



UAC NEWSLETTER

November 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 **Marianna Allemand**, prepared by Fr. Jan Kupka SAC, along with other news from the UAC.

1. EARLY COLLABORATORS OF SAINT VINCENT:

Marianna Allemand (1797-1862) belonged to a group of women formed in holiness who collaborated with Saint Vincent Pallotti in the many apostolic works of the Union of Catholic Apostolate from its foundation in 1835. She was a faithful, diligent and constant collaborator in the exercise of varied apostolic action which Pallotti developed in the Union. She was one of the first women in the Union, who consecrated her life to the Christian formation of poor orphaned girls. She also carried out various commissions on Pallotti's instructions.

Vincent Pallotti knew the Allemand family, who lived close to the Church of S. Maria sopra Minerva (Vicolo della Minerva), very well. This is clear from his correspondence which includes letters addressed to Marianna, Giovanni and Filippo Allemand. It is also confirmed by the fact that Giovanni Allemand, brother of Mariana and a professor of the Roman Seminary, figures in the list of those first numbered in the Catholic Apostolate (cf. OOCC V, p. 4). It was precisely about Giovanni, who died on August 29th 1835, that Pallotti wrote a moving remembrance, highlighting the spiritual traits of this great priest (cf. OOCC XIII, pp. 982-986). After Giovanni's death, his sister Marianna became a person whom Pallotti addressed directly and confidentially regarding various matters pertaining to his daily life and his apostolate.

Marianna was born in Rome to Giuseppe Allemand and Maria Cavallini on March 19th 1797. Her father came from Reves in the diocese of Toulon (France). At the age of 22 – in May 1789 – he arrived in Rome and remained there for the rest of his life. He first worked as an apprentice at various French bakers, later becoming a master baker. In 1795 he married Maria Cavallini. Their marriage produced six children, three of whom - Marianna, Giovanni and Filippo – became close collaborators of Vincent Pallotti. Giuseppe died in Rome in 1805 and his wife Maria in 1808.

A profound spiritual union, collaboration in apostolic works and the trust which Pallotti place in Marianna for future apostolic projects shine through St. Vincent's letter to Marianna on May 12th 1836. He wrote: "I received the *scudo* (Papal States' currency), the images and the biretta. May God be your great reward. I came on Tuesday to resolve the situation regarding the house of refuge or asylum for girls at risk, waited for you but couldn't find you. I hope to return. From this it is clear that I must delay sending the person to assist her. Pray for such an important matter that it may perhaps be resolved this evening. Pray and have others pray. May you be ready for all possible good, distrust yourself, may you trust completely in God. May the Father strengthen you with his power, the Son enlighten you with his wisdom, the Holy Spirit sanctify you with his love. May the Spouse of the Holy Spirit pray and intercede for all, etc. Pray and have others pray for me and for my father and my brothers" (OCL II, l. n. 375, p. 113).

Besides its rich spiritual content, this letter is an act of entrusting a new apostolic task to Marianna, "such an important matter", that is, the opening of an educational home for poor girls which was founded in 1836 in via dell'Alberata n. 9 (today Piazza dell'Esquilino), of which Marianna was director. Because of various disagreements over who should be the superior responsible for this home, Marianna founded another home of refuge for abandoned girls (in via dei Quattro Cantoni n. 45) and continued her generous commitment towards the most needy, that is, towards poor girls.

In this same letter 1836 we find the indication of another field of Marianna's endeavour for the Union of Catholic Apostolate. Vincent Pallotti announced to her that he had sent a widow by the name of Matilda to her to enrol her in the Union and took the opportunity to encourage her: "We are looking for a good number of the most suitable people" (OCL II, p. 113). It follows that Marianna was an active member of the Union, that is, one of those entrusted with responsibility for the admission of women into its ranks.

Marianna was also involved in another important field of activity in the Union, the print apostolate. Pallotti asked her to "commit herself as much as she could, in perfect distrust of self and perfect trust in God, in order, with the help of holy benefactors, to have reprinted the booklet "Inventions of holy love" by V. P.

Bartolomeo da Saluzzo, and the Novena of the most precious Blood, and that of St. Veronica. All who cooperate will have great merit in order increasingly to enkindle the holy love of God in hearts" (OCL VI, l. n. 1411, p. 154). Marianna, on her part, reported the outcome of her efforts in her letters, communicating to Pallotti with joy the willingness of people to contribute to the printing of these texts.

