

PEOPLE OF GOD NEWSLETTER

LAITY, RELIGIOUS AND CLERGY LIVING THE VISION OF ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI



Society of the Catholic Apostolate
Winter 2005



The Pallottines

Poland - Here We Come!

Reflections: Pallottine International Congress of the Union of Catholic Apostolate

by Mrs. Betty Reichertz & Fr. Greg Serwa, SAC

POLAND!!! It's been a long time coming, but after a 10 hour flight from O'Hare in Chicago and a seven hour difference in time we arrived greeted by Christopher, a deacon from the seminary in Oltarzew.

Why were we in Poland from August 22-27, 2005? The first UAC General Congress since the General Statutes were approved by the Vatican was held at the Center for Mission Animation in Konstancin, (near Warsaw). The theme was "Now is the time for a new 'creativity' in charity." Prior to leaving we were asked to do a prayer-novena each month for spiritual preparation. Twenty-six countries participated and 5 major languages (English, German, Polish, Portuguese and Italian) were spoken. Ten members from the US National Conference were represented. As the laity, religious and clergy

arrived you could feel their excitement and anticipation ready to make St. Vincent Pallotti's dream come true.

At the first session Fr. Czeslaw Parzyszek welcomed everyone, followed by Fr. Seamus Freeman who opened the Congress. Fr. Derry Murphy, the Secretary General of the U.A.C., along with members of the General Secretariate moderated the Congress. It was Fr. Marek Gulbinowicz who gave us the practical information, like where to find the bathrooms, the food, etc., and could be found always with camera in hand taking pictures of everything and everyone throughout the week. We were invited by all of the speakers to discover the ideals of Vincent Pallotti, listen to others, be enriched and enter into the spirit of communion with each other. Most important was to get to know each other - to learn from each other

and in this way strengthen our Union - **TO COLLABORATE.**

We were asked to review the General Statutes, bring them to life. Many countries have not actually read the statutes and we were asked to review them with our UAC Cenacles. We need to



US National Conference Members: Fr. Greg and Betty Reichertz on far left.

(See **Poland** pg.4)

Vocation Staff Plus One

by Editorial Staff

Hi! My name is Jeffrey S. Montoya -- you can call me Jeff. I am the latest addition to the Pallottine Vocation team. My new title is Vocation Coordinator for the Pallottines - Mother of God Province. How's that for a mouthful?

I will be working part-time in the vocation office completing administrative and ministerial duties.

Originally from New Mexico, I have lived in Wisconsin for almost 10 years, coming in 1995 to Wisconsin for college. I did my undergraduate studies in Religious Studies and Philosophy at St. Norbert College from 1995 to 1999. I then worked as a youth minister for just over four years before moving into campus ministry. At present I work as a campus minister and director of diversity at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee in addition to my work with the Pallottines.

In my free time I enjoy playing volleyball and softball in the summer, and darts and bowling in the winter. I have an obsession with books and reading. I have a cat named Noah and a basset-hound named Moses.



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Fr. Leon Martin, SAC, editor.

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Poland: continued from page 2

deepen our understanding of them. We have until 2008 to look them over to see if we need to make any revisions. There are 48 countries where Pallottines live, but so far there are only 18 NCC's.

Our meeting room had a large stained glass image of Mary Queen of Apostles as a back drop so it was easy to envision ourselves beginning each day at prayer in the Cenacle. Because the various presenters did not always speak our language, we all wore headsets that were connected to translators. After each speaker, small language groups gathered together to share thoughts and ideas on the talk given. Collaboration and formation were priorities for most groups as we came together to share what had been discussed. We were also impressed with a deep love of St. Vincent and the Union found in the group sharing. We got to know each other; we were enriched.

Each of the speakers presented us with a challenge. The first day was a prayer day – reflection on the Scripture. We were called to be apostles as in the Cenacle – the thrust of the challenge here was to bring what we learn to Cenacles at home – we are sent as apostles. Each country was asked to bring their flag, which was displayed in the courtyard, and a picture or statue of Mary, which had a special meaning for our country. A procession was held on Tuesday evening, August 23, to the chapel where these were placed in front of the altar. The image chosen by the U.S. delegates was the Immaculate Conception. Under this title she was named our Patroness, dedicated in the 1800's by the Third Plenary Council and located in the National Shrine in Washington D.C. After the closing Liturgy on Saturday, August

27, each country picked a name of a Madonna from a different country and we were asked to take the statue or picture home and pass it to everyone in our Union Group and to pray for the Union throughout world.



