

PEOPLE OF GOD NEWSLETTER

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



Alleluia

Society of the Catholic Apostolate
Spring 2006



The Pallottines

A Pallottine Experience in Brazil

by Deacon Sergio Lizama, SAC

As the date of my perpetual consecration in the Society of Catholic Apostolate came near, Fr. Leon Martin, the provincial, offered me the opportunity to go to Brazil for a month long religious and pastoral experience. So, on June 15, 2005, I flew to the Pallottine Province of Santa Maria. Fr. Edgar Ertl, Fr. Ademar Figuera and some seminarians were to be my guides during this time in Brazil.

Life in the Pallottine Seminary of Santa Maria was intense. Most of the young men I met were of the typical college age (18-25). Thirty of them were in Philosophy and some twenty in Theology. They were happy to have me participating in all aspects of their daily routine. Starting very early in the morning we had Mass and Morning Prayer. Some of the seminarians played guitar to animate the young congregation. After breakfast, they in-

vited me to participate in some of their classes. Most interesting!

Usually after classes, during the week or weekends, the seminarians were involved in some interesting pastoral activities, especially among the poor people. The challenge sometimes was just getting to an activity since we often had to walk miles because there were no cars available for us all. However, when we attended Mass in some distant parish, one of the seminarians drove a van carrying our group.

Some of the activities I participated in were: Saturday afternoon catechesis, visiting the sick and celebrating the Eucharist in a hospital for the poor, house to house visits to invite Catholics to go to church, weekly visits to the young prisoners, liturgy in small chapels on Sunday mornings, home visits to families and the sick, ecumenical activities and participation in the activities of the UAC.

One of the visits that made a strong impression on me was at an improvised day care center in a very poor neighborhood. A couple gathered some fifteen children in their poor house and cared for them while their parents went to work. This couple charged no fees of any kind for their services. They shared what they had, and the seminarians and I came and taught catechesis, sang with the kids and play games with them. It broke my heart to see such poverty, but I was impressed by how these people shared the few things they had. It seems the poor don't need



Sergio (3rd from left) with some of the seminarians of Santa Maria Province

A Deacon In Our Midst!

by the Editorial Staff

On Sunday, January 22, the feast of our founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, the Pallottines of the Mother of God Province were proud to witness the ordination of Sergio Lizama, SAC to the office of deacon in the Catholic Church.

During the ordination liturgy held at St. Vincent Pallotti Church West Site, our Provincial, Fr. Leon Martin presented Sergio to Bishop Richard Sklba for the ordination, and Bishop Sklba welcomed Sergio into the clerical rank of Deacon through one of the most ancient traditions of the Catholic Church - the laying on of hands. After the laying on of hands, Bishop Sklba proclaimed the great prayer of ordination over Sergio and invited the assembled community of clergy, religious, family, friends and parishioners to affirm the prayer with a great "Amen!"

As the liturgy continued, Sergio received a Stole and Dalmatic, the vesture of his new office. He was then handed the Book of the gospels and finally was given the sign of peace by Bishop Sklba. All were reminded of what Jesus began at that Last Supper meal with his Apostles and how the priests and deacons continue that remembrance through their special ministries to the people.

After Mass, the congregation was invited for a luncheon in the parish center. Since this day was also St. Vincent Pallotti's feast day posters and pictures depicting scenes from his life were on display for all to enjoy and learn more about our great founder.



Bishop Sklba & Deacon Sergio Lizama, SAC

Sergio, welcome to your new ministry as a deacon. We pray that God will help you be a good worker in his vineyard, and that you may find great peace and happiness in this final step before your ordination to the priesthood in May 2006.

People of God Newsletter
*is published three times a year
by the
Mother of God Province
of the Pallottine
Fathers & Brothers.
Articles, photos, suggestions
are always welcome.
Editorial office located at:
Pallottine Fathers & Brothers
5424 W. Bluemound Rd.,
Milwaukee, WI 53208-3097
414-259-0688
Fr. Leon Martin, SAC, editor.
People of God is printed on
recycled paper.*

Please  recycle and
help preserve God's creation.

