

.....*but also a time of grace*



Nevertheless biblical, scientific, spiritual and historical research all show that every crisis is a privileged catalyst of renewal, provided it is well managed. Originally 'crisis' referred to the state of decision making, the situation of a life open to several possibilities. So it doesn't necessarily have a negative meaning (though in common language it is so). Rather it refers to a possibility of growth in an individual, in a community/ institution, or the opposite, depending on how it is handled.

That is why the Church affirms that "the difficulties and the questioning which religious life is experiencing today can give rise to a new *kairos*, a time of grace".

the Pallottine charism as one of the responses

Actually, there are many initiatives aimed at helping to bring about this new "kairos", this time of grace. My own research: "*Current crisis in the consecrated life: prospects for renewal and the contribution of the Pallottine charism*", is intended to fit into the general pattern of such initiatives that aim to find ways and means to emerge 'victorious' from the current crisis. Two proposals are presented – a triple conversion (intellectual, moral and religious) and an approach of "re-foundation" or of rendering religious life "more vital" and "more consecrated".

Faced with the current crisis, I believe that the Pallottine charism can be very useful in these devious times. It suggests ten aspects of fidelity – a '**decatalogue of fidelity**' – in order for an institute to dynamically retain its vocation to be a "*memoria Iesu*", an evangelical witness of Jesus to the Church and the world.

While the following elements are present in other 'charisms' within the Church, their originality lies mainly in the **intensity and new meaning** that Vincent Pallotti gave to them:

1. Fidelity to the primacy of God and of his constant search
2. Fidelity to the centrality of Christ
3. Fidelity to the spirituality of communion
4. Fidelity to simple and daily sanctity
5. Fidelity to the spirit of joy and sacrifice
6. Fidelity to the inseparability of faith and charity
7. Fidelity to the authentic Christian anthropology (*homo viator*)
8. Fidelity to collaboration in the apostolate
9. Fidelity to the love of the Church and attention to the needs of the world
10. Fidelity to service and the "school" of the poor and of Mary as "a model of evangelizing activity".

a synthetic view of the first three components

What follows is a synthetic view of the first three of these components, with the hope of developing the other seven on another occasion.

- **fidelity to the primacy of God and of his constant search**

The first contribution appears to be a clarion call to be faithful to the primacy of God and his ongoing search. Indeed, God was always at the center of the world and life of Pallotti. And it is at the heart of the spiritual legacy he bequeathed to his disciples.

The whole life of “Don Vincenzo” and his writings reflect his profound and lively experience of God and his union with Him in Jesus Christ. They also show his ongoing effort to participate in the divine life of communion with the Holy Trinity. Thanks to this experience Pallotti felt so loved by God, and consequently also loved Him so much in return, that he vowed to do nothing that displeased Him. He reminds today’s religious men and women that the primacy of God has been and still is the indispensable requirement of religious life.

- **fidelity to the centrality of Christ**

The second contribution of the Pallottine charism consists in fidelity to the centrality of Christ. Indeed, Vincent had a firm conviction that to achieve the Christian life in communion with God, Jesus Christ, as the most perfect model of Christian being, must be at the center of one’s life.

He also affirmed that “Jesus Christ is the divine pattern of all mankind” and that “the life of every Christian must be the imitation of the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ”. Thus, placing Christ at the center once more and always starting from Him, from his Gospel, consecrated men and women can become again very significant in today’s society which is waiting to see in them a reflection of the actual behavior of Jesus, of His love for each person without distinction or qualification.



- **fidelity to the spirituality of communion**

Without doubt, Pallotti truly was a “prophet of the spirituality of communion”. Following his example, the Union of Catholic Apostolate, his foundation, wants to be a communion of the faithful who are united with God and among themselves according to the charism of their Holy Founder.

Being and doing so, the Union – that is, its ideals – represents a very eloquent paradigm for consecrated life today weakened by the spirit of individualism, the virus of fragmentation and of individual achievement. The Union shows the direction that consecrated life communities – Pallottine communities included – should take in these difficult moments: “that of spreading the spirituality of communion, first of all in their internal life and then in the Church community, even beyond its boundaries, by beginning or continuing a dialogue in charity, especially in those places where today’s world is torn apart by ethnic hatred or senseless violence”.

Eugene Niyonzima sac [SF] – Rome – ITALY
01.07.15
niyeugene@yahoo.co.uk

item 337

4th July 2015

Today marks the 39th anniversary of the massacre of our 5 Pallottine confreres in Argentina – Frs Alfredo Leaden, Pedro Dufau, Alfie Kelly, and students **Salvador Barbeito** and **Emilio Barletti**, on Sunday July 4th 1976.

There will be a concelebrated Mass to honour their memory held in the parish of San Patricio, Belgrano, Buenos Aires, at 19.00. The Mass will be preceded by a gathering for reflection and prayer on the theme

“Like them, witnesses of the Mercy of God”. This gathering will take place in the Instituto Anunciacion de Maria, in the neighbourhood of Belgrano.

Today also the Pallottine Community in Mercedes gathered at 11.00 at the Pallottine plot in the local cemetery, where the three priests are buried, to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.



On Friday July 3rd the Municipality of Mercedes honoured their memory in a celebration held in Colegio San Patricio. The students of the secondary school presented an investigative study to the Municipality in 2014 and petitioned that the section of 19th street, between 12th and 14th streets, be given the name of the two seminarians. The Municipal Council acceded to the petition and a plaque was unveiled and blessed in a ceremony attended by the Lord Mayor, municipal authorities, education authorities, the staff and pupils of the school along with Frs Tom O’Donnell, Mariano Pinasco and members of the parish community in Belgrano.

The four blocks which border the school, parish church and community house now bear the names of Frs Alfredo Leaden, Pedro Dufau, Alfie Kelly and **Salvador Barbeito and Emilio Barletti**.

The ceremony ended with the naming of the school library as the **Alfredo Leaden** Library.

Derry Murphy sac [IR] – Dublin – IRELAND
05.07.15
motherofdivinelove@gmail.com

sac asia oceania e-bulletin

you commented...

on #175 Two important messages – to tell people what they mean to us before it is too late and to remember and reflect on Pallotti’s focus on “Mercy” as we enter this *Year of Mercy*. Many thanks

CS 06.07.15

I read it with pleasure and I am happy to find in texts and testimonies that are nourishment for the spiritual life and vocation. Thanks

JS 07.07.15