

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

item 434

### Pallotti Museum – INDIA



Since the call of Vatican II, for religious congregations to get back to their roots so as to draw inspiration for the present and future, the Pallottines have been researching their beginnings. All the General Superiors since then, without exception, have promoted this return to the sources. It is thus that we discovered the hidden treasures of our charism and began to give it new expression.

As part of this ongoing drive, Rev Fr Fritz Kretz [Rector General: 2004-2010], in his own characteristic style strongly recommended that **Pallotti Institutes** be established in each of the major language zones. He deemed it proper to set up an Institute here, within the Mysore Theologate, for the benefit of the english speaking world in general, but particularly in view of the hundreds of students who pass through the portals of this theological centre. Thus a modest institute was set up in Prabodhana in 2010.



With the appointment of Fr Mathew Kanjiramkalayil sac as director of our Pallotti Institute, slowly things began to happen, and the concept of a **Pallotti Museum** gradually crystallized. It was not to be simply a replica of something existing elsewhere, but an historical museum in the sense that it would graphically depict the life, ministry and charism of St Vincent Pallotti and the history of his Pallottine foundation as it unfolded in different parts of the world, with particular focus on India. Fr Mathew painstakingly gathered an



enormous amount of material from every possible source, organized it and sought the collaboration of Fr Royichen sac who is an artist by instinct, training and profession. They worked together for several months and realised this 'dream' project. It was blessed on the occasion of the Diaconate ordinations of 15 of our students on 29 Jun 2016.



We greatly appreciate the exemplary perseverance of Fr Mathew and the artistic attire tailored by Fr Royichen, in which facts and figures of Pallottine history are gracefully wrapped. The Pallotti Institute in Mysore will certainly serve as a reference point for Pallottines everywhere and will directly benefit hundreds of students of Pallottine history in the years to come.

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item 435

## **proud to be a Pallottine**

'Proud to be a Pallottine' is the happy thought constantly recurring in my mind these days, at the close of the annual course on Pallottine Spirituality which I have attended in Rome.

Happy because I have come to know a lot about our founder, St Vincent Pallotti. Looking back I am even surprised myself how it was that I entered the Pallottines at age 16, after my schooling. Surely Pallotti himself was guiding that decision!

Our course this year consisted of 3 elements:

- a course of study of the Italian language – at the University of Urbaniana
- a course on religious formation – at the University of Teresianum
- a course on Pallottine spirituality



As the year developed I grew to appreciate more and more the reality that Pallotti was in fact a great saint, he had a huge heart that embraced the whole of humanity. It was this that led him to the notion and vision of a universal apostolate – that every baptised person is called to be an ‘apostle’.

He argued that priests, religious and laity are all called to an apostolate, to participate in the mission of the church. Everyone has a role in working for the salvation of the world and the salvation of souls – a unique vision in his time. It was this universality that led me to choose for my thesis the theme: < **St Vincent Pallotti - a model apostle for all, and for all time** >.

Mass every Wednesday in the church of San Salvatore, where Pallotti’s incorrupt body rests, was an enriching experience right throughout the year. Added to which was the love, friendship and fellowship of confreres from all parts of the world – a joy-filled experience!

Our course was carefully planned, and delivered by experts such as Fr Jan Kupke sac, Fr Jean Bertrand Etoundi sac and others. It also included lecturers from Pallottine Sister congregations. By way of activities several visits to important sites in Pallotti’s life were included – San Georgio parish where his family lived before they settled in Rome, Frascati where he celebrated his first Mass, the monastery of Camaldoli where he went for personal retreats, including prayer and penance. For me the most enriching experience was



to be able to visit his room at Camaldoli and to see the altar and crucifix in the sacristy there – a marvellous and spiritual experience. We also visited Pia Casa, the home he initiated in Rome for orphans and poor girls, now in the care of Pallottine Sisters.

Of course I cannot forget the joy I gained by visiting his own room within the Generalate, his chapel and the vestments and daily articles he used now stored in a museum there.

All these enriching experiences have renewed me personally and given me a joy that is inexplicable.

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**on #230** Thank you for the significant words of Pope John Paul 2 and how good to celebrate these Popes with such a vision for the whole People of God.

**MG 24.07.16**