



"Fate risplendere la santità di Dio". "Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5,16)

ITEM 13

MISSION WITH A VISION

"Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveller's bag or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking stick: workers deserve their living". (Mt. 10:9-10)

In the light of the above mandate of Jesus and with the experience of my visitation to the Holy Trinity Region of the Pallottines of Cameroon and Nigeria in Africa, I would like to reflect on how to build up a mission with a good vision right from the beginning.

There is a great truth in the above mentioned words of Jesus. Jesus sent out his first missionaries to spread the message of the Gospel not with material things but with the power of the Word of God which had a tremendous capacity to pierce the hearts of the people who listened to them and transformed their lives and made themselves as the channels of grace for others. Here I would like to emphasize that our missionary endeavours should not be hampered by concern over economic dependency. We need to build a renewed vision with a mission to work towards realizing the ideals set by St. Vincent Pallotti to build God's kingdom here on earth. By *vision* I mean the *goals we need to set here on* and by *mission* I mean *objectives we need to achieve* to reach the goal.

When Jesus said 'don't take anything for your journey' he did not mean that one has to suffer and die on the way but he meant that a missionary while living in the new community also will make use of the resources that are available in the community for their continued sustenance. I believe every country has sufficient resources to maintain its members and also to carry out charitable works but there should be someone who is able to guide us to utilize our resources in a right and fitting manner. Greatness of people depends on trying to live a dignified life by one's own hard work and commitment.

Since our charism does not restrict us to one particular way of work there are immense opportunities in the developing countries to begin various types of apostolates through which we can also focus on developing a mission with a vision for self-sufficiency.

Here I would like to pin point some of the possible apostolate in the developing countries:

1. Education Apostolate (Schools, Vocational/Technical Training/Coaching Centers)

2. International Collaboration with other Pallottine entities and Dioceses around the globe
3. Agriculture with cash crops and Animal husbandry on large scale like poultry/piggery farms
4. Mission Preaching within the country and outside the country
5. Fund Raising Programmes and mission appeals in Parishes
6. Adoption of poorer parishes by parishes with a good income
7. Creating a Network of Local Benefactors & Consolidation of Mission Secretariat
8. Renting lodging and boarding for University Students
9. Exercising Spiritual Ministry in retreat houses
10. Pallottine Mission Sunday for special collections
11. Investing less on buildings and focusing more on Apostolate

Before starting any of these ventures one has to evaluate the possibilities and the best option for the particular place or location. One has to also work out the possible income and expenditure and see what is best in the given situation. No doubt any venture involves a lot of risks and dangers but if we are not ready to face these two unavoidable elements then we cannot expect to grow. Therefore the Provincial/Regional Councils have to take bold decisions and try to realize them step by step with the help of the members.

I would like to conclude my reflections by saying that the opportunities are many but we need to also find the right people for the right job. Finally, we will be able to utilize all the means available to us when we are ready to work selflessly for the development of the Province/Region.

Fr Norbert Sequeira sac – Rome – ITALY
Assistant to the General Bursar
05.03.12

ITEM 12

Pallottines in the Zambian Mission

Our Pallottine presence in Zambia was pioneered by Missionaries from Prabhu Prakash Province, Nagpur, India on 07 December 2005. After six years of tireless effort from the Missionaries who came to work in Zambia we can proudly say that a solid foundation was laid and our pastoral involvement in the Archdiocese is much appreciated. So far five Missionaries have been appointed to Zambia and two senior members offered their service for a short term. During the past six years many confreres, both from the General Administration and the Provincial Administration, made visits to Zambia. The present and the former Rector Generals have visited Zambia and stayed with the members to encourage us and explore future possibilities for development. The Vice-General Rev Fr Adam Golec SAC will be visiting Zambia Mission from 26 to 30th March. Currently we are only present in the Archdiocese of Lusaka and there are only three confreres.

