



UAC NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in the Union

This month brings biographical material on the cause for beatification of **Pedro Dufau 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)

Pedro DUFAU, SAC, a member of the Irish Province, was born in Mercedes, Argentina, on October 13th 1906, he was ordained priest on July 16th 1933. He was one of the five Pallottines murdered in the Pallottine house in Buenos Aires on July 4th 1976; three priests, a student of the mayor seminary and a postulant. The Beatification process for them has not yet been opened juridically, however it is in the preparatory phase. Pedro lost his parents when he was young and was reared by his French grandmother, following on her death he went as a boarder to St. Patrick's College, Mercedes. He later entered the Pallottines, he went to Thurles in Ireland for novitiate and philosophical studies and went on to study theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained in Rome on July 16th 1933. His only sister became a nun.

Fr. Pedro served the Society and the universal Church above all in parish ministry, he served in the Pallottine parishes of Mercedes, Rawson, San Antonio de Areco, Castelar and St. Patrick's, Belgrano, and also worked in the Instituto Fahy in Moreno. In 1940 he was appointed curate in the new parish of Belgrano and he built a simple parish house and in a few years raised the church and laid down the lines of pastoral work. He was parish priest and rector of the community there from 1966 until 1973. Adjoining the parish he founded the parish school called St. Vincent Pallotti Institute. During his time as rector he built the new parochial house in which he was found dead on the morning of that fateful July 4th 1976.

Rolando Savino underlined some of Fr. Pedro's characteristics when he wrote: "Pedro was essentially a man of few words, reflective, sure of himself and precise; he was silent in order not to speak in vain and transformed his silence into activity. He was intelligent and wise, not only in his academic studies but also because of what life had taught him from his most tender years with the death of his parents. He was noted for his perseverance, his priestly confreres affirmed that every mission and task entrusted to him, despite difficulties, was always concretized thanks to his spirit of constancy". It was possible to discuss any and every topic with him, ranging from spiritual topics to the most mundane, he was a keen follower of sport and especially football and was an avid supporter of Boca Juniors.

Being worried about the children and adolescents who roamed the streets he began to think of a place where they could gather, entertain themselves and also learn an activity such as judo, karate, guitar playing, dance and music. With this spirit he created the St. Vincent Pallotti sports and cultural centre which functioned in the premises of the parish school in the evenings. The numbers attending the centre reached 300, the same number of the students who were attending the college during the day.

Many of his qualities were manifest above all in the exercise of the sacred ministry and many of his good works were known only to God and to those who received his attention as a priest and friend.

He had drafted some points for the homily he was to preach at the Eucharist on the morning of his death and it was found later, he had written: "If we read the Old Testament attentively, we will see how the messengers God sent his people were very seldom listened to, on other occasions they were expelled or murdered... All of us find the Word of God difficult and distasteful at times because it is a Word that is hard, upright, intransigent. It does not give way in the face of the rich, it does not weaken in the face of the powerful, it is not intimidated by difficulties".



January has been a very busy and active month for the UAC members throughout the world, here are some of news items that have come to the Secretariat.

Celebrations of the Feast of Epiphany in Limburg, Ahrweiler and Hofstetten, Germany: For the second time, the Pallottine Sisters, Brothers and Priests in Limburg, together with the parishes of the town, invited people to participate in a triduum in preparation of the feast. At the same time, in Ahrweiler an individual member of the UAC, together with two women who are in preparation for membership and with the help of two Pallottine Fathers, animated three prayer services. And also for the second time, the Apostolatskreis Hofstetten held a prayer service on the 6th of January.

The **Pallottine Parish of St. Vincent Pallotti, Arapongas, Paraná, Brazil**, celebrated the Fifth Octave of the Epiphany this year from January 2 – 9, the theme was “To know Jesus better is the best present that a person can receive; to have met him has been the best thing that happened in our lives and to have made him known with our words and our works it our joy!” (Document of Aparecida, 29).

Belize. Sr. Alicia Buddan wrote to say that the UAC had nine days of novena with the Sisters and lay people in the Centre attached to the Provincial House. The Union members renewed their Act of Apostolic Commitment on the feast day of St. Vincent during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Dorick Wright of Belize.

Italy: the Octave of the Epiphany was once again celebrated from January 6th to 13th by the community at Riposto, Sicily with the guidance of the local community of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate. The Octave culminated with a concelebrated Mass on January 13th at which Bishop Pio Vittorio Vigo was the principal celebrant, this year Sr. Serena Cambiagli, Superior General, and Sr. Lily Nanat, General Consultor participated in the animation along with Frs. Andrea Fulco and Derry Murphy, SAC.

Once again the local community of the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate and the UAC in Avella animated the Octave and were accompanied by Sisters and Pallottine confreres from Rome and by the Pallottine formators from around the world studying in Rome. Bishop Beniamino Depalma of Nola was the main celebrant at Mass celebrated on January 9th in which we celebrated the day Fr. Vincent Pallotti received the inspiration to establish the UAC.

The community at Rocca Priora celebrated the Octave once again this year in the Church of Our Lady of the Snows. At the Spiritual Centre of the UAC, the Church of SS. Salvatore in Onda, the General Secretariat of the UAC organized and coordinated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 17th to 25th and within the Week the Triduum and Feast of St. Vincent Pallotti. All the communities and members of the UAC in Rome and the surrounding areas participated enthusiastically and fervently in the daily programme of events and celebrations.

New members of the UAC.

On January 22nd three persons were accepted for membership of Unio-Kreis Hochaltingen in Germany.

On January 9th twenty one (21) persons made the Act of Apostolic Commitment at a concelebrated Eucharist in the Church of Our Lady of the Snows, Rocca Priora, Rome. This house and church is of particular significance for the Pallottine family as the novitiate of the Society functioned there from 1896 until 1950 and the Pallottines have animated the apostolate there since 1858. Fr. Derry Murphy, President of the UAC, was the main celebrant, accompanied by Fr. Gaetano Ianni, President of the NCC, Fr. Leonardo D’Angelone, Rector of the Church and other Pallottine confreres.

On January 23rd in the Pallottine Parish of St. Vincent Pallotti, Pietralata, Rome, the parish community celebrated the feast day of the Parish together with Fr. Francesco Todisco, the newly appointed parish priest and with the priests of the parish and Pallottine confreres. During the Eucharist a group of twelve (12) parishioners made the Act of Apostolic Commitment in the presence of Frs. Derry Murphy and Gaetano Ianni.

New websites: Sr. Izabela Swierad of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters wrote to say that the Sisters have a new website, it can be accessed at <http://www.pallottine-missionaries-rome.com/>

Sr. Monika Szupryt, Secretary of the NCC in Poland has informed us that the NCC now has its own very complete and dynamic website, you can consult it at www.zak-pallotti.pl

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