Some of the many priests who concelebrated the Eucharist each day.

Wednesday evening the countries did a presentation of their customs, songs, dance, etc. The evening was fun and relaxing. It was very impressive. From the United States we chose to sing two songs, America the Beautiful and Take Me Out to the Ball Game.

At the Thursday morning session Mr. Andy Thompson from the United States spoke on "Poverty, how it affects human dignity, created in the image of God, and how it touches the Church and the union." Andy's challenge for us was to understand poverty not only as a lack of goods but also to recognize what might be called an intellectual poverty, or a lack of openness to diversity in ways of thinking. In the afternoon, we took a bus to Warsaw's downtown. Seeing the sights of Warsaw together and buying souvenirs, we even

stopped for an ice cream cone. We ended the day with a Eucharistic Celebration at the Provincialate of the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers. Each day we celebrated Eucharist in a different language. It was enriching to celebrate the Mass in various languages and especially to see so many priests concelebrating.

Father Hubert Socha, SAC made some outstanding comments on the General Statutes on Friday. His challenge to us was to put life into the Union. He encouraged us to use our lived experience to enliven the skeleton of the General Statutes. Another speaker Mr. Corrado Montaldo of the “*Comunita V Dimension*” spoke of his own experience in being nervous about performing some ministry until he took the focus off himself and realized he was doing it for Christ.

Some of the proposals made on Saturday were: to look into ourselves and community, take away the prejudices in our lives, to build communion on all levels, and cooperate. Be a doer, not just a lis-

tener. Make the UAC known with a logo or some kind of symbol. Each group gave suggestions as to where they would like the 2008 or 2009 General Congress to be held. Rome and Brazil were the favorites.

Saturday, the Congress ended with a Eucharistic Celebration. During the Liturgy the members of the UAC made a renewal of their Apostolic Commitment. At the closing the Sign of Peace was extended and it was hard to say good bye and there were so many tears and hugs. No one wanted to leave. It was very touching and emotional. A lot of e-mail and addresses were exchanged to keep in touch. It was quite an experience meeting and sharing our thoughts and ideas about St. Vincent, his spirituality, charism and how we as Union members can make Pallotti’s dream come true. Being together, bonded by a deep love of St. Vincent Pallotti, helped us to strengthen our unity and keep his dream alive, real apostles.

Sunday we had an option to take a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Czestochowa (Black Madonna). It was a fun four hour bus trip there. When we arrived we began with a Mass in one of the smaller chapels. There was a long line to see the Black Madonna, but when you saw her, the emotions that flowed through you were unexplainable. After the Liturgy we had lunch at the Pallottine Shrine in honor of the Mercy of God. We later walked back to spend more time at Czestochowa. We had time to see the small village, to buy souvenirs, and of course to have an ice cream cone. Poland has yummy ice cream! Four of us were going to continue to see other sights of Poland so our farewells had to be said at the bus and once again there were hugs and tears. We wish everyone could have shared the rich experience of being at the General Congress in Konstancin.



Fr. Greg & Sr. Alicia from Belize at statue of Fr. Joseph Stanek, SAC (WWII Memorial Warsaw).

And Now You Know!

Excerpts from the book: *Like An Evangelical Trumpet: A History of the Mother of God Province of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate*, written by Steven M. Avella.

Question #16: How did the Milwaukee Pallottines gain the Status of a Province?

For now, the acceptance of the Canadian mission brought the Milwaukee Pallottines to a critical juncture. Boenki was not only eager to gain a foothold in Canada and provide some sort of ministry to his interned confreres, he was also anxious to raise the number of priests in his region to the requisite number of thirty in order to make it eligible for province status. The affiliation of the interned priests became a critical question. Were they still members of their German Province or did they now belong to the North American Region? Initially, Hoffmann was unwilling to "count" the internees in the American Region. Replying to Boenki, who apparently had raised the question and the possibility of a petition for Provincial statue, Hoffmann wrote in November 1944:



If you think that all conditions for the elevation of your region to the rank of a Province are fulfilled, please let the Regional Council make an official demand to the General Council; then without doubt the General Council and the Holy See will give their consent. But it would be difficult to comprise, just now, the fathers living in Canada in the number of 30 priests requested by Constitution 339, because practically by reasons not de-

pending on any Pallottine, they cannot be appointed definitively to your Region before the war will be finished. Nevertheless, if you have 30 priests, of whom the ordinary curriculum of studies is finished, then there is no canonical obstacle, and I will be very glad to elevate Milwaukee to the position of a province.