The Pallottines are entrusted with the pastoral care of the Holy Family Parish, Mandevu. Last year Divine Mercy Church Chaisa, the sub-parish of Mandevu, was raised to the status of a quasi-parish and taken up by the Archdiocese. Holy Family Parish at Mandevu has achieved remarkable development under the pastoral care of **Fr Shaji Mathew** the Parish Priest and all the confreres who have worked there. With the help of our Pallottine confreres and others around the world we are educating hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children every year. Of late Sunday Catechism classes are being organized for all the children of the parish, and hundreds of children up to Grade XII are regularly participating in the 10am Mass which is followed by the Sunday Catechism. Fr Shaji is also building a kitchen, a few classrooms, a meeting place with thatched huts, benches for

the church etc. Many activities are simultaneously going on in every available space in that little compound around Holy family parish.

A Formation House was inaugurated and blessed on 05 April 2010 about 30km away from Lusaka with a view to promoting vocations, and six students started their formation in the first year. Unfortunately none of them completed their one year Postulancy and the academic year was closed prematurely which of course contributed to immense disappointment and frustration both to the members working in the Mission and to the Superiors. Presently an extension is being built to facilitate the Formation of students. The new extension will have a Chapel and classrooms and dormitories for the students. The work is expected to finish before June 2012. We are hoping to take the candidates for the next academic year by the middle of June. Fathers at the Formation house are also pastorally involved at the outstations around the house, and there is a proposal from the Archdiocese to create a new parish and entrust it to the Pallottines. These outstations are all along the highway and easily approachable from the Formation house. These are positive indications for further expansion of our Mission in Zambia.

Already we are engaged extensively in the education of orphans and vulnerable children, in care for HIV/AIDS patients, and in supporting various other self-help groups at the parish level. A lot more could be done with additional resources and personnel. We are also concerned about generating income for the seminary. Since Lusaka has a high population density we have built a couple of houses which we rent. We have acquired a concrete block-making machine at the Formation House to facilitate construction, and we also market concrete blocks. The Formation House has got about 23 acres of land and income is also generated from agriculture.

However there are also challenges which stifle our growth. One major challenge is scarcity of genuine vocations. Of course there are many young people who desire to become priests but they lack real motivation and fail to seriously commit themselves to the demands of the Priestly Vocation. This is a common experience of most of the Religious Congregations. On the contrary the Dioceses seem to have more students who persevere, perhaps due to the flexibility with which they deal with the problems of the students. However I feel that, in a country like Zambia which has a history of only 100 years of evangelization, missionaries will have to work hard in sowing the seeds of the Gospel and be patient in reaping the fruit of vocations.

Fr Sijoy Thomas sac
Director, Pallotti Green House – Lusaka – ZAMBIA
29.02.12

ITEM 11

Fr Sarjit Xalxo – the confrere from the East in Uruguay

Although Mass Media and technology have reduced the distances and we are in a position to know rapidly whatever is happening around the planet, this does not mean that we are now more united or that the communication has become more human. Often we hear terms like “foreigners”, south, north, east and west. In some countries disunities and fundamentalism are ever on the increase.

But for us, as Pallottines, where does a country begin and where does the other end? Where is the boundary that separates one continent from the other? Which is the boundary that separates one community from the other?

The boundaries that divide and the walls that separate are all human creations, often forced by fear. The indifference towards others and the fear to open oneself to new life do not come from God.

The first Pallottines who crossed the oceans and continents knew little of regionalism. The world today needs our testimony of being and belonging to a single family that lives and works together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

For this reason our little Pallottine community in Uruguay has received with much joy and hope the generous presence of **Fr Sarjit Xalxo**, coming from the former Region of the Light of Christ (Raipur, India). This collaboration opens the way to great enrichment and is also for us a clear sign that we are not alone. We hope that this collaboration will continue to grow and will eventually enable us to realise the Pallottine charism as a living reality in Uruguay.

Our community in Uruguay remains grateful for the generosity of the confreres of the new Province of the Light of Christ, Raipur, and the evangelical spirit of Fr Sarjit. Let us hope that this new venture will lead to a growth in our missionary and international spirit, and will enable us to serve the People of God always as a single Pallottine Family.

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28.02.12
