

E-BULLETIN #91

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

item 170

Belize stamps commemorate arrival centennial of Pallottine Sisters



On October 9, 2013, a rather remarkable milestone happened in Belize City in Central America.

To honour the arrival of Pallottine Missionary Sisters into that small country exactly 100 years ago the postal authority elected to issue a set of commemorative stamps. These are reproduced above, and depict a brief record of their ministry through the course of a century.

Surely a great tribute to the Sisters!

A celebration was held in the school for girls run by the Sisters in Belize City. Representatives of the civil government, the postal department and, of course, the Sisters themselves were present.

Sr Bożena Olszewska sac was the spokesperson for the Pallottine Sisters Generalate House.

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The Pallottine Sisters came to Belize in 1913 and have left their mark on the Belizean landscape, particularly in education. On Wednesday, to mark the centennial of their arrival, the General Post Office introduced a set of commemorative stamps. The event was held at Pallotti High School in Belize City and **Deputy Postmaster General James Gabourel** spoke to PLUS News.



“Today, the Post Office is very pleased to be unveiling a set of stamps in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Pallottine Sisters to the shores of this country.”

Reporter: *“Now, can you tell us, who will be interested in this set of stamps from a collector’s perspective and why issue these stamps?”*

James Gabourel: *“These are historical stamps; and at that, a commemorative stamp would normally depict a historical event. Persons who would have an interest in the history of a country, would be the ones collecting these stamps. I must add also that there are collectors who would do collection of stamps in general. And so, they too, would also be interested in collecting these stamps”.*

A grateful **Sister Steven Franco**, the chair of the planning committee for the centennial anniversary, told PLUS News that they could not be more pleased.



“I feel that this is great; it just blows my mind! Particularly because so many times we say, everything that comes to Belize breaks down. But anybody who has planted something for...and it has survived one hundred years, it must be something special...it must be something from God. And so, today I am elated, I am just bubbling over. I think this is great and I think that I thank the postal service too, for really blowing us out and bringing it to the full front”.

Reporter: *“Sister, do you feel that this meaningfully reflect the contribution that the Pallottine Sisters have contributed to the society?”*



Sister Steven Franco: *“I think it is a shadow of what we did. You can never thank anybody for services that they did for a hundred years because we have touched from Corozal to the Toledo District. So, but this is good. These are human expressions of what our heart really wants to say”.*

**posted by Belize postal staff
October 9th, 2013**

Pope greets Asian catholics

speaking in english for the first time since becoming Pope, Francis greeted Filipino and Asian Catholics at a conference on evangelization in Manila

Pope Francis brought joy to Catholics from the Philippines and other parts of Asia today when, speaking publicly in English for the first time, he greeted them in a video-recorded message as they participated in a conference on the new evangelization in Manila.

His three-minute *video message* was broadcast during morning mass at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, October 18, to participants at the first Philippine Conference on the New Evangelization.

“I am happy to learn that you came to Manila from different parts of the Philippines and Asia”, he told them. “The Holy Spirit is actively at work in you. The Church of Christ is alive!” he added.

He expressed the hope that the conference would help them to “experience again the loving presence of Jesus in your lives”, to “love the Church more”, and to “share the Gospel to all people with humility and joy.”

“Don’t get tired of bringing the mercy of the Father to the poor, the sick, the abandoned, the young people and families”, he told them. He encouraged them to make Jesus known “in the world of politics, business, arts, science, technology and social media.”

He prayed that the Holy Spirit would “renew the creation and bring forth justice and peace in the Philippines and in the great continent of Asia that is close to my heart”.

Then looking at them straight in the eye, he asked them: “Please pray for me. I need it! And I promise to pray for you.” He concluded with these words in the Filipino language: “Viva the Philippines! Viva Asia! May God bless you!”



Cardinal Tagle, who was presiding at the mass, and the participants at the conference applauded warmly when the Pope finished speaking.

This was Pope Francis’ first time speaking in English in public since becoming pope; up to now he had only spoken in public in Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. He speaks Germany fluently but has not spoken it in public yet.

As for English, he studied it in Dublin, Ireland, for a couple of months in 1980. He reads it without difficulty, and can also understand it well when it is spoken clearly, but up to now he has been reluctant to speak in English in public because he feels his pronunciation is not sufficiently good.



His public debut in English today, however, was a distinct success: he spoke it as well, if not better than his immediate predecessors.

Furthermore, it was significant that he has finally decided to speak in English, especially since he is considering to undertake visits to the Holy Land and to countries in Asia (including the Philippines) in 2014-15. Today, he signaled his intention to speak in English when he comes.

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