Finally, we would like to mention the needs of daily life which were the subject of their collaboration and mutual assistance. In 1837 Pallotti asked Marianna to send him loaves of bread to dispatch to Naples to those sick with cholera; in 1839 he recommended Mr. Gaetano Scifoni who wanted to be appointed debt collector of the Monasteries of SS. Trinità dei Monti e Villa Lante; in 1843 he sent a man to her with the request to give him a pair of either well-adjusted or not too worn trousers and he informed her of the illness of Mr. Tommaso Alkusi; in 1844 he asked her to give one of the soutanes to Brother Angelo Palombi; in 1846 he informed her that they would go to S. Agata dei Goti (Irish College) for spiritual exercises, from the evening of Palm Sunday to the morning of Holy Thursday. These "small" communications concealed Pallotti's great trust in Marianna's open and generous heart.

Marianna Allemand died in Rome on December 8th 1862 as a "professed member of the Third Order of St. Dominic". We can dedicate to her the words which Pallotti wrote to her in 1846: "God will repay all of your good works and much more the wonderful disposition of your heart through which he would like to do much greater things. But God is happy with those who do whatever they can" (OCL VII, l. n. 1666, p. 199).

2. Feast of the Union, Spirito Santo dei Napoletani:

The 9th anniversary of the erection of the Union was celebrated in the Church of Spirito Santo dei Napoletani on Saturday October 27th, beginning with a time of Eucharistic adoration animated by Rocca Priora LCC and Fr. Joselo Gulpio SAC. This was followed by a Eucharistic Concelebration led by Fr. Gilberto Orsolin SAC and animated by the Union Choir. Highlights included a procession of Enthronement of the Word of God which concluded with spontaneous applause, the inspiring homily of Fr. Mathew Thonickal SAC with the concrete proposal to go out to invite others to return to the Gospel, an offertory collection to support a feeding programme for starving infants in Mozambique run by the Sisters of the Congregation of the Catholic Apostolate (CSAC) and an anointing for mission at the end of Mass by a young married couple, a novice sister and a seminarian, each person being given a small Scriptural scroll to bring to someone who might need encouragement to begin or return to a life of faith. Sr. Ivete Garlet CSAC sent the following message from the Sisters in Mozambique: "We are geographically distant, but in the heart of Mary, Queen of Apostles, in the ideals of our Founder St. Vincent Pallotti and in the hands of Jesus, Apostle of the Eternal Father, we are together. We are delighted to have received [the money] collected for the "Milk Project" ... Thanks to your collaboration we can take care of and help many children to grow in this mission... Who knows if some day a voluntary worker might wish to get to know our mission [first hand]. The challenges are many, but with the presence and guidance of the Lord we have the strength to go forward and proclaim the Word and the Infinite Love and mercy of God. May Mary Queen of Apostles bless you, St. Vincent Pallotti protect you, and the Holy Spirit enlighten you all in your mission to build the Kingdom. With affection we embrace and thank you all."

3. Important step forward in the Cause for Beatification of Venerable Elisabetta Sanna:

On November 20th, the participants in the Congress of Theological Consultors for the discussion of the virtues of Elisabetta Sanna, in the Vatican, all expressed their positive judgement, permitting the Superiors of the Congregation to transmit the *Positio* on her virtues to the third commission, that of the Cardinals and Bishops. All are kindly asked to continue to pray for further development, God willing, in the Cause.

4. New Members of the Union

- **Argentina:** in St. Patrick's Parish, Belgrano, on Sunday November 11th, during a concelebrated Mass, one person made their Act of Apostolic Commitment. After Mass, Fr. Derry Murphy, SAC, President of the UAC, led a reflection on St. Vincent Pallotti's sanctity and how it forms and challenges us in this Year of Faith.
- **Brazil:** in Arapongas, Paraná, on Sunday, October 28th, during a Mass celebrated by Father Francisco Dias, SAC, three people made their Act of Apostolic Commitment, received by Sr. Adelésia Coldebella, CSAC.

5. Please pray for the Pallottines and all in the Goma region, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo:

Ruthsuru Parish (3 Pallottine sisters, 3 Pallottine priests, many laity) and Goma-Keshero Formation Center, (5 Pallottine sisters, 5 Pallottine priests, 1 deacon, 4 theology students, 20 philosophy students, 9 postulants, 7 sister postulants, 2 Schönstatt seminarians, numerous laity) in the Diocese of Goma, DR Congo, are now in the area under the occupation of the M23 Rebels. Please pray for peace there.