



UAC NEWSLETTER

October 2012



Dear sisters and brothers in the Union,

we are very happy to present to you in this newsletter a synthesis of the life of Venerable **Bernardo Maria Clausi OM**, prepared by Fr. Jan Kupka SAC (for further research, cf. *Il legame tra il ven. Bernardo M. Clausi e san Vincenzo Pallotti (The bond between Ven. Bernardo Clausi and Saint Vincent Pallotti)* by Fr. Ottavio Laino OM in "Apostolato Universale", year XIII - n. 26/2011, pp. 14-17), along with other news from the UAC.

1. EARLY COLLABORATORS OF SAINT VINCENT:

Venerable **Bernardo Maria Clausi (1789-1849)** was a contemporary of Saint Vincent Pallotti. In the biographies of these two zealous priests numerous references demonstrating their friendship can be found. Vincent Pallotti regarded Bernardo M. Clausi as his spiritual brother and had the greatest respect and veneration for him.

Bernardo Maria Clausi was born in San Sisto dei Valdesi (Cosenza) on November 26th 1789. As a young man he joined the Order of the Minims in Paola. In 1808 he had to leave the Order because of the Napoleonic suppression of religious congregations. Between 1816 and 1817 he received holy orders and priesthood. He carried out his ministry in the parish of San Michele Arcangelo in San Sisto dei Valdesi until 1827, standing out for his priestly zeal. On April 17th 1828 he made his vows in the Order of Minims of Sr. Francesco di Paola.

In 1830 Bernardo M. Clausi was transferred to Rome to the convent of San Francesco di Paola ai Monti, where he spent the greater part of his life. He made several trips to Liguria, Piedmont and to the Kingdom of Naples. During his time in Rome he worked with great dedication to serve the faithful with humility, simplicity and a spirit of charity. He heard confessions, visited the sick and performed extraordinary signs. He won fame as a 'holy friar who performs miracles'.

Luigi Vaccari OSB affirms that in 1836 Bernardo M. Clausi joined the pious Society (ie. Union) of the Catholic Apostolate founded by Pallotti in 1835 (cfr. *Compendio della vita del servo di Dio Vincenzo Pallotti*, p. 49). This would indicate that Clausi knew Pallotti and his work well by that year. Pallotti too, on his part, participated spiritually in the apostolic works of the Family of Minims. On November 1844, in the Church of Saint Francis di Paola, he was accepted as a member of the Third Order of Minims and he strove to spread the spirituality of Saint Francis di Paola who "is one of those souls elected by God to revive the most perfect exercise of charity towards God and neighbor in the world". So wrote Pallotti in the invitation to join which he himself composed and had printed as an introduction to the Rule of the Third Order of Minims (cf. *OOCC V*, pp. 708-713).

The reciprocal visits, spiritual conversations and collaboration in apostolic works meant that an intimate and sincere friendship developed between our two protagonists. Francesco Amoroso SAC wrote that Clausi was Pallotti's closest friend: "he occasionally went with him to Camaldoli, he performed exorcisms with him, he celebrated with him in the small shrine of the Mater Admirabilis, at Trinità dei Monti, from Osimo he entrusted to him a sister whom he had been directing and from him he received an appointment in Paradise" (*San Vincenzo Pallotti romano, Isola del Liri 1962*, p. 463).

Carlo M. Orlandi, the companion of Pallotti, testified at the ordinary Roman process that Clausi often came to Pallotti and "several times remained for lunch with the community and then at the common recreation" (*Summarium 1917*, p. 6). Pallotti, however, liked to withdraw once or twice a year, especially in the month of October, to the college of San Francesco di Paola ai Monti to speak with Bernardo Clausi. He also testified to having seen, when Clausi and Pallotti met each other, both knelt down, asking each other for a blessing; Clausi found the solution, who in order to obey his holy friend, drew the little picture of the Madonna (*Mater Gratiae et Misericordiae*) from his large sleeve and in this way blessed not only Pallotti, but also all of those present (cfr. *ibidem*, p. 406).

