



E-BULLETIN #228

10-Jun-16

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

item 429

"...Looking back I see how God guided me..."

In August 1946 our family had to leave the town of Ziegenhals, in Salesia, due to the annexation of eastern Germany by Poland. We came to the north German diaspora town of Wilhelmshaven, on the North Sea which had been largely destroyed by aerial bombing during the war. As a consequence we had to live in barracks previously occupied by the military. Religious services were conducted by a Pallottine in what used to be a canteen.

The town was largely Protestant. However the Schoenstatt Family had already been active there for several years. Three of the diocese's parish priests were members of the 'Community of Schoenstatt Priests'. There was another Pallottine in the area apart from the one who celebrated Mass with us. He lived at the so-called 'Marienheim' belonging to the Marian Sisters and offered special pastoral activities for the area in the spirit of the Schoenstatt Movement.



As there was no youth group in Wilhelmshaven another high school student and myself were sent to Schoenstatt to attend a conference during the Easter break in 1950. Fr Finster sac gave the talks. He told us then that the Schoenstatt Movement wanted to realize the basic idea of Pallotti. He said that his own talks were not so important, but that the main thing for us would be to pray to the Mother of God in the shrine. Until then I had been a Christian out of habit. The situation in our small camp and the anti-Catholic prejudice of the diaspora were a great challenge to my faith. So I urgently prayed to the Mother of God for strength and inspiration. And I received it as a gift. On Easter Sunday we participated in Vespers at the Pallottine Seminary. There I met more than 120 Pallottine seminarians. This was a decisive encounter for me. I realized then in which direction my life should be heading after my matriculation.

On my return I became involved in promoting the youth work of the Schoenstatt Movement, aiming at the 'Marian Christian formation of the world'. Every year we travelled on our bikes to Schoenstatt to participate in conferences conducted there by the Pallottine priests – Frs Finster, Klein and Brantzen.

When I entered the novitiate in Olpe I found out to my surprise that there were tensions between Pallottines and Schoenstatt. I had never heard of these before. I could not understand that the priests in Schoenstatt, through whom I learnt to esteem and love the Church, should have been disobedient towards the Church.

But I was convinced through the talks our novice master gave us. Only then I found out about the novelty and greatness of the vision of Pallotti.

When it came to the separation of Pallottines and the Schoenstatt movement I was sad in a way but on the other hand I felt a bit liberated. The Schoenstatt apostolate in Wilhelmshaven had been very fruitful. But its special features, which determined the whole life of the parish, led to tensions and divisions. Now I saw the possibility to reach *all* people, to approach and inspire them.

After my ordination I would have liked to go to the missions. But my superiors indicated that I should do some special training in Canon Law, in which I had never had any interest. Although compelled to do further studies I would have preferred something pastoral. When I talked to Fr Gustav Vogel about this he told me that Canon Law was a very pastoral subject. I put forward my reservations but did not press the point. Looking back I see how God guided me and I am grateful.

In 1967 I started to lecture at our seminary in Vallendar and also at the University of Trier. But in order to be fully available for my involvement in the SAC and the Union I decided to terminate my service in Trier in 1990. As from 1993 I was able to work, together with our legal commission, on a legal commentary to the Law of the SAC which was completed in 1999.

At the same time I was able to take part in the endeavour to produce General Statutes for the Union, already strengthened by Vatican II, for approval by the Church. Work on these Statutes was carried out in a number of stages after the 150-year jubilee of the Union in 1985. The first draft, in seven languages, was sent to all members for comment.

Many of the comments and suggestions were incorporated and the document was presented to the *Pontifical Council for the Laity* (PLC) for approval. In their response the PLC asked us to explain why we did not rather approach the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of the Apostolic Life*. I was privileged to participate in working through the reasons we had for this:

- that the foundation of St Vincent Pallotti comprised not only the Pallottines and Pallottine Sisters, but many other communities and individual members
- that his foundation has elements similar to other movements which originated after Vatican II and which Pope John II placed under the supervision of the PLC.



In this way, on October 23, 2003, we succeeded in achieving the official establishment of the Union and the provisional approbation of the General Statutes by the PLC.