On December 29, 1944, however, the Generalate partially reversed itself and offered a Solomonic compromise resolving, "that the Fathers now residing in Canada belong definitely to the North American Region. But that they shall be entitled to ask for their return to Holy Trinity Province during the first year after the conclusion of peace." This now brought the number of priests in the community to thirty-one, one more than the number required for elevation to province status under article 339 of the Pallottine Constitutions. The way was now open for the formal canonical erection of the Mother of God Province.

However, passing through the convoluted channels of the Apostolic Delegation's mail delivery system and the fitful days at the end of the war, the letter

took several months to arrive in Milwaukee. Boenki then shared it with the Regional Consulta on April 4, 1945, which met the news with approval. On April 12, 1945, the same day the nation heard of the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Regional Council, Boenki, DeMaria, and Goldschmidt, formally informed the Rector General that the provisions for Province status stipulated in Constitution 339 had been fulfilled. The region now had two parishes in Milwaukee, a Novitiate and a House of Studies as well as missions in North Dakota and Canada. With thirty-one priests and a manageable financial picture, the conditions seemed right. As preparations were laid for a Regional Chapter to be held in anticipation of a General Chapter in 1947, the American Pallottines waited for news from Rome on their application. In a letter of June 13, 1946, to the region announcing the event and preparing for elections of Capitulars, Boenki announced: "The General Council intends to erect several new regions and to raise the Swiss and North American Region to the status of a Province. If this decision is made before our regional chapter, two delegates and two substitutes will be elected for the General Chapter.

Eleven days later, the General Council formally met and on June 24, 1946, formally declared the erection of the North

American Province after having secured permission from the Sacred Congregation for Religious on June 11, 1946. The Mother of God Province, as the October chapter would so designate it, would begin a new phase of its history.

(It is interesting to note that World War II help bring about an early "Americanization" of the newly formed province.) War meant an acceleration of the seminary courses in Milwaukee, Jessup and the House of Studies. In order to avoid the draft, seminary students nationwide had to remain in school all year long. One hapless student... had not taken the proper steps to assure his draft exemption and found himself inducted into the army despite the fact that he was in vows and even had received tonsure (the formal introduction to the clerical state.) Pallottine officials attempted to extricate him from this situation, but the young man determined that his was not a Pallottine vocation while in the service of his country and was dispensed from his promises. The stepping up of the seminary education would ultimately provide a bumper crop of American priests, beginning in 1943 with the ordination of Fr. Marcel LaJoie, the first American to move through the Pallottine formation system. By the early 1950s, a growing cadre of American Pallottines would move into positions of community leadership.

Next Time: What were those first formative years like for the new province?

*If you want to learn more about the Pallottines of the Mother of God Province on your own, the book **Like an Evangelical Trumpet** is now available in a 335 page soft-cover edition, complete with 33 pages of nostalgic pictures and photographs, for the price of \$19.95 plus \$3.50 postage and handling. To receive your copy, send your name, address and payment to:*

**Pallottine Development Office
5424 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53208**

Ask

Father



Why do We Pray for the Dead?

Dear Father,

A lady friend of mine said that she believes it is ridiculous to pray to the saints and to pray for the dead. She reasons that since the saints are happy in heaven already, why would they want to bother with us on earth anymore, and as for the others who died and who aren't saints, well, they're beyond help now.

That just doesn't sound right to me. I was raised to believe we should pray for the dead (souls in purgatory) to help them get to heaven one day, and that we should pray to the saints to help us also get to heaven. Am I on the right track or not? What does the Church have to say about this?

Signed,

Pamela S.

Dear Pamela S.,

Yours is a very important question, especially these days when praying, going to Mass, receiving communion, and going to confession don't seem to rate very high on many people's "lists" of things to be concerned about.

The Church in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states: "The Christian who seeks to purify himself (or herself) from sin and to become holy with the

help of God's grace is not alone. The life of each of God's children is joined in Christ and through Christ in a wonderful way to the life of all the other Christian brethren in the supernatural unity of the Mystical Body of Christ..." A simpler way of saying all that is: We all belong to the "Communion of Saints."

In the communion of saints, a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things. In this wonder exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others. Thus, recourse to the communion of saints lets the contrite sinner be more promptly and efficaciously purified of the punishments for sin."

"Since the faithful departed now being purified are members of this same communion of saints, one way we can help them is to obtain indulgences for them [through our prayers and good works], so that the temporal punishment due for their sins may be remitted."

