

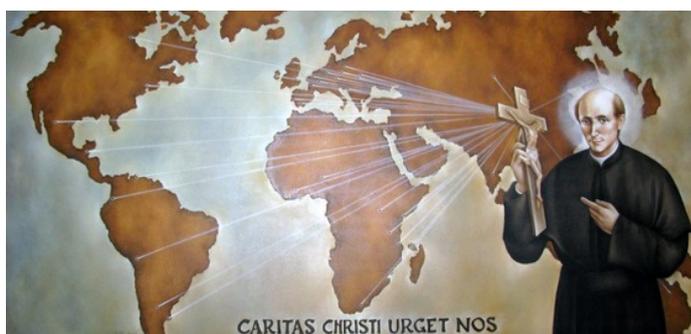
E-BULLETIN #72

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

item 136

UAC – leaven of hope

"Through the spirit of faith, hope and love, the purpose of all our thoughts, words and actions remains fixed on God, from whom comes all good and to whom everything returns" (St Vincent Pallotti, OOCC, II, p.63)



We live in a world of consumerism, secularism and political upheavals which influence our daily lives, not much different to the time of St Vincent Pallotti. In today's trend, families are becoming smaller and the world a *global village*. With all the attractions that surround and captivate our attention from left, right and centre, there is very little space left for faith to really grow in the hearts of individuals and families who are thus leaving the Church to choose the glittering world. In the midst of such a world, here comes the UAC, as a leaven of hope for the Universal Church, which has as its charism, close...very close to its heart, to revive faith and to rekindle charity.

Ecclesial communion is an element of the UAC which is a significant aspect in the life of the Church at large. Even though we are living in the networking era, we face problems of broken families, youth keeping themselves aloof from the Church and wanting to live away from their own family, kin and kindred. To make matters worse the divisions in the Church and in society, caused by party politics and walls built by nations and individuals in the name of caste, colour, creed, sex, race, religion and power politics, degrading human dignity itself, pose a challenge to the members of the UAC to spark that ray of hope towards the mission of ecclesial communion in the Church. Thus the members of the UAC have a unique call to first and foremost witness to unity, and to respect every human being, by living in collaboration and love among themselves. It's difficult, but let us not be disappointed! With Pallotti let us constantly pray: *"I trust in you! My hopes will not be in vain."* (OOCC X, p54, STA 233) Therefore let's take it as a clarion call of Pallotti himself, who exhorts us saying: *"All the parts of the Union must be united so that they keep each other vigilant and in constant action, so that no one suffers loss of will, reduction of zeal or cessation of works."* (OOCC III, pp.156-157). Eventually we can prove to the broken world around us, by our deeds of love, togetherness and collaboration, that a life of hope is possible!

This year is a Year of Faith. For Pallottines, who have a special call to rekindle faith, it is yet another challenge to a world which is searching for answers, experimenting with new ways and discovering new paths to tread upon. Amidst this kind of world the UAC once again conveys its message of reviving faith by bringing hope to questions unanswered, and light to paths still undiscovered. *Faith* keeps knocking at our

doors at all times, bringing with *her* radiant Hope – but are we ready to open our doors to *her* when *she* knocks and make it our personal charism to share *her* with others as well? By strengthening ourselves, along with Mary in the Upper Room, we are called to Mission: to be a leaven of Hope to revive faith to all, courageously, lovingly and zealously, thus conforming to the totality of our charism...of rekindling charity as well in the hearts of all.

To conclude I would like to invite you dear friends to join Pallotti himself who, when he found himself in brokenness, would attempt without losing hope to seek the mercy of God and trust in Him at all times. So may we his daughters and sons follow his noble example in drawing all our hope from God and in turn, become a leaven of hope by our call to the UAC to heal the broken world around us. Hence let our prayer along with Pallotti be: *“My God...in your infinite mercy allow me...to promote, establish, propagate, perfect and perpetuate the pious institution of the Universal Apostolate...so that you may be known in the world by a reflection of your infinite charity.”* (OCC, X, pp 198- 199; STA, 281)

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item 137

final message: continental meeting – SAC major superiors of Africa

Confreres, with this final message we wish to extend to you our cordial greetings from the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast. We thank God for this providential opportunity to come together to discuss matters concerning Africa and to seek together inspiration, encouragement and solutions in order to forge ahead with the mission entrusted to our community and to face with courage and trust in God the challenges that lie ahead.