The most touching event which bound these two friends of God was when Clausi, before leaving for Paola, went to greet his friend Vincent. There was an exchange of gifts. Pallotti gave Clausi his snuff-box, on which there was an image of the Crucified. Clausi on the other hand returned the kindness with a packet of his tobacco. On this occasion, Clausi and Pallotti made an appointment with each other in paradise. Before

separating, Clausi said: "Father Vincent, we are going to the other world, me a little earlier, and you a little later", and he added: "I am going to sleep between granddad and granny" (Summarium 1917, p. 574).

Bernardo M. Clausi died on December 20th 1849 in the shrine in Paola and was buried in the place where the remains of the father and mother of Saint Francis di Paola, of the founder of the Minims, were discovered, that is – as predicted by Bernardo Clausi himself – "between granddad and granny". After his death, the Order of Minims began the canonical processes for the recognition of his virtues. On December 11th 1987, Blessed John Paul II promulgated the decree of the heroicity of the virtues of Bernardo Maria Clausi and declared him Venerable.

2. New Assistant in the UAC General Secretariat

On October 15th 2012, Sr. Josephine Vattathara CSAC began working in the office of the UAC General Secretariat in Rome. Sr. Josephine is a native of Kerala, India and, having completed her teacher training, worked there in Saint Therese's School of her Congregation in Trivandrum for 3 years and then in the Catechetical Department of the Diocese of Kochi for 2 years. She came to Rome in 2006, first to the community at Porta Maggiore and subsequently to the Pia Casa di Carità, during which time she completed undergraduate studies in Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum). When not otherwise engaged in commitments for her own Congregation, Sr. Josephine will work in the General Secretariat during weekday afternoons. Many thanks to her Provincial, Sr. Sara Carfagna CSAC for making Sr. Josephine available for this new collaboration on behalf of the Union at the General level. We wish Sr. Josephine every blessing and happiness in this service of collaboration.

3. News regarding the Cause for Beatification of Venerable Elisabetta Sanna:

On July 23rd 2011, the Postulator General, Fr. Jan Korycki SAC, 'presented the documentation of the Diocesan Investigation into the presumed miraculous healing of a young woman in Brazil... through the intercession of Ven. Elisabetta, to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Then, Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, Prefect of this Congregation, decided that the New Position on the virtues of the Servant of God would be given to the Commission of Theological Consultors and then to that of the Cardinals and Bishops for their judgement in 2012. In fact, the *Positio* has already been studied by the Theologians, who will give their judgement on November 20th. It is worth pointing out that this *Positio* already received a positive judgement from the Historical Commission on April 22nd 1997. Without wishing to anticipate the final judgement of the Holy See, but with great hope, we await the positive evaluation of the Commissions, and then the Decree on the heroic virtues of Ven. Elisabetta, formulated by the Holy Father. Subsequently, we look forward to the recognition of the healing as miraculous and to the beatification itself. For all of this, we ask for continued prayers on the part of all of Ven. Elisabetta's friends'.

4. International Seminar on New Evangelization:

An International Seminar on New Evangelization was organised by the Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Union, Fr. Jacob Nampudakam from 23-28 September 2012 at the International Centre for Pallottine Formation, Rome, in collaboration with all the components of the Pallottine Family. The theme was: "To revive faith and rekindle charity: Apostles of Jesus in a changing world. The Pallottine response to the challenge of New Evangelisation". Participants included members of the General Administrations of the three Core Communities of the Union, Provincial Superiors, Theologians and experts on Pallotti. Two distinguished representatives of the Catholic Church invited to this seminar were Cardinal Walter Kasper and Cardinal Kurt Koch, Emeritus and current Presidents respectively of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. Today when the Universal Church is trying to do so much in the field of New Evangelization, the Pallottine Family would like to participate in this challenge by offering our charism, which is so relevant for our times. The most important talks of this seminar will be published in the form of a book. In addition, Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, in his capacity as Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Union, by means of a letter, will make an appeal to all members of the Union to reflect on the theme of New Evangelization and our response to this challenge through the realization of our charism, always in service of the Universal Church. This theme should be introduced into our Provincial/Regional Assemblies and the various other meetings of the Union. The challenge of New Evangelization means "Starting afresh from Christ", just as St. Vincent Pallotti insisted that the entire life of Jesus should be our only rule of life and apostolate.