To India - for Fr. Joe's 25th Anniversary

Reprint of an article "Our Visit to Father Joe's Homeland" by

Therese & Leonard Schaefer

appearing in St. Vincent Pallotti Parish's Newsletter "Soundings" Vol. 9 Issue 1

We went to India to celebrate Fr. Joe's (Koyickal) 25th Jubilee with him.. What we discovered was that our parish is truly blessed to have him with us here. Neither we nor anyone else would fully understand the sacrifice he has made to serve God and us until we went there. The tremendous beauty of the surrounding countryside is mesmerizing.

We met wonderful, gracious people, Pallottine priests who opened their homes, rectories and seminaries to make us feel at home. They took care of us like we were their best friends. We were met at the airport in New Delhi by Fr. George, who gave us our first thrilling ride to his facility, Mary Queen of Apostles/St. Vincent Pallotti School. There we found a rapidly growing school and a free after-school tutoring program for local children of all faiths, in a place of peace and safety. The children were simply beautiful. One evening was spent with a group of families who gather every Saturday of the month, with whom we prayed, ate and had lively conversation.

Arrangements were made for us to travel by car for the next three days to see the more touristy areas. After some initial snags like a flat tire and AC problems, we saw some of the most beautiful sites - Lotus Temple, Akbar's Tomb, Taj Mahal, Red Fort and so much more. The incredible colors you see on the Taj Mahal are not painted on, but precious gems (including turquoise and garnet stones) inlaid in marble by gifted artisan and hauled hundreds of miles by elephants in the 16th century. Truly amazing. During this part

of the trip we learned the true meaning of pot holes. For several hours we traveled on roads, or should we say what's left of them after the monsoons in the previous months. Our very responsible driver did a great job of delivering us back to Delhi safely. Many thanks to all who were so kind to us there.

Fr. Joe met us at the airport in Trivandrum, which is at the southernmost tip of India, and the capital of Fr. Joe's home state of Kerala. It was good to see him looking so well and rested. We had so many questions about our experiences, which I think he found somewhat amusing from an Indian standpoint. We reunited with Fr. Leon Martin also for the scenic drive to the new Maria Rani Center, a Pallottine center at which various programs are held for the laity and religious. There Fr. Leon and Fr. Joe had meetings with fellow Pallottines. One day we went to Boys Town, an orphanage at which Fr. Joe had his first assignment. We almost thought he was a famous rock star because of all the attention and adulation he received from the group. A beautiful anniversary Mass was celebrated that evening at the Pallottigiri Seminary. Following the Mass was a tribute, delicious food, gifts and a Jubilee song by the seminarians. There we mingled with so many of Fr. Joe's Pallottine friends and classmates.

We were in the south where the temperature was more pleasant, the scenery was gorgeous and we were near the Arabian Sea, where the fish are awesome and plentiful. Our group went on a fantastic

house boat trip where we felt like royalty for a day. We ate squid, mussels, lobster, duck, pork, crab, deep fried bananas and drank tea, chai, beer and a drink tapped from the cashew tree. Cooled by the tropical breezes, the sun felt wonderful as we floated. Some napped, but all relaxed completely. We then traveled by car to Fr. Joe's home



Therese Schaefer, Fr. Joe, Fr. Augustine, Fr. Leon and Lenny Schaefer.

place, Kattapana. There we began our ascent into spectacular beauty: mountains covered by rubber, banana and coconut trees and beautiful streams and waterfalls. Delicately trimmed tea estates surround the constant upward-spiraling, narrow roads. That evening we were dinner guests at Fr. Joe's dad's home. His family is so very close, loving and delightful. They welcomed us with open arms.

That Saturday morning we ascended a beautiful mountain to a simple but lovely, fully decorated church for Fr. Joe's 25th Jubilee Mass. With more than 300 people including 30 or so priests, and numerous family members, Father celebrated Mass in the Syrian Rite in his native tongue. After the two hour Mass, we ate delicious food on banana leaves, cooked and served by the men. We were so proud of Fr. Joe and so honored to be there.

India is everything you have read and seen on TV, plus so much more. The breathtaking beauty of Fr. Joe's homeland is unforgettable. The beaches

and sunsets in Goa were awesome. We saw everything, from the simple foundation and structure of a new faith community Fr. Johnson is building, to the very profound Pallotti Philosophy Institute where Fr. Joe was the rector and taught philosophy. Everywhere we were treated wonderfully, and everyone was so kind. So many were so concerned about the victims of Katrina. We were also very touched by their deep faith and dedication to God. We were also an oddity. Many in the south don't see Caucasians too often, much less people our size. Airplane travel within the country was seemingly safe and included all the amenities like a warm washcloth, candies and full, delicious Indian meals.

