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*"Fate risplendere la santità di Dio". "Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5,16)*

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**ITEM 15**

**The importance of the International College, Queen of the Apostles, for the Society**

For the first time in our history, we are going to have a record number of 20 students –confreres in our International College, Queen of the Apostles in Rome for the next academic year 2012-2013. The scholarships for the studies of confreres coming from the so-called mission countries are offered from the Mission Fund at the Generalate whereas the confreres from all other entities receive the scholarships from our Hotel Ponte Sisto. There are also another six confreres doing the one year course on Pallottine spirituality at the International Centre for Pallottine Formation ("Cenacle) at Via G. Ferrari. These efforts of the Generalate are also financially supported time and again by many of our Provinces.

Such a vast investment of energy, time and money on our young confreres is made with a clear purpose. Investment on good education is never a waste.

In fact, we need to prepare a new generation of Pallottines marked by, in my opinion, these 3 specific characteristics: 1. Spiritual depth; 2. Pallottiness; 3. Internationality (or the spirit of universalism).

We need confreres who have had a deep God-experience and faith-conviction. If God is absent in our lives, the very purpose of our human and Christian existence is defeated.

We need confreres with a profound experience of our Founder and his spirituality and charism. We need a strong Pallottine identity in our personal lives as well as in all our apostolic endeavours.

We need confreres who are universal in their thinking and attitudes, following the spirit of infinitism of our Founder. Regardless of our different nationalities, languages or cultures, we are all Pallottines in service of the one Society and the entire Pallottine Family as well as the one Church of Jesus Christ.

Just as we speak of the Union of Catholic Apostolate as a "new way of being Church", we can also speak about a "new way of being Pallottines". The above-mentioned three qualities can greatly contribute to this "new way of being Pallottines" in the world today.

In forming such Pallottines, our International College here in Rome will always have a great role to play. Thanks to the entire Society for making it possible.

**Jacob Nampudakam sac – Rome - ITALY**  
**16.3.2012**

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## ITEM 14

### Formation: one of our greatest challenges today

Today, the Church, like Peter's boat, sails amid storms and dangers due, partly, to the effects of today's ever changing world. Many, if not all, religious congregations are worried about the increasing religious crises, with consequences such as the reduced number of vocations to the consecrated life and to priesthood. Yet, there is still hope because our Lord comforted us by saying: "[...] *be courageous: I have conquered the world*" (Jn 16:33). Moreover, in many parts of the world there are still numerous young men and women who continue to respond to the voice of Him who kindly knocks on the door of their hearts, saying to them: "*Follow me*" (Mt 4, 19).

With regard to our Pallottine family, we also rejoice in the Lord, because in various parts of the world such as Asia, Africa and Latin America, the problem of vocations to priesthood or to religious life does not, in general, arise. However, can we let this become a motive for us to say: "my soul take your rest; eat, drink, make be merry (Lk 12,19)? Certainly not! In effect, the rising number of vocations is a great opportunity, but at the same time a great challenge<sup>1</sup>. More precisely, on one hand, it is a great opportunity, not only because any new member that enters our family is a blessing, but also because, at the practical level, this fortunate situation impels and empowers us to implement the cherished legacy of our beloved Founder Saint Vincent Pallotti which is: collaboration with all, in all situations and everywhere, in order to revive the faith and re-ignite the charity of the entire People of God and to spread that same faith and charity throughout the world, so that there may soon be but one flock and one shepherd" (John 10,16). On the other hand, it is a great challenge because, to reach this noble goal, it is not enough to have a large number of "apostles". One has to also consider their qualities. Then raises the question of formation, and not any formation, but one which transforms.

Admittedly, if we, as Pallottines, really want to be effective as instruments of Jesus' Mission in the Church throughout the world, we must recognize that formation today is one of our greatest challenges. In other words, it is a field that needs particular attention and care. Indeed, given that we too are sons and daughters of today's "disintegrated" world, we should make use of every opportunity to make ourselves whole. Undoubtedly, it is formation that chisels each one into an integrated person. Pallotti himself was convinced that the foundation of the sanctity of priests (and not only priests) and of their pastoral involvement was a good formation<sup>2</sup>. Therefore through such formation we should strive to be in an intimate and profound relationship with God, which will certainly enhance the quality of our life and particularly of our consecrated life. In saying this we do not escape the fact that formation is a painful, lifelong process. It is not an easy path to follow, until Christ be formed in us. However, thinking about the Resurrection without the Cross leads to the image of an infantilizing God who simply gratifies our need without asking much of us. And that is not the God of our faith.

Finally, let us take courage and commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the various formative activities of our Pallottine family. Let us be convinced that "*the future of humanity lies in the hands of those who are strong enough to provide coming generations with reasons for living and hoping*"<sup>3</sup>.

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**05.03.12**

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