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

item 405

UAC in Banaswadi

- **concept of UAC:**

'New way of Being Church' - a church where priests, religious sisters and lay faithful work together as a common priesthood with apostolic spirit and love of Jesus Christ. St Vincent declared a call for holiness to make God the centre of our lives.



- **vision of St Vincent Pallotti:**

UAC aims to promote the vision of our patron St Vincent Pallotti, that every baptized catholic should be a good catholic and every good catholic should be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

His vision is to revive faith among all catholics by family prayer, devotion during eucharistic celebrations, attending church retreats & novenas, participating in church community festivals, fellowship, cultural events and observing the sacrament of reconciliation especially during Lent.

Rekindle the spirit of charity in the church and in the world, reaching out to children, elderly, specially disabled, sick people in need of help and assistance, counselling those addicted to drugs/ alcohol and substance abuse.



- **action plan for UAC at St Vincent Pallotti parish, Banaswadi:**

The first UAC seminar was held on 19th Jan, 2013 in the community hall of the church. Pallottine Frs Vijay Thomas, John Peter and Ralph Besterwitch conducted the seminar, attended by 65 parishioners including Sister Congregations in Bangalore.

Twenty three aspiring members attended 1st formation training from 8th Dec 2013. Another nine attended 2nd formation training from 30th Aug 2015. Finally, twenty three chose to make their commitment which is scheduled on 24th Jan 2016, the feast of our patron St Vincent Pallotti. Those who did not opt for commitment decided to remain as collaborators.

UAC parish activities

- Organizing the exposition of the Holy Bible of St Vincent Pallotti [31st Aug and 1st Sep 2013]
- Conducting intercessory prayers for petitions received from parishioners
- Visiting the sick, bedridden and lonely parishioners
- Administering the Holy Eucharist to terminally ill parishioners
- Providing financial assistance to needy parishioners to meet medical expenditure
- Assisting financially in the education of needy children of our parishioners
- Obtaining blood donations for hospitalized parishioners in need of blood and platelets
- Providing free counseling for elders, parents and children
- Providing free tuition for 5th & 6th standard children in maths, science and english
- Organizing parish community events to financially support the mission of charity

- **future plans:**

UAC plans to expand its activities for more charitable works of mercy and social service such as financial support for education of needy children, partly finance medical expenses of needy parishioners, eye cornea donation, organ donation, Swatch Bharat, etc., in our parish.



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what is the Union of Catholic Apostolate?

St Vincent Pallotti founded his life on a profound experience of the merciful love of God. He was never tired of repeating: *“My God, my God, infinite mercy, infinite love”*. And he insisted strongly that man, being the image and likeness of God, is called to love with the love of God. It was this love that inspired St Vincent to found the Catholic Apostolate.

He reminds us that no one truly loves another unless he seeks for the other the same good as for himself. No one loves another unless he works for the salvation of the other as he does for his own. Working for the eternal salvation of others is what we call apostolate. The evangelizing mission, the proclamation of the good news, the transmission of the faith, is a necessary consequence of the commandment of love received from the Lord.

This call is universal. He calls all to seek, by all means, the salvation of all. This apostolate has as its ultimate purpose the Union. So when we talk about Union of Catholic Apostolate, we are talking about three characteristic features: unity, catholicity and apostolicity, which means universality. To awaken this universal vocation to the catholic apostolate, St Vincent founded what is now called the Union of Catholic Apostolate, which implies lay and ordained ministers, men and women sitting at the same table.

Pallotti made it clear that, with this foundation, he did not want to create a new movement in the Church but to gather a group of people (priests, deacons, consecrated, and lay people) to serve the Church's mission, rekindling what already exists and giving life to the people of God to fulfil their apostolic mission. So we must not save efforts to generate media, tools, and training for the apostolate. To grasp that all the baptized are apostles, sent on a mission to awaken faith and rekindle charity, was something difficult to understand at a time where the apostolate was the exclusive mission of the church hierarchy in Rome.



It was only many years later that ‘Catholic Action’ was initiated in order to organize the laity to assist in the hierarchical apostolate. At the time canon law did not even provide a structure whereby lay and ordained ministers have equal membership and mission. Although in Pallotti’s time it was immediately approved by the Diocese of Rome, it took a very long time for approval at the level of the universal church. St Vincent founded the Union in 1935 (and several years later created the Society of Fathers and Brothers to ensure the unity, training and animation of the entire Union) it did not receive pontifical approval – as an International Association of Faithful – until 2003, the year in which its Statutes were approved.

It is in these Statutes that the animation of the Union is organized at the local, national and general levels. There are three original foundations of St Vincent Pallotti: the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Fathers and Brothers), the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate.

Across time new foundations, communities and members joined. The National Coordination Councils receive and accept new members of the Union [except in the case of the three original foundations; in their case the membership is given by consecration into the respective communities]. As it was said by a former General

Rector, the mission of a member of the Union is not to increase the number of Plottines but to enable men and women to become committed to the evangelising mission of the church.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, is the Patroness of the Union. In the Upper Room, as narrated in Acts, the Holy Spirit descends on Mary, the mother of the Lord, the Apostles, some relatives of Jesus and some women. The Holy Spirit drives the evangelizing mission of the whole nascent Church. The Virgin, for St Vincent Pallotti,



was the Queen of the Apostles. This is not merely an honorary title, she really is. She did not receive Holy Orders, but she is given this title which means that ministry does not depend on ordination but is based on baptism. Baptism unites us to Christ, Apostle of the Eternal Father. To join him, he made us sharers in his own mission, apostolate.

This was confirmed by Vatican II, as stated in the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* and the document *Apostolicam Actuositatem* on the mission of the laity. It was also underlined in documents of various Conferences of Latin American Bishops, especially at Aparecida, which stated that every baptized person is a missionary disciple, sharing in the mission of Jesus Christ.

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