And all along the way, our guardian angel, Fr. Joe, called often to check on us. He arranged every step of the way. We joked that he could run a successful Pallottine Travel Service.

After his Jubilee Mass, we were given a message to deliver to Milwaukee:

We entrust you with a great responsibility -- to love and care for our Jose.

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.

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

The move from region to Province constituted a watershed for the Milwaukee Pallottines. From a struggling group, beset by internal divisions and exceptional financial distress (in equal parts created by Peter Schroeder and the ill-fortune of trying to get started during the worst economic downturn in United States history), the Pallottines now seemed poised for the growth that Laqua had urged in the "pioneer" days of the 1920s.

Much had been accomplished. Two parishes with growing memberships and grade schools had been created. These provided stable locations to highlight Pallottine visions and ideals, and hopefully attract vocations. At St. Anthony's, Schroeder's high school, begun in his typical seat-of-the-pants fashion, was now poised for substantial growth and was destined to become one of the leading high schools in the archdiocese. The financial crises that had plagued both parishes in their earliest years seemed to have been surmounted. In particular, conservative spending policies at Holy Cross coupled with an increased in contributions made possible by the return of full employment allowed the parish to burn its mortgage by the late 1940s.

community finances in general. This was largely attributable to the conservative fiscal policies of Christopher Meyer, who would serve for many years as the community's general financial officer. Meyer had done yeoman work in stabilizing the troubled finances of the province, and was able to retire the onerous debt of Holy Cross, stemming directly from Schroeder's days. The bulk of his revenues were generated by Mass stipends which come not only through solicitations in *The Catholic Apostolate*, but also through his own diligent letter writing to religious women, who sent him Mass intentions. He also scoured the newspapers searching for Catholic obituaries

and writing to the bereaved families offering consolation and soliciting stipends. Only at St. Anthony's did a heavy debt burden remain, in large part because DeMaria shared his mentor's penchant for deficit financing. But the flush times of Milwaukee's wartime and postwar economy, and the population booms of the postwar era augured well. Men like DeMaria with a childlike faith in Divine Providence did not worry nearly as much as his more fiscally conservative confreres.

The Jessup Novitiate percolated along under Adolph Goldschmidt's methodical



hand and the house of studies received a small but steady flow of candidates for classes at The Catholic University. The acuity (or good luck) which Haarpaintner and Spiesberger brought to these purchases was evident. The locations were superb and although the Jessup site would be problematic, it would redeem the wisdom of its purchasers by its substantial gravel deposits, which began to be marketed in 1947 -- perfect for an age soon to engage in the greatest road building projects since the days of Ancient Rome -- and would bring steady revenue to the Province.

Pallottines were firmly ensconced in mission areas in North Dakota and Canada, and the visibility of their presence brought one important vocation to the community, Lawrence McCall. McCall hailed from Kempton, North Dakota, and his 1945 ordination would increase the number of American-born Pallottines. Pallottines were also to be found in the healthcare ministry, serving in hospital chaplaincies in West Virginia, in collaboration with the Pallottine Sisters, and even more extensively to the vast complex of Milwaukee County Institutions they had inherited from the Capuchins in 1921. In all, as the community assumed its new Provincial status, things seemed poised for substantial growth. But gaining traction in the quest for vocations was difficult.

It was already evident that the ring of formation programs from Minor Seminary through final profession/ordination that had been forged in the 1930s were not producing the desired results. Although beginning in 1943, a steady stream of American-born Pallottines began to be ordained and to take their place in both the communities' leadership as well as its vari-

ous apostolates, there were simply not enough. The seminary, the hope of Laqua for the future of the Milwaukee band, was still floundering as the war ended. Unfortunately, the number of vocations to the community never "took off" as compared with others.

Boenki's response to the Rector General seemed to sum it up: the community had come to America too late and it still retained an excessive amount of German "baggage" that made it less attractive to American youth. Moreover, it appeared that they retained this "ethos" for a longer time than other similarly founded religious organizations in heavily German Milwaukee, such as the Capuchin and Salvatorian Fathers and even the Archdiocese itself. There would be no investiture classes of twenty or thirty such as those witnessed in other apostolic congregations. The dearth of American-born vocations perpetuated the German flavor of the community into the 1950's.

