

## E-BULLETIN #35

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

item 73

**"GO FORTH"**

### HONG KONG

On 5th September 2012, the map of the Pallottine presence in the world was enlarged by a new mission field: **Hong Kong**. The French Region of Divine Mercy has de facto assumed pastoral responsibility of the French community in this country.

What inspired our confreres to go to the antipodes was the Final Document of the XX General Assembly that affirmed: *'Without a true missionary spirit and apostolic undertaking, our Pallottine charism will lose its internal dynamism and our entities will lose their vitality.'* Another push was given in a letter from the Rector General, Fr Jacob Nampudakam, after the last Official Visit to France in which he challenged the Region

to venture into new missionary ventures in spite of their limited number of members and material resources. After the necessary consultations within the Region, and with the competent authorities, the Regional Council in its meeting of March 26th 2012 decided to undertake a new mission in Hong Kong and was ready to send **Fr Remigiusz Kurowski sac**.

Thus on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Fr Remigiusz Kurowski left for the new mission in Hong Kong. As per the agreement with Cardinal John Tong, our confrere will serve as the Chaplain for the French Speaking Catholic Community in Hong Kong. Thus the Pallottine presence is extended to one more Asian country.



## SANTA LUCIA

Four days later, on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012, two confreres from the Christ the King Province left for **Santa Lucia** to start a new mission in this Caribbean island. Confreres from the same Province have already had a presence in the neighbouring island of Barbados for a number of years.

Thus the Society is now actually present in about 48 countries around the world. We have a few ordained priests and students from Malawi but we haven't yet established our presence

there. In the same way, the Mother of Divine Love Province has admitted a number of students from Uganda, though our community is not yet established in this country either.



There are people and entities which are always reluctant to enter into any such new missionary ventures. Any proposal for a new mission is often dismissed with the caution to be “realistic” and “prudent”. Others complain of not having enough members and financial resources. Without doubt we need to assess well, as the Gospel says, if we have sufficient resources to complete the building. Our greatest asset, though, is not the amount of money that we have in the bank, nor the numbers of strong men. The greatest and the indispensable asset that we need is the zeal to share the Good News of Jesus to as many persons as possible and “trust in divine providence”. There were a lot of people putting a lot of money as offerings into the temple in Jerusalem but Jesus took note of only one person: a poor woman who put in all that she had. Probably she needed that money for a piece of bread but she did not care about that. She knew that if she were generous towards God, he too would be generous in return.

In my opinion, the primary motive for the decline of religious communities and many institutions in the Church is our reluctance to move out of our “comfort zone”. When we really imagine ourselves to be rich, we are actually poor. When we imagine that we are totally secure, we are in reality afflicted with all sorts of vulnerabilities. The folly of God is much wiser than the greatest of human wisdom.

Recently one of our Provincial Rectors told me that he believed in having new missionary ventures. Most probably in the coming months he will be establishing our Pallottine presence in another two countries. He told me that he has as many as four priests in some of the parishes in his Province with about 10,000 people. In most of our parishes in Brazil, for example, we have 40 or 50 thousand people and we have a maximum of two priests. Besides, these two priests have to travel hundreds of kilometres and visit 50 to 90 communities in the parish. So, as someone who has seen the needs in the

world, he said that these confreres should have the courage and generosity of heart to move out of their “comfort zone” and make themselves poorer, less secure and more hungry. If they do so, they find the true happiness that accompanies a life of simplicity and generous giving.

I find a certain trend in many communities of Sisters in Rome and elsewhere in the world. There are many great religious Sisters who do wonderful work for the Lord and the people. It is also not difficult to find many Congregations with little missionary zeal. The argument is that there is enough work in the community itself or in the country. If one thinks that we can step out only after converting all the people of Brazil or Italy or India, there would never be anyone ever moving out. Some others might argue that even plate washing in the kitchen is an apostolate. It can truly be an apostolate and we all should be willing to do such works. Missionary zeal does not mean always going to distant lands. The question is will the young people of today embrace priestly or religious life today if we do not have anything to offer as a worthwhile challenge in their lives? Will they be attracted to our way of life if we do not present the practical witness of people who are living the Gospel message in all its radicalism?

Just two German Pallottines went to India in 1951 and today we have three Pallottine Provinces of our Society – of course, also with all the other components of the Union. Just one confrere left for Poland more than a hundred years ago and today we have our biggest Pallottine community in that country, consisting of about 650 members. Another one left for Cameroon and he implanted the Catholic Church itself together with the Pallottine community. These are all historical facts. The Catholic Church itself has grown into its present size because of the initial works of just 12 disciples of Jesus, always accompanied by the Holy Spirit. If they had remained closed up in Jerusalem for fear of the unknown, the Church would not have grown to its present situation.

As Pallottines, following Jesus ‘the Apostle of the Father’ means being always conscious of the fact of “being sent”. But before going forth, as the Gospel of Mark tells us, we need to be one with the One who is sending us (cfr. Mk 3, 13-14).

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**29.09.12**  
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