



UAC NEWSLETTER

October 2010

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month brings biographical material on the cause for beatification of **Franciszek KILIAN SAC**, prepared by Fr. Jan Korycki SAC, Postulator General of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, as well as other UAC news.

1. CAUSES FOR BEATIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE UAC AT DIOCESAN LEVEL (continued)

Franciszek KILIAN S.A.C. a priest and member of the Polish Province was born on October 10th 1895 at Zawada, in the region of Pomerania, he died in the concentration camp at Auschwitz on March 2nd 1942. The Cause of Beatification was officially opened together with that of other martyrs on September 17th 2003 in Warsaw. Fr. Henryk Kietliński SAC is the Postulator at the Diocesan level.

On finishing the Minor Seminary at the Marianum College in Wadowice he entered the Pallottines in 1916, he studied Philosophy and Theology in the Pallottine Major Seminary in Germany and was ordained to the priesthood there on July 9th 1922. He then went on to study Sacred Scripture at the University of Warsaw and at the Biblicum in Rome and then became professor at the Pallottine Major Seminary at Ołtarzew in Poland. He served on the General Regime of the Pallottines as General Secretary from 1932 to 1937. On his return to Poland he reassumed his teaching role at Ołtarzew and served the Polish Province as provincial consulter.

The Nazis arrested him together with other confreres on May 16th 1941. Initially he was placed in the prison at Pawiak in Warsaw and later transported to the concentration camp at Auschwitz. Fr. Killian, like all his fellow prisoners in the concentration camp, suffered greatly, however he helped others and had special attention for those who were depressed by encouraging them, supporting them spiritually and bringing them closer to God, in fact he spent more time caring for others than for himself. An eye-witness, Fr. Konrad Szweda, recounted how priests died in Auschwitz, of Fr. Killian he said: *"He gathered together for prayer those prisoners who had given way to desperation, he comforted them, heard their confessions and he secretly preached"* (SAC Archive, Warsaw). Two supervisors of the enforced hard labour singled him out for particular abuse. Fr. Konrad Szweda described this ill-treatment: *"When the assistant head of the camp realized that he was a Catholic priest, he beat him cruelly, he mistreated him, he kicked him in the stomach and threw him out of the work crew"* (Ibid).

He was severely weakened and so unable for the work and was condemned to death by starvation in the death block. Fr. Killian accepted this death sentence calmly. He made his confession to Fr. Konrad and together with some others he walked to the block from which nobody ever returned alive, he died there on March 2nd 1942. News of his death spread quickly in the entire camp. Those who knew him proclaimed: *Our consoler and apostle has died. He is a true martyr for the faith and for Poland.* His body was incinerated in the crematorium of the concentration camp.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, the General Chapter of the Pallottines in 1947 recognized Fr. Killian as a candidate for beatification.

2. The XX General Assembly of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate took place at Ariccia, (Roma), from September 20th to October 15th. The new General Regime elected during the Assembly is formed by: Fr. Jacob Nampudakam (India), Rector General, Fr. Adam Golec (Poland), Vicar General, the consultors, Frs. Francois Harelimana (Rwanda), Gilberto Orsolin (Brazil) and Martin Manus (Germany), the Procurator General Fr. Vitaliy Gorbatykh (Ukraine), the General Bursar Fr. Gerald Dwyer (Ireland) and the General Secretary Fr. Markus Reck (Switzerland). The closing concelebrated Mass of thanksgiving was led by the new

Rector General in the Spiritual Centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, and a large group of members of the UAC participated.

Friday October 8th was dedicated to the UAC, at the morning sessions several members gave presentations on the Union: from Berlin (Lissy Eichert and Bro. Klaus Schneider), from Avella (Sr. Anna Simeone), from Bielsko-Biała, Poland (Marek Kalka), from Brazil (Fr. Joao Pedro Stawicki) and from Ireland (Mgr. Séamus Freeman). Following on from this there was a round-table discussion chaired by Fr. Derry Murphy, President of the UAC, in which Corrado Montaldo, Vice-president, the General Superiors Srs. Serena Cambiaghi CSAC and Izabela Swierad, accompanied by Srs. Saleté Cargnin CSAC and Josephina D'Souza SAC, participated. The debate and discussion was both animated and lively.

On Saturday October 9th in the afternoon session Fr. Francesco Todisco introduced the topic of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the canonization of St. Vincent Pallotti which will take place on January 20th 2013, on this occasion representatives of the UAC were also present as was Sr. Anna Sardiello, General Superior of the Eucharistic Sisters of St. Vincent Pallotti accompanied by Sr. Margarita. There was general consensus that the occasion will serve to honour our saintly Founder and to reaffirm our participation in the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. There will be a series of initiatives to mark the celebration at all levels of the life of the UAC.

The website of the Assembly still functions at www.sac.info/2010

The Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate in New York have written to say that there is a new feature available on the Province website under "What's New", at www.pallottinesisters.org

3. India, the delegature of the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate became a Province on August 15th 2010, the first Provincial Superior is Sr. J. X. Clara SAC, we pray for the Lords blessing on the Sisters in this new stage of the life of the community.

4. The formation Centre 'Il Cenacolo', Via G. Ferrari 1, Rome, a new formation initiative started at the Cenacle in this month of October, it is a one-year course for Pallottine formators. The aim of the course is to offer the participants an opportunity to study and deepen their understanding of topics such as our Founder, his foundation and Pallottine formation as well as taking advantage of courses here in Rome on Consecrated Life in the Church. There are eleven participants from the Society and they work in Brazil, Colombia, Mozambique, Tanzania-Kenya, Rwanda-Congo, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Zambia and India, there are seven Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate who are working in Brazil, India and Italy. The course is organized and animated by the persons who are responsible for formation in the Core Communities and it is directed by Fr. Stanisław Stawicki, SAC.

5. Celebration of the Union, October 28th this year marks the seventh anniversary of the erection of the Union in the Universal Church. Continuing with the practice established in 2004 the members of the UAC in Rome and the surrounding areas will gather on Saturday October 23rd at 16.30 in the Church of Spirito Santo dei Napoletani, Via Giulia, Rome, where St. Vincent Pallotti was Rector from 1835 until he moved to SS. Salvatore in Onda with his small community in January 1846. The concelebrated Mass will be led by the Rector General Fr. Jacob Nampudakam with the participation of the General Superiors Sr. Serena Cambiaghi CSAC and Sr. Izabela Swierad SAC.

Let us all join in this week of recollection and thanksgiving for the gift of the Union and let us pray that we may be ever more committed to the mission of the Church so that Christ may be known and loved.

6. Tanzania-Kenya, On May 16th 2010 in the Church at Siuyu Catholic Mission in the Diocese of Singida a total of 33 persons from Siuyu, Mwisi, Makiungu and Wibia made the Act of Apostolic Commitment in the Union in the course of a concelebrated Mass led by Fr. James Amasi, president of the NCC.

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