



# UAC NEWSLETTER

December 2010

## Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month brings biographical material on the cause for beatification of **Paweł KRAWCEWICZ 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)

Brother **Paweł KRAWCEWICZ**, S.A.C. a member of the Polish Province was born on August 20<sup>th</sup> 1907, and he died in the concentration camp at Ohrduf on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1945. The Cause of Beatification was officially opened together with that of other martyrs on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2003 in Warsaw. Fr. Henryk Kietliński SAC is the Postulator at the Diocesan level.

Brother Paweł (Paul) Krawcewicz was born of a Polish family living in Bohum, Germany. He entered the Pallottines in Poland and made his first consecration on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1929. As a Pallottine he worked in the printing press and in the bookshop in Warsaw. He was noted for his zealously in living the religious life and in the life of community. In

1942, during the Second World War, he volunteered to accompany a group of Polish deportees who were being transported to Germany to work there. He wanted to accompany them in this their time of suffering by giving them moral and religious support and material help. The Nazis discovered what he had done and he was arrested by the Gestapo on April 29<sup>th</sup> 1944. He was savagely beaten, then he was taken, firstly to a detention prison in Brauweiler, from there he was brought to the concentration camp at Buchenwald and finally to the camp at Ohrduf in Turingia.

In the course of the interrogations in prison he was beaten so violently that the guards had to take him three times to the infirmary (hospital) so that they could resume their unbelievable treatment of him after a few days in the infirmary. From the prison he was taken to the concentration camp at Buchenwald and from there to Ohrduf. He was much weakened by hunger, by hard labour and the ill treatment meted out to him, he developed tuberculosis and he died on March 11<sup>th</sup> 1945, having spent just two weeks in the infirmary of the concentration camp. Fr. Józef Nowak S.J. who was a companion of Brother Paweł in Buchenwald and was also his confessor, emphasized that he was always calm, serene and absorbed in prayer. He never repented of his courageous decision to serve the suffering despite that fact that from the very start he was aware of the continuous danger of being arrested and even being condemned to death.

Fr. Andrzej Bardecki, who also was a companion of Brother Paweł in the concentration camp, in remembering him made the following observation: "I hold that the man, who for God knowingly exposes himself to death and then dies, is a martyr" (Letter dated 19.11.1946).

Brother Paweł died at 37 years of age, he lived 16 years of Pallottine consecrated life. He is a model of heroic love for ones neighbour, a love which was lived entirely for reasons of faith. Numerous persons, and in a special way the brothers of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, pray assiduously for his beatification.



**Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland.** During the weekend of November 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 the sixth symposium organized by the Vincent Pallotti Institute in the Pallottine retreat centre at Konstancin-Jeziorna was held. The title of the gathering was: *Cooperation – the Pallottine gift and task*. The director of the Institute, Fr. Mariusz Małkiewicz SAC had invited three speakers to address the gathering: Fr. Sławomir Pawłowski SAC, who spoke about the Church as the home and school of communion; Fr. Stanisław Stawicki SAC, presented the topic of cooperation in the vision of St Vincent Pallotti and Mrs Izabela Owczaruk UAC, gave a very interesting presentation concerning cooperation in the human process of development. The symposium gathered a record number of participants – 180 – including Pallottine priests, brothers, sisters and lay members of the UAC. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by all, it was a really powerful time of discussion and meeting with people!

**Rwanda: Divine Mercy Congress:** A very important ecclesial event took place recently in Rwanda, a Divine Mercy Congress prepared and coordinated by the Pallottine Communities with the active participation of diocesan priests, lay persons and consecrated religious, and all in the spirit of the Union of Catholic Apostolate.

The Congress took place at the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Kabuga, from October 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2010. The topic which the speakers addressed was a topical one and very concrete in the light of the spiritual and socio-political situation of the Region of the Great Lakes, it was *“Divine Mercy as an antidote to the evil that ruins our society”*. Of particular note was the presence of Cardinal Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon in France, Fr. Daniel Ange and two sisters from the Community of Saint Faustina in Poland. The Archbishop of Kigali, together with the President of the Episcopal Conference of Rwanda and the Bishop of Kabgayi participated in the entire Congress. Cardinal Barbarin presided at the closing celebration at Kabuga in the midst of bishops, priests, religious and numerous lay persons, this multitudinous and varied participation testified to the importance of this event in the life of the Church, it was a response to the needs and expectations of the faithful and it also opens a new paradigm of evangelization. Now we are looking for ways to spread the fruits of the Congress in the parishes.

**Berlin – Seoul:** Research tour of the Pallottine Community Berlin to Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea. In order to gain new stimuli for their pastoral work in a socially deprived area of Berlin, and with an ecumenical openness to the worldwide church, the Pallottine Community in Berlin will take part in an International World Conference for Community Growth from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 in Seoul. The founder of the parish there, Dr. David Yonggi Cho himself will lead the conference. Other persons interested may feel free to get further information through the website <http://chgrint.homestead.com/index.html> and to register themselves for the conference. The crucial question will be how much we can learn from this phenomenon of a strong and growing Pentecostal Church and use it for our work. The Yoido Full Gospel Church is becoming the largest Christian parish worldwide.

**Mercedes, Argentina:** On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2010, thirteen persons from Mercedes and Suipacha, cities where the Pallottines have worked since 1886 and 1897 respectively, made their Act of Apostolic Commitment and became the first lay members to be admitted to the UAC in that area following on the erection of the UAC in 2003. Fr. Derry Murphy SAC, President of the UAC and Fr. Thomas O'Donnell SAC, concelebrated the Mass and among those present were Mr. Miguel Angel della Villa, President of the NCC and other members of the National Council.

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