



E-BULLETIN #84

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PALLOTTINE FAMILY

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Pallottine Family,

Greetings in the Lord!

During Angelus on 1st September 2013, Pope Francis sent out a desperate appeal for peace in Syria, condemning the use of chemical weapons and calling for a day of prayer and fasting on **7 September 2013**. “No more war!” Francis cried out at the Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square. “Violence never brings peace: war brings war, violence leads to more violence,” the Pope said, inviting those involved in the Syrian conflict “not to become closed in guarding their own interests” but “to be courageous and determined to try and find a middle ground and negotiate, overcoming blind conflict.” The Holy Father added: “God and history judge our actions and we cannot escape this judgement.”

Today, I add another intention to your prayer for peace. Kindly read the enclosed letter from Fr Romuald Uzabumwana, SAC, Regional Rector of the Holy Family Region of the Society and President of the NCC-UAC in Rwanda and DR Congo. The many years of silent war in the DR Congo has left devastation and suffering to millions of helpless people. Only when the situation becomes so grave as in Syria, the world pays close attention to such tragedies.

Our confreres and sisters are working in this country with great courage, just for the sake of the suffering people. They deserve our support especially through the prayers.

Indeed, fasting and prayer are two powerful instruments to overcome the power of evil. Therefore, I appeal to all the members of the Pallottine Family to unite themselves with this prophetic appeal of Pope Francis to pray for peace in Syria, in DR Congo and in the entire world.

I kindly request you to send out this appeal to as many people as possible through every possible means of communication like websites, emails, facebook etc.

May God be glorified!

Jacob Nampudakam, SAC
Rector General SAC and Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Union
Rome, 3 September 2013

APPEAL FOR PRAYER FOR PEACE IN D. R CONGO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pax Christi.

I hope you are doing well in your mission. I am writing this message to ask you again to pray for peace in DR Congo. It is during this week that heavy fighting has resumed, around the town of Goma, between the Government Army and the M23 Rebels. According to the Radio broadcast news and witnesses from credible people who are living in the town of Goma, some people have been killed and many wounded including civilians and some bombs have been launched in the neighboring town of Gisenyi in Rwanda, killing some civilians and the tension is now growing between Rwanda, which is accused of backing M23 Congolese rebels and DR Congo, which is accused of backing the Rwandan Rebels (FDRL).

With regard to the Pallottine presence in Congo, we have 4 Pallottine communities: 2 in Keshero (1 for priests/brothers and 1 for the Pallottine sisters, including 3 formation houses) and 2 in Ruthuru Parish (1 for Pallottine priests/brothers; and 1 for Pallottine sisters). For the moment we have telephonic contacts with the confreres and sisters, but those who are in Ruthuru are cut off road communication, because of heavy fighting. Yesterday, I suggested all the Pallottine communities (including the lay members) in Rwanda and Congo to organize the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the night and today we have decided to fast from eating, in order to pray for peace in this Great Lakes Region. In Kigali-Gikondo, this morning we concluded our night adoration with the celebration of mass for peace in Congo. It has been a nice experience which can be repeated every week. During this mass, we welcomed a strange guest among us: Mr Piotr, who arrived in Kigali on Thursday, doing his pilgrimage on foot from Poland to the Shrine of our Lady of Kibeho; his long pilgrimage has started last year in October 2012 in Poland, among his intentions there is also prayer for peace. It has been a happy coincidence of events; during the mass organized on Saturday, with lay members of UAC, he shared with us his touching experience of conversion which led him to take this initiative.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, we, as Pallottine family working in this troubled Region, we are serving God in the delicate situation, but we have been experiencing God's protection and love, especially during this jubilee year of the 50th anniversary of Pallotti's canonization and the year dedicated to Faith. As in 1994 in Rwanda, we have decided to stay with the suffering people in Congo, witnessing to them God's love, and this is the way we can give hope to them. During the last weekend, I managed to arrive and visit confreres in Keshero, where the situation is relatively calm and the communication is maintained. There I celebrated mass for peace with our confreres, sisters, many religious and lay people living in Keshero. However the situation in Ruthuru Parish is preoccupying, I could not arrive there because the road is cut and we are trying all means to maintain telephone contact with the three Pallottine priests and one sister who are still there with other religious congregations. Meanwhile, our prayer for peace is intensive and this why I am writing you this message asking you to accompany us with your prayers.

Thank you very much and may God bless you.

United in Pallotti,



Fr Romuald Uzabumwana sac
President of the NCC-UAC in Rwanda and DR Congo
Kigali, 02 September 2013