Pamela, you just keep praying for the dead. Love does not stop at the threshold of the grave!

**Send your "Ask Father"
letters to:
Ask Father
5424 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53208**

If you wish, you can also write to us and receive a reply without your letter being published.

Sloppy Josephines

A Healthier Holiday Food

by The Pallotti House Chef

Now here's a new look at an old holiday favorite, the Sloppy Joe. When company comes over for the holidays, we usually want to serve a quick, yet not too expensive, meal that will satisfy the "hunger hoards". Sloppy Joes are great at doing the job, but sometimes the red meat, fat, salt and cholesterol can panic the more health conscious ones among us. Well, it's Sloppy Josephines to the rescue!

Lean ground turkey instead of ground beef helps make this meal a much healthier one to consume. I personally enjoyed the taste, and I'm not one who likes ground turkey.

Try this recipe on your family before the holidays get here. If they like it, you know you'll probably have a hit with you serve it to your guests.

Here's What You'll Need:

- 2 teaspoons Canola oil
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup diced sweet red peppers
- 16 oz. lean ground turkey
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose salt-free seasoning (Mrs. Dash's)
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup reduced sodium ketchup
- 2 Tablespoons Chile sauce or mild salsa
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons dark brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper



Here's What You Do:

In a 3 quart saucepan, heat Canola oil.

Add onions and red pepper and cook until onions are translucent (about 3 minutes). Add turkey and salt-free seasoning. Cook until turkey loses its raw look (about 5-10 minutes)

Add tomato sauce, ketchup, chili sauce, vinegar, brown sugar and black pepper. Mix well and simmer 15 minutes.

Serves 4

Nutritional info:
per serving 193 cal
8.8g fat



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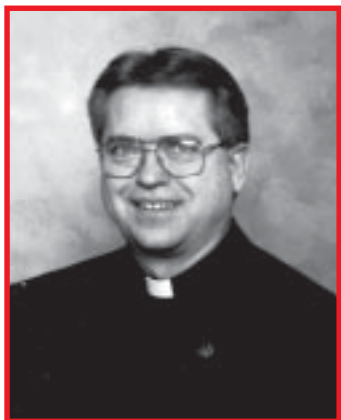
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From Summer to Fall

by Fr. Leon Martin, SAC

Provincial, Mother of God Province



Looking back at the last few months has brought to mind many things for which I am grateful. One in particular is the leadership of Fr. Joseph Dominic, SAC at St. Lawrence Parish near Slinger, WI.

During the annual feastday celebration at the parish, Fr. Joseph and I paused for a moment for a picture with Archbishop Dolan (see below). With the special liturgy,

Eucharistic procession through the cemetery and the delicious lunch that followed the ceremonies, the parishioners remembered the faith which is the glue that holds the past, present and future in the Lord. It was a joyous day indeed!

In August we Pallottines were fortunate to help some of our area young people attend the World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. Representatives from St. Lawrence Parish, Slinger, Holy Rosary Parish in Kenosha and St. Vincent Pallotti parish flew with Fr. Joe Koyichal and Fr. Steve Varghese to the grand event. All of them returned with many good experiences and stories



Photo by Barbara Gato

to tell. Later in October Fr. Joe and Fr. Steve will be sharing their adventure with the rest of our community at a special supper and community get-together at Pallotti House. I'm looking forward to hearing their views and stories.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Pallottine Priests and Brothers in Germany for hosting the Pallottine youth from many countries for two weeks. We are grateful for all their efforts to make the time spent in Germany enjoyable and exciting.

With so many disasters and tragic events to shock us into an awareness of how many people are

going without food, housing and other bare necessities, I find that it isn't difficult to reflect upon the many blessings we all have received and shouldn't take for granted. With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, current events could be a great source for food for thought over the coming months.

To all of you whose time, talents and treasures have helped us Pallottines to serve God's family this past year, let me express my gratitude for your support. I (we) look forward to collaborating with you in the coming year. May God bless and protect you always. Peace,

Fr. Leo Martin, SAC

Dates and Times of Interest



You are invited to pray with us.

Christmas Novena

December 16th - 24th

at

St. Vincent Pallotti Shrine
inside

St. Vincent Pallotti Church East
5424 W. Bluemound Rd.

Weekdays at 5:00 pm
Sat. & Sun at 1:00 pm

To Germany! For World Youth Day!

by Jeff Montoya



The Milwaukee Pallottine Pilgrims to the World Youth Day in Germany

Venimus adorare eum - Latin for “we have come to worship him”- was the theme of the XX World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in August. It was a very appropriate theme as it rang out in a contemporary song composed for the event at which a million people celebrated the Eucharist with Pope Benedict XVI.