The continental meeting of Major Superiors (Provincial Rectors, Regional Rectors and their delegates) February 18-23, 2013 with the participation of the Rector General, Fr Jacob Nampudakam and Fr Francois Harelimana, General Consulter, discussed the various issues and matters concerning our Pallottine presence and the development of our Society in Africa. This meeting followed the theme of the previous continental meeting held in Kibeho, “Africa, get up and walk”. These are the focal points that emerged from the reports of the entities:

- the foundation of new missions in Malawi and Uganda
- the future of the St Joseph Delegation
- collaboration in common houses of formation
- financial issues
- the Ratio Educandi pro Africa
- report of the Permanent Group for Africa.



This Permanent Group, of 4 members who have expertise and experience in Africa, was appointed by the General Council as an auxiliary body to examine common projects and policies in Africa and their implementation, to clarify the Pallottine vision for Africa, to identify and monitor projects, to examine budgets, to oversee contracts between entities, to help entities with self-sufficiency projects.

A Permanent Secretariat for Formation was appointed to assist the General, Provincial and Regional Councils to realize and implement their orientations and decisions concerning formation in Africa. The Coordination Team was re-elected for a further 2 years.

Our meeting took place in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere and in a climate of prayer under the protection and guidance of our Holy Founder, Vincent Pallotti and of our Patroness, Mary, Queen of Apostles and our Lady of Peace.

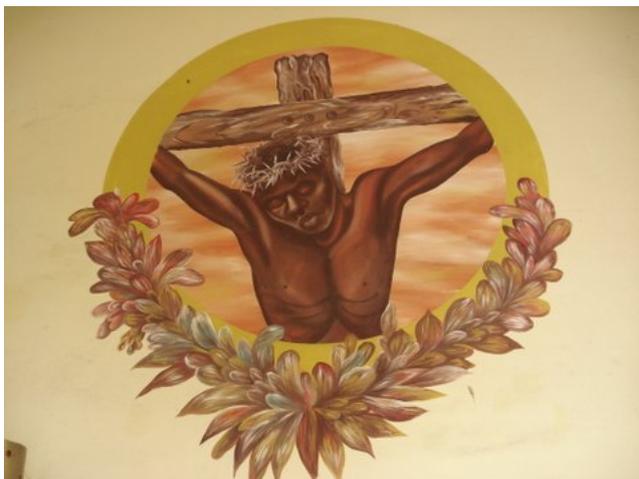
On the whole, dear Confreres, having heard the reports from various entities it is clear that the Pallottines are doing good work in Africa. We are growing in response to challenges. The Continental Meeting of Major Superiors commends the good work done by so many confreres in Africa and so many initiatives for the development of our presence in Africa.

The African Continent is a continent of hope for our Pallottine future, it has great potential and human and material resources. We wish to encourage you to continue the good work you are doing. We wish to recall again what Pope Benedict XVI said: "Africa is a spiritual lung of humanity today", and so let us take our future into our hands. We call on all to be more transparent and honest in managing our resources and properties and consistent in implementing policies and decisions.

The meeting has strongly recommended that we work together and develop a culture of collaboration at all levels of our apostolate and to constantly create ways and means towards self-reliance projects in all entities in Africa. We encourage you all, dear confreres to work together to solve our own problems and find solutions to our issues.

We deeply share with you the firm conviction that Africa is not a continent of problems, despair and a helpless place. We are moving towards a change of mind-set and style of life.

Dear confreres, we thank you all for your dedication and zeal in your various fields. We share with you the firm conviction that "Yes We Can". We also share with you the firm conviction that we live in a wonderful world despite our crises. We do not despair. We have a lot to offer to the Church and to the whole Society



of the Catholic Apostolate. Blessings of God are abundant in our Continent with many vocations to our Pallottine consecrated life. This meeting is hopeful that many good things will continue to happen in our entities when we commit to working together with transparency and honesty in seeking the growth of the mission entrusted to us.

Let us join hands to face and address our challenges, let us be open to work with all to rekindle faith, and to revive charity in this changing world. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, our Model.

Entrusting you to the loving care of Mary Queen of Apostles and confident in the intercession of Saint Vincent Pallotti, we wish you a good season of Lent and a blessed Easter.


Fr Florent Eloundou sac
Permanent Secretary


Fr Romuald Uzabumwana sac
President


Fr Jacob Nampudakam sac
Rector General

Yamoussoukro
23 February 2013

you commented...

on #71 thanks for E-bulletin no. 71 - interesting material

PH 10.06.13