



UAC NEWSLETTER

April 2013



Dear sisters and brothers in the Union,

we are very happy to present to you in this newsletter a reflection on **the relationship between Saint Vincent and the Hermitage of Camaldoli** in Frascati, along with other news from the UAC.

1. ST. VINCENT AND CAMALDOLI

The Hermitage of Camaldoli, founded in 1607, is located five kilometres from Frascati – Rome, on the slopes of the Tuscolan Hill. The church (1611) is dedicated to St. Romuald, the founder of the Order. Over the centuries, the hermitage held great fascination for pilgrims to the point of attracting the attention of the Roman nobility and being chosen as a place of retreat for important figures in the Roman Curia.

From 1820, Fr. Vincent retired willingly to this Sacred Hermitage even several times a year, to reinforce his physical and spiritual energies. Many hermits had him as spiritual director and often urged him to give lectures and retreats to them. He called these invitations "precious gifts from heaven."

In the summer of 1839, following serious coughing up of blood from his lungs, Pope Gregory XVI himself obliged him to rest in Camaldoli. Saint Vincent used this "forced rest" to write the "Rules of the Pia Casa di Carità" (OCCC VI, 246-431), the "Rules for the Retreats of the Society" and "the general plan of the Catholic Apostolate" (cf. OCCC III, 25-26).

He received many letters at the Hermitage, imparting encouragement and trust to many people through his replies. On 15 July 1839, he wrote to Curzio Alippi: "So, courage in God" (OCL III, 44); on July 17, 1839, to Filippo Mancini: "Seek only God in all things, and you will find Him. Whoever has found God lacks nothing ... Pray... for me in my extreme need for a universal deluge of the Mercy of God "(OCL III, 46); on July 22, 1839, he repeated to C. Luigi Morichini: "Schools left under the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and under her supervision do not form the object of my distress, but of my pleasure" (OCL III, 52); in July 1839, he said to Sr. Gertrude: "... To tell the truth, in spite of my inconceivable unworthiness ... ingratitude ... he makes me experience infinite Mercy ... to make me into a miracle of Mercy ... "(OCL III, 130). He wrote many other letters.

Pallotti remained at Camaldoli from November 28th until December 4th 1847 to preach the spiritual exercises both to the hermits and to Fr. Melia (OCCC X, 252).

Andrea Castrati (1794-1878), Br. Benedetto, was one of his collaborators and, in the Hermitage, assisted Vincent during Mass. After Vincent's death, he wrote about him in an extrajudicial deposition: he took great care of my soul (...) and always desiring to make a religious of me, he directed me and strove to make me a Camaldolese".

Among the seven letters of Pallotti to Br. Benedetto, we find that of July 22nd 1836 in which he wrote: "Most beloved in Jesus Crucified, Seek God and you will find Him. Seek Him in everything and you will find Him in everything. Seek Him always and you will always find Him. In this way you will dispose yourself towards contemplating, possessing and enjoying Him for all eternity in Heaven" (OCL II, 126).

So also Fr. Mariano Da Fermo, (1775-1854) a Camaldolese, esteemed Vincent for his preaching and spiritual direction and affirmed: "He treated the arguments of faith with a clarity and an anointing that left us all edified and full of admiration. He used the Scriptures and the Fathers opportunely. He often quoted the holy Gospel and it seemed that he took special pleasure in reciting the words of the Divine Master word for word" (F. Amoroso, *San Vincenzo Pallotti Romano*, p.375). "Pallotti, also [...] esteemed him and held him in great consideration and often consulted him. Having finished, in the Tuscolan Hermitage, the Constitutions of the Congregation which he had founded in 1835, he submitted them to Don Mariano so that he could examine them, giving him full power to correct and modify them." (Girolamo Dal Gal, *Nel silenzio dell'Eremo il P. Don Mariano Da Fermo*, p.116).

Antonio Toesca (1802-1881), a lay brother, was a true reflection of the holiness of the Founder whom he met at Camaldoli, near Frascati, where, being a woodcutter, his eye was injured through a clumsy blow. He asked Pallotti to be admitted as a lay brother of the Catholic Apostolate and entered the Society

in 1848. He died at seventy nine years of age in 1881, leaving a singular memory of his virtues also to the priests.