During the Pallotti Triduum in 2004 the president of the PLC told us that the decree of October 2003 commits us to the Church in a way and to a degree which has never before been received by any Society:

“Start out, as a community and as individuals, with your view firmly on Jesus Christ, like Mary, the Queen of Apostles! Enrich and promote the Church with the extraordinary spiritual heritage which Pallotti entrusted to you! His charism contains undreamed of riches which have not been plumbed or made fertile completely by far. Make use of this opportunity which presents itself to you for the first time in your history! Doing this be faithful to the original vision of your founder, but at the same time open to the demands of the present!”

Ever since then I have been able to participate in all AGMs and meetings of the General Coordinating Council of the Union. At the 'Hochschule' I cared for the Union-group during their first years of establishment. This task has since been taken over by Fr Ulrich Scherer.

I am so grateful to God for that. Also that – despite my 83 years – I am now able to be of help as we reflect back to the original vision of the foundation of Pallotti and its insertion in the total mission of the Church. I am sorry that I am now able to do this only from my desk, in meetings and in prayer, because I have neither the time nor the energy to go to the peripheries of the Church in order to promote the message of our founder and to make it bear fruit.

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27.05.16
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item 430

Mary....succour in forming apostles

The **Jesus Youth** movement has always had a special devotion to Mother Mary. In the initial years, every prayer meeting and gathering, small or big, would have a time of remembering Our Lady and imploring her intercession. And this has had a powerful impact on the way the movement was led by the Spirit in the ensuing years and its growth worldwide as a 'missionary movement at the service of the church.'

In this regard, the year 2005 is significant for being the year when **Jesus Youth** was specially consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Undoubtedly, her heavenly intercession has been a source of immeasurable grace, protecting and safeguarding the movement from all harm and enabling it to weather every storm and to persevere in the face of the varied challenges it confronted – of culture and language among others – as it was gradually planted in different countries across the globe.

The need to streamline the formation of its members, particularly to form them as missionaries, slowly emerged as a priority and in 2013 the **Jesus Youth House Holds** were envisaged as a means to achieve this end.

So also, Pentecost Day was chosen as the day of commitment/ recommitment of all members of **Jesus Youth**. This was when **Jesus Youth** turned to Mary in her role as Queen of the Apostles for succour in forming apostles. For there in the Cenacle Mary was surrounded not only by the disciples of Jesus but several apostles, many of them women as they awaited the descent of the Holy Spirit. And the picture of Mary Queen of the Apostles was chosen with this in mind and a prayer was set forth to be prayed at every *House Hold* gathering:



"Mary, Queen of the Apostles, pray that every **Jesus Youth** be transformed by the power of Pentecost and sent forth to be true 'missionary disciples' of your son Jesus".

The powerful patronage of Mary Queen of the Apostles is already bearing fruit, drawing the movement to the heart of the church, and a confirmation of its efficacy is to be seen in the granting of Pontifical recognition to **Jesus Youth** on 15 May 2016 – the very feast of Pentecost!



We sincerely thank Rev Fr Jacob Nampudakam sac, the Rector General and the Pallottine congregation for allowing us to use the image of Mary Queen of the Apostles.

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30.05.16
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sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #227

The Pallottine mission in Peru is outstanding and unique in many ways. Having visited this new mission twice, I must admit that it is one of the most challenging missionary efforts in the Pallottine world. The nearly zero temperature for most of the year, the narrow roads on the dangerous mountain terrains, the numerous pastoral duties, etc., make this mission demanding in so many ways. Yet our two young Pallottine priests from Brazil and the three Cenacle Sisters from India are doing a marvellous work of evangelisation among the Peruvians spread over a huge geographical area. They have won the hearts especially of the young people. This mission belonging to the Immaculate Conception Province (USA) teaches us also the important lesson of the true meaning of collaboration in service of the Gospel.

JN 03.07.16

I particularly enjoyed this issue of SAC Oceania. As I have been working with young people these past years I can identify and understand the joy of being with them and helping them become who God created them to be. I am happy to hear about a first and new Pallottine vocation from the mission in Peru.

MR 04.07.16

Congratulations for the beautiful article about our mission in the peruvians high mountains. If God want the beginning of next year, we will have three priests missionaries in our mission.

JEF 05.07.16