



## E-BULLETIN #32

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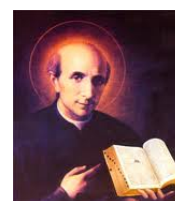
*"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5,16)*

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item 67



### **musings of a Pallottine on "PORTA FIDEI"**



*Oh, Our Holy Founder and Father, St Vincent!  
As a member of your family of the Union,  
I stand at the "Porta Fidei",  
How I wish that you could read it to us, your children of the Union!*

*As you start reading it,  
I see your friendly face being lit up with a beaming Smile!!!  
Because, as you read those lines written by our Pope Benedict,  
You find your own Grand Vision and your Pet Themes for our Mother Church!*

*Pope Benedict seems to have captured your Mind, espoused your Ideals,  
and endorsed your Vision for our Mother Church!  
Sure, you are more than glad, right?  
So are we, your Children of the Union!*

*When the Pope writes about the New Evangelization, and the Year Faith,  
it resembles very much  
your own ideas of "Reviving Faith and Rekindling Charity",  
rooted in an unrelenting spirit of Hope.*

*Oh, our Holy Founder and Father, Vincent, your Values and your Vision,  
coupled with your personal and pastoral experience are reflected very much  
in those lines of "PORTA FIDEI".  
As the Children of the Union, it makes us happy indeed!*

*Oh, our Holy Founder and Father, St Vincent,  
continue to inspire us with your Visions and Ideals,  
so that we are able to keep journeying in our pilgrimage  
that lasts for the whole of our life time!*

*Continue to lead us, your Children to the Well (no. 3) as the Pope writes  
Continue to help us, to feed on the Word at the Well  
Continue to help us to drink from the Living Water offered at the Well  
So that we are able to continue our Pilgrimage of Faith like our Samaritan Sister!*

*She started out staring at the Lord and calling Him "a Jew !!"  
But as she journeyed, sure, helped by the Lord,  
She experienced Him as "a Prophet" and "the Messiah !!"  
We your Children of the Union want to make similar journeys starting at the Well !!*

*Oh, our Holy Founder and Father, St Vincent,  
Pope Benedict seems to enter right into your frame of mind (no. 7)  
When he quotes, "Caritas Christi urget nos"  
A Quote which you used so often!!*

*We, the Children of your Union, want to be impelled by the very same Love!  
We want to be impelled with the same sense of joy in believing and practicing!  
We want to experience the celebration of Faith (no. 9)  
through the liturgy of the Eucharist as you did!*

*As Pope Benedict writes about  
The fusion of "I believe" and "We believe" (no.10)  
Oh, Holy Founder and Father, We your Children,  
Want to experience the joy of this fusion in our Union!*

*Oh, our Holy Founder and Father, you kept reminding us  
that, in Christian life, "there is more to do than to say....  
few words and many works...."  
Continue to inspire us, the Children of the Union, to have this way of life!*

*When the Pope reminds us (no.15) of the many women and men  
who lived in Silence and Solitude,  
We are reminded of your silence in the early Mornings, your late Nights,  
and those silences and solitude you enjoyed in the Cloister of Camaldoli!!*

*Oh, our Holy Founder and Father, St Vincent, as we your Children of the Union  
Celebrate the Twin Golden Jubilees of your Canonization and of Vat. II  
We want to be closer to you to experience the joy of Reviving our Faith,  
And to keep ourselves Evangelizing Ever Anew! Be with us! Amen!*

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item 68

## THE SPIRITUAL PATRIMONY OF THE SOCIETY OF CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

Apostolic life has been the ongoing creative witnessing to the 'Infinite Love and Mercy' after the model of Christ the Apostle of the Eternal Father. In the modern era of consecrated life, the Oratories of St Philip Neri cradled a renewed trend in the life of perfection rooted in a bond of communion and shining forth in active apostolate. In

the context of this prevailing trend St Vincent Pallotti was endowed with a special gift to recognize and proclaim Jesus Christ as the Apostle of the Eternal Father, and to evoke the apostolic consciousness in every member of the faithful. The universal dimension of this gift became visibly evident as, in the recent centuries, Societies of Apostolic Life developed into a canonical institution in the Church, manifesting a state of perfection equivalent to the consecrated life in a religious institute. Hence, it is possible to reflect upon the spiritual richness of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate in the light of our Apostolic Vocation.

The defining characteristics of life in apostolic societies may be spelled out as: “Their members, without taking religious vows, pursue the apostolic purpose proper to each society. Living a fraternal life in common in their own special manner, they strive for the perfection of charity through the observance of the constitutions” (CIC, can. 731). The motivating factor for this fraternal communion and the subsequent apostolic activity is the Love of Christ that impels the members towards the perfection of charity, not formal canonical vows seen as essential for religious communities of monastics, orders and congregations. A perfect model for such a lifestyle, according to St Vincent Pallotti, is the first community in Jerusalem in which everyone cherished the unity in Spirit and was urged to pursue the apostolic mission of Christ. Imagining himself to be together with all creatures in the Cenacle, he highlights his apostolic intention for the Society, to bring the entire creation into one spirit-filled cenacle family.

The nature of our apostolic Society could be said to be religious in spirit and secular in outlook, whereby the members being inwardly perfected in consecration, extend their apostolic mission in an appropriate way to the exigencies of the secular world. Hence, the members adopt the evangelical counsels only as spiritual dynamics to reinforce their commitment to follow Christ who is One with the Father, and sent as the Apostle. The essential elements of our vocation as a fraternal life in common, committed to the perfection of charity and participation in the apostolate of the Church, are rooted fundamentally in the nature of Christ. The spirit of the Society is therefore to imitate Our Lord Jesus Christ with all possible perfection in all of his inner life and in the works of his apostolic ministry. Having cherished a perfect intimacy with the spirit of Christ, St Vincent Pallotti exhorts *sequela Christi* to be the fundamental law of the Society. Therefore the members are to earnestly desire and make every effort towards the imitation of Christ and be enriched by his obedience and fortitude.

In the context of the historical manifestations of the impulses of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of aiding the Church through diverse charisms, St Vincent Pallotti was bestowed with a prophetic spirit for the purpose of the radicalization of Christian life. He was filled with zeal in order to awaken the apostolic consciousness among all the faithful so that every person and every effort may be directed towards the purpose of the Church. To actualize his prophetic vision he strategically resolved to revive the faith of Catholics, re-ignite their love, and ultimately unite all in Christ. By this universal apostolic outlook he intends to highlight the intrinsic value of every member of humanity created in the image of God and recognise their unique position in the salvific plan of God. He urges everyone to support each other on the road to their final destination, to avoid any sort of indifference towards the eternal loss of a neighbour, and to diligently use every means for their salvation.

The charism of our Society is therefore essentially ‘Catholic’ and ‘Apostolic’. It is a dynamic manifestation of the gift of the Holy Spirit that is progressively realized through the sound traditions of the Society. The Spirit that makes all things new, calls for a creative fidelity to the spiritual inheritance obtained through St Vincent Pallotti. It demands venturing into new initiatives with complete openness to the divine inspiration, and creatively witnessing to the holiness of the founder in response to the needs of the times. Moreover, the spirit of our charism constantly draws our attention to the cenacle community in which the Apostles were constant in prayer and fellowship under the special patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Apostles. St Vincent Pallotti affirms, “Through her most powerful intercession, Mary asks for the graces, gifts and mercies that each one needs in order to achieve, in a successful and lasting manner, the aims of the Union”. The Blessed Virgin Mary is a perfect model for prayer, works of charity and zeal and she is the ultimate example for our Apostolic Life.



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