



**E-BULLETIN #235**

**28-Aug-16**

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

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item 441

**40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

We are here, gathered together at the altar, to celebrate the sacrifice of eucharistic love which Jesus left us, and with it to honour the memory of the five Pallottine confreres (**Fr Alfie Kelly, Fr Peter Dufau, Fr Alfredo Leaden** and the students **Salvador Barbeito** and **Emilio Barletti**) who, forty years ago today, were the object of a ruthless and cruel assassination just a few metres from here and which took place on this carpet which today covers the altar, an event which continues to touch Argentinians and in particular the church in Argentina....



[St] Paul himself, who up to moment of his encounter with the Risen Christ boasted of his strict observance of the old law....enlightens us by telling us that if he had anything to boast about it is "the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world."

Paul discovered in his process of conversion that in the cross, on the body of the crucified Master, the infinite multitude of sins and the hatred of the whole world came to nothing, and that surprisingly Christ transformed it into love. Paul boasts of his Christian freedom, and he has just confessed that it is the Cross alone which attracts him, because it is only the Cross which unites him to Jesus Christ. When the Apostle says that nobody is to trouble him from then on, because "the marks on my body are those of Jesus", he is referring to the marks on his body caused by the chains in prison and the punishments he had to suffer because of preaching the Good News of God. These were his credentials denoting his belonging to the Risen Christ, of whom he had seen the stigmata of his passion.

Likewise, the scars of Jesus for the cause of the Gospel were seen on the bodies of our religious confreres who were assassinated during the early morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1976. It was thus that they presented themselves before the Lord of Mercy. If 'what matters is to become an altogether new creature' Paul adds,

the Christian faith ...teaches us to read events in terms of Easter, and thus even the most humble person lives what happens to him in another manner in the knowledge that death is not the final word, but rather is the anteroom of life in Christ.

Communities of consecrated life – such as that formed by the sons of St Vincent Pallotti in this neighbourhood – are sent to announce with the witness of their own lives the value of Christian fraternity and the transforming strength of the Good News.... Such communities are places of hope and of the discovery of the beatitudes. They are places where love, drawing strength from prayer, the wellspring of communion, is called to become a pattern of life and source of joy. Why not think that they were thus committed to the fraternal life, those Pallottines who tried to live faithful to the charism which moved them. They passed their lives in fraternal coexistence, in pastoral service of so many of the faithful of this parish, in prayer, in the celebration of the sacraments, dispensing as good administrators the multiform grace of God, serving the poor and helping those who were weakest in the path of faith to walk.

Those who believed themselves to be judges and so could dictate a sentence of death to our brothers did not know that ever since the first centuries of our Church:

“Christians do good yet they are punished as evil doers; being punished by death they rejoice as if they were thus given life. They, punished by death every day, increase the more in number. This is the position to which God has assigned them and which it would be unlawful for them to forsake” (Letter to Diognetus V, 16; VI. 10-11).

A fourth century Father of the Church taught that the blood shed by martyrs became seeds of new Christians. The paradox of Christianity is surprising that, notwithstanding the weakness of its members, it is from this very weakness that it grows, is strengthened and increased by the courage of witnesses of the faith who announce the Gospel even in the midst of adversity and who suffer for Christ at the risk of their own lives.

We know that martyrdom is a gift, it cannot be sought. But their brothers of the Congregation, who knew well those who took their lives, wish to present to Mother Church what can be called a baptism of blood. She



will know – with her wisdom and the experience of centuries – and tell us what the place of our brothers is in the Church of Heaven. Meanwhile we, pilgrims, gather their relics as grateful memory of the men who embraced consecrated life, who lived animated with an authentic evangelical style and who gave us examples of virtue and commitment. May the Lord Jesus, who knows what is in the heart of man (cfr. John 2,25), pour out on our friends the mercy of the Father who revealed his face among us.

**✠Mario Aurelio Cardinal Poli**  
**PARROQUIA SAN PATRICIO – BUENOS AIRES – ARGENTINA**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**



**item 442**

Dear brother:

*I received your request to write a brief message to unite myself in communion in the Mass which will be celebrated in memory of the Servants of God Alfredo Leaden, Pedro Dufau, Alfredo Kelly, Salvador Barbeito Doval and Emilio Barletti, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their deaths.*

*I knew Fr Alfie Kelly personally, a priest who thought only of God, and as you know, I have followed his tragedy from the perspective of faith, given that this is the key to his life and also of his death.*



*To remember these witnesses can be a stimulus for all of us. In remembering we are presented with a life of commitment, of forgetting oneself, and as servant of the Gospel seeking to be where one's Lord is, among the least of all.*

*May the Lord Jesus, who called them to this vocation, bless them and the Blessed Virgin protect them.*

**Francis**  
**The Vatican**  
**4<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

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**sac asia oceania e-bulletin**

**you commented...**

**on #234**

It is with sadness that I read of Bishop Seamus Freeman's early retirement in this weeks E Bulletin. As the overview of his priestly life shows he has been a true son of Vincent and accepted many roles as he was called. In particular I am very grateful for Seamus's passion and work in bringing Vincent's charism to realisation through his commitment to the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

**CS 22.08.16**