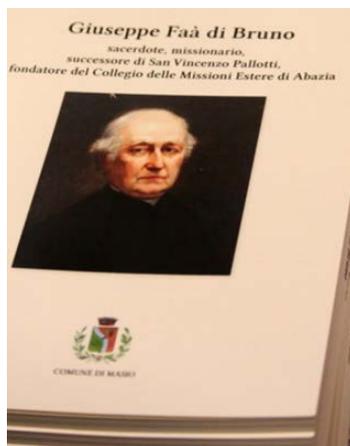
"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 382

one day in Masio



COMUNE DI MASIO



For any Pallottine the name **Fr Giuseppe Faà di Bruno** will be familiar. All of us have heard about the very first companions who, along with St Vincent, began the work of Catholic Apostolate. This past year 2015, saw the 200th jubilee of his birth – called by some Pallottine historians (like Francesco Moccia) the ‘second founder’!

At the Generalate House on 17 Feb 2015, the day of Giuseppe’s birth, we celebrated Holy Mass and remembered the life of our illustrious confrere. Eight months later, on 18 Oct, we departed with great joy and expectation for Masio in northern Italy where Fr Faà di Bruno had been responsible for building a College for missionaries. On the same day the Municipality of Masio, together with the local parish of *Queen of Apostles*, coordinated a seminar on this son of their land.

After 6 hours journeying we seven Pallottines arrived – General Councillors Frs **Martin Manus** and **Francois Harelimana**, Italian Province Rector Fr **Nicola Gallucci**, and Frs **Jan Kupka**, **Mariano Pinasco**, **Norbert Hannappel** and **Artur Karbowy**. We were greeted with great joy by the local people. Seeing some of us in a Pallottine habit several remarked: "How long it is since we have seen Pallottines here!" We were in front of the *Queen of Apostles* church, and beside us was the building which served as the Mission College. We reflected that many earlier Pallottines had left from here to work in other countries of Europe, but also in such far flung parts of the world as America, Africa, and Australia.

Giuseppe was born nearby, in the town of Alessandria, on 17 Feb. 1815. He was ordained priest at the age of 23. In 1844 he met one of Pallotti’s early associates, Fr Rafael Melia, in Turin and moved to Rome to better understand the idea of Catholic Apostolate. At the beginning of 1845 he joined the Society and already in the following year Pallotti sent him to England. There he became known as the builder of the church of San

Pietro, at the time largest catholic church in London. Returning to Rome he was elected the fourth Rector General after the founder, an office he held for 20 years (1869-1889).



Fr Faà di Bruno contributed significantly to the expansion of our little congregation, both quantitatively and qualitatively. When he took over as Rector General the *Pious Society of Missions* [as the Pallottines were then known] had only 12 priests, 3 brothers and several seminarians, all living in only three houses, two in Italy and one in London. At the time of his death, on 18 Apr 1889 it had 83 members - 31 priests, 40 seminarians and 12 brothers - working in 13 communities in 6 different countries: Italy, Great Britain, United States, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina .



At Masio a presentation of the life of Fr Giuseppe Faà di Bruno was jointly delivered by Soave Angelo and Fr Mariano Pinasco. His relationship with our founder, derived especially through the letters they shared, was

presented by Fr Jan Kupka. Professor Fr Gian Paolo Cessana spoke about his well known printed work: "The Catholic Belief", a brief and clear summary of Catholic doctrine published in 1875, which became an amazing sales success [there have been many editions in English, published in the United States and taken back to Italy]. Fr Franco Todisco gave a conference on the College's construction and development. Mass concluded the day's proceedings, presided over by Archbishop Francesco Ravinale, of the Diocese of Asti.



We returned to the Generalate House with great joy, having gained a little more insight into the life of Fr Giuseppe and the existence of Masio, a place so important to the history of our Society.

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item 383

art and sport in formation

Pallotti Bhawan is one of several Pallottine formation houses in India, located almost exactly in the geographical centre, at Nagpur – also known as ‘the orange city’ – in the state of Maharashtra. Its imposing 3-storey structure is a worthy reminder of the energy and zeal of the South German missionary pioneers. It stands as our ‘heritage’ site, one among several seminaries at a locality popularly known as “Seminary Hills”.



Across recent years, through the inevitable process of restructuring and expanding, *Pallotti Bhawan* has undergone several changes. Students of theology have moved away south, to *Prabodhana* in Mysore. The accommodation on this site is now restricted to those pursuing philosophy and degree studies. At the same time it continues to remain co-located with the Nagpur Provincialate. Students from two of the three Indian SAC provinces are housed here – Prabhu Prakash [Nagpur] and Krist Jyothi [Raipur].

The academic staff numbers five – Fr Varghese Pullan [Provincial Rector], Fr Tomy [Rector] together with Frs Joseph Neendukunnel, Royichen Joseph and Rajesh Ummikuzhy. Its 38 students hail from 10 States with entirely different languages, cultures and traditions – a compelling portrait of composite India. It is delightful to see the barriers recede as the community moves forward and grows. Graduates have an opportunity to pursue degree studies in a College nearby.

A major contributing factor to the integral formation of the students is the provision of varied programmes and extracurricular activities categorised under the title: '*Pallottine Arts, Sports and Cultural Competition [PASCCO]*'. It is a program intended to not only develop their inner potential and creative ability but also to nurture a community spirit within the group, encouraging personal adjustment and cooperation. Activities include track and field events, indoor games and stage programmes. *PASCCO*, which operates year-round, has become a unique platform for students to step up and prove their mettle.



This year 10 Oct. was particularly 'historic' and memorable, made so by the presence of Fr Jacob and the Mothers General of the Pallottine Sisters. For our part it was a privileged moment and they were generous in expressing their appreciation. Our own General concluded, paraphrasing the words of our Founder:

“not food but God, not drink but God....not only art or sport but also God!”

This year's was an event which will be etched into the history of Pallotti Bhawan and also into the hearts of all present.

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you commented...

on #199 I was truly moved at reading E Bulletin #199, the story of "Faraja" in Africa, and the reflection on "He was born in Bethlehem and lives in the Eucharist". How powerful both articles were. I am printing it out to share with our Sisters at Queen of Apostles Convent and with our Q Of A Cenacle. Thanks for all your efforts to keep this periodical going.

MR 31.12.15