We did come and we did worship! Twenty-four Milwaukee Pallottine pilgrims traveled to Germany for the event. The group included youth/young adults from St. Vincent Pallotti Parish in Milwaukee, Holy Rosary Parish in Kenosha and St. Lawrence Parish in Slinger. Fr. Joe Koyickal, Fr. Steve Varghese and I participated as well.

Our pilgrimage began long before our actual travel started with fund-raising and other preparations for the trip. Our actual travel began August 9 with a simple prayer service at St. Vincent Pallotti Parish. After the prayer we boarded a bus and drove to Chicago O’Hare airport for our eight hour flight to Germany. For some this was their first time on an airplane; for others, their first time on an international flight!

We arrived safely in Germany and were

transported by bus to the town of Olpe. We were met at the Pallottihaus by our host families for the first week of our trip. This was a delightful opportunity for us to get a close up look at daily living in Germany. Our entire group experienced wonderful hospitality, though it took some time to get through language barriers in some households. Each

day we prayed and celebrated Mass at the Pallottihaus, participated in culture-sharing activities, and went site-seeing.

After our time in Olpe, we went to Rheinbach. There we stayed at a Pallottine college, sleeping on classroom floors. Also staying at the college were groups from many other countries including those from Canada and Poland who we had already gotten to know in Olpe. During this, our second week, we participated in catechetical sessions and culture-sharing activities with other English-speaking pilgrims, and attended prayer and Mass.

Some of the aspects of the planning for this part of the trip on the part of the World Youth Day planners left much to be desired, particularly with transportation and food. We faced distant food sites and long lines. The trains were often literally overflowing with pilgrims. As one newspaper put it, people were “keeling over” in the Cologne train station. However, everyone from our group remained fed and safe.

We also traveled to the Cathedral in Cologne. This ancient Cathedral, dating back to the twelfth century, houses what

tradition holds are the relics of the three Holy Magi. We were able to relate to these Holy Magi who traveled from distant lands to find Christ and pay him homage. Unfortunately the day we were scheduled to visit to the Cathedral was also the day that the Pope arrived in Cologne, so we were unable to go.

The morning before leaving to Marienfeld we had one last Mass at the Pallotti College Chapel. We were very fortunate to have Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy Dolan come to join us and to preside at the Mass. The Vicar General of the Pallottines, Fr. Zenon Hanas, preached a wonderful homily speaking in English, German, and Polish and, with the assistance of a translator, Spanish.

The Papal Mass at Marienfeld was the highlight of the trip. We arrived on Saturday afternoon after walking about 22 kilometers from the train station. We had a bit of difficulty finding a place to set up “camp” but finally got situated next to one of the pathways. Then an amazing thing

happened. Security and volunteers began to line the pathway where we were sitting. The pope in the pope-mobile was going to enter right along our path. He rode by only eight feet from us and we all excitedly took pictures – many of the back of his head.

We celebrated evening prayer and had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that night as part of the vigil and participated in the Mass the next morning. It is an indescribable experience to be at Mass with a million other Catholics from around the world. The sense of our Catholicity and the unity of the church was inspiring—all of us gathered around the altar with the Holy Father worshipping Christ.

We returned to the Pallottine college in Rheinbach for one last night before returning to the United States on Monday. This experience would not have been possible without the Pallottines both in Milwaukee and Germany. Their generosity in supporting the trip both with energy and finances shows the commitment of the Pallottines to youth and young people.

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Loving Vigil Lights for the Holidays

For centuries, a candle burning brightly in a window has been a symbol of welcome to travelers, a sign of hope in the darkness and a way to show concern for the safe return home of loved ones. During the holidays you will see many such window lights. For some, they will be no more than nice decorations. For others the meaning of the symbol will always hold true. This holiday season you can continue this loving tradition by lighting a vigil light for someone you love. Just fill out this slip and send it to us in the envelope included in this newsletter, and we will light a **7 day vigil light for you and your intentions** at the statue of St. Joseph in our house chapel.

Please light a vigil light for me for the following holiday intentions:

(circle a month and a Monday you would like us to start the 7 day vigil light for you.)

Nov.	07	14	21	28
Dec.	05	12	19	26
Jan.	02	09	16	23 30
Feb.	06	13	20	27

I would like to make a donation of: \$3 \$5 \$7 \$10 other \$ _____