Saint Vincent went to Camaldoli for the last time in August of 1849.

2. ELECTIONS IN THE PALLOTTINE FAMILY

NCC USA: The annual meeting of the NCC in the United States took place on April 12th and 13th 2013 in Baltimore, Maryland, during which Bob Gay was re-elected President and Fr. Greg Serwa SAC Vice-president. Christine Hanna and Jamine Truss were appointed National Secretary National Treasurer, taking over from Louise Gay and Sr. Elisabeth Heptner, SAC, respectively.

NCC Switzerland: the Swiss National Coordination Council elected Ms. Melanie Dähler President and re-elected Fr. Erich Schädler, SAC, Vice-President. Sr. Daniela Schumacher, SAC was appointed National Treasurer and Beatrice Herzog (APIS) and Vreni Tanner continue as the other members of the NCC.

The Eucharistic Sisters of Saint Vincent Pallotti, Italy: The General Chapter of the Eucharistic Sisters of Saint Vincent Pallotti took place from March 11-20, 2013. On March 19, Sr. M. Adalgisa Cammarata was elected Mother General, Sr. M. Anna G. Sardiello Vicaria Generale, and Sr. M. Angelina Monaco, Sr. M. Margherita Casertano, Sr. M. Giovanna Cammarata and Sr. M. Giustina Gallantino General Councillors.

We wish every blessing and inspiration to all who have been elected to serve in these varying positions of leadership in the Pallottine family and to all who have completed their service in these roles - may the Risen Christ accompany you in your ongoing mission to further the building up of the Kingdom of God in the Church and the world in the spirit of St. Vincent Pallotti.

3. NEW MEMBERS

Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India: 30 lay people, including 9 young adults, made their Act of Apostolic Commitment to become full members of the Union on April 13, 2013 at the Shanti Niwas Renewal Centre, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, India.

Wadowice, Poland: On 17 March 2013, during Mass celebrated in the Novitiate House of the Society in Wadowice, 11 persons belong to "Queen of Apostles" community were admitted to the UAC, making their Act of Apostolic Commitment in the presence of Marek Kalka, member of the Polish NCC.

4. CENTENARY OF PALLOTTINE MISSIONARY SISTERS, BELIZE - 'GRATEFUL FOR THE PAST, HOPEFUL FOR THE FUTURE'

Congratulations to the Belizean Province of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters who are celebrating 100 years of their missionary presence in Belize. The Centennial Year opened officially at St. Joseph's School, Belize City, on March 10, 2013 with a Eucharistic Concelebration presided over by the local Bishop, Dorick Wright, joined by his auxiliary Christopher Glancy. The entrance procession included Sisters, clergy and lay members of the Union, with 100 pupils from Pallotti High School each carrying a candle symbolising one of the hundred years of prayer, sacrifice and service. 100 balloons were also released at the end of the Mass, after which typical Belizean hospitality was enjoyed by all. On March 17th there was a re-enactment of the Sisters' arrival by boat in the western Cayo district on that date 100 years ago in two small boats, followed by a day of celebration and hospitality. For pictures, see: <http://pallottine-missionaries-rome.com/en/photo-gallery/view/5.html> and <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.490309984349740.1073741831.151749274872481&type=1>

5. PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The annual meeting of the General Coordination Council of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, from May 11th to 15th 2013 in Rome - that the members may be inspired to make fruitful decisions in order to help foster the life of the Union in concrete and dynamic ways so that the Pallottine family will be inspired more and more to play its full part in serving the mission of Christ in the Church and the world and particularly among the poor.
- The victims of recent disasters, including the flooding in Argentina, the earthquakes in China, Iran and Pakistan, the building collapse in Bangladesh, the explosion in Texas, and victims of violence including those in Boston, Seattle, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq and so many others in our suffering world - we pray for peace and reconciliation and for true respect for and promotion of the dignity of every human person.