The perpetuation of the German influence had other implications that worked against its long-term success in attracting and retaining recruits. Specifically, old animosities and rivalries born of European causes between the Bruchsal and Limburg Germans did not fade immediately. Indeed, a number of South Germans, disaffected with what they considered Superior Otto Boenki's "Prussian/Aristocratic" style had elected to return to the homeland or to missions staffed by their own. A number elected to join dioceses and two men, Hubert Eistert and Paul Franke, had died in the service of the community. In all there were fourteen who departed, and as numbers continued to be a problem, every defection was painfully felt... But, as small as numbers

Ask Father

Why Do We, and They Don't?

Dear Father,

I would like to know why Christian priests do not wear sacred robes and collars like Catholic priests wear? I also would like to know why Christian priests are against having a picture of Jesus or Mary inside a church or Children's Sunday school class?

*Signed,
Richard R.*

Dear Richard,

Let me start by saying there are centuries of church history that underlie the very questions you are asking today.

In Jesus' time and in those first centuries after his death and resurrection, life in the church was far less complicated than it is today. As the church began to grow, larger meeting places had to be found, rules had to be set down, traditions and special devotions began to evolve. Like most things that start out simple and get more complicated as time goes on, so too Liturgies moved from the simplicity of the Last Supper meal to more and more elaborate ceremonies.

Now, I wouldn't think of saying that the move from the simple to the complex was bad because much of the beauty in liturgy and church music stems from the very sincere love and devotion of the faithful for their savior Jesus, his mother Mary, the saints and martyrs.



Unfortunately, over time many devotional practices and displays of affection overshadowed some of the fundamentals in our faith. The Reformation of the Middle Ages was in many ways a direct result of some abuses in the Church. As a result, the call was to a return to the simple, the pure, the uncomplicated. What happened was the destruction of statues, the removal of stained glass windows, the shedding of ornate vestments and dress, simple liturgies without gold chalices and fancy altar decorations, even the removal of the body of Jesus from the crucifix - leaving only the cross.

Some of what happened back then still remains with us today. Perhaps there is something good to be said here. It's always so easy to get carried away with traditions, devotions, decorations and rules. There is also something to be said about expressing our love and devotion to God through art, crafts, music, dress and liturgy. The key is not to go to either extreme. Just how far is too far? Well, THAT is the question!

**Send your "Ask Father"
letters to:**

**The Pallottine Fathers & Brothers
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.

Chocolate Eclair Layer Torte

by the "Pallotti House Chef"

Desserts come in all shapes and sizes. Some take a lot of time and dedication to make them turn out right. Others like this one are easier to put together, but look like you spent hours making them. In either case it's always nice to have something new to spring on your family and friends.

This time around our recipe comes from one of our readers, Charlotte. As you will soon see, her recipe is easy to follow, and could open the door to a little parent-child quality time. Let the kids help with this one. I'm sure making pudding and putting layers together would be lots of fun for both them and you. Think about it!

Here's What You'll Need:

- 20 - Whole graham crackers.
- 2 - 3.5 oz. boxes instant Vanilla pudding (I like banana-vanilla)
- 3 - cups milk
- 1 - 8 oz. whipped cream topping (Cool whip or equivalent)
- 1 can Chocolate Fudge Frosting

Here's What You Do:

In the bottom of a 13 x 9 baking pan, place one layer of whole graham crackers.

Mix both puddings with the milk and beat well. Add whipped topping and mix well again.

Spread half the pudding mixture over the



first layer of crackers. Then add a second layer of crackers and top with the remaining pudding mixture.

Add a third layer of crackers over the mixture for the top.

With the frosting at room temperature, spread it on top of the last layer of crackers.

Cover with foil and put in the frig overnight.

See! Wasn't that easy to make? And I'll bet you had fun making it!

Enjoy!

By the way, if you have a favorite recipe, be it an appetizer, entree, salad, or dessert, send it in. I'll give it a try, and if it turns out for me and passes the taste test (I'll try it on my fellow priests and brothers that I live with), who knows, you may find it published right here for the whole world to enjoy.

Keep on cooking ---- it's fun!