

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

# *People of God*



Spring 2015  
The Pallottines

XII

***"No obedience will ever cost  
more than it cost Jesus  
Christ."*** - St. Vincent Pallotti



## **Stay in Touch with God. No Cell Phone, I-Pod or Computer Required.**

**Join the Pallottine Prayer Network!  
Membership Is Always Free!**

If you are a person willing to set aside a few minutes each day to pray for your own intentions, the needs of others and the Church, we want **you** as a member of our prayer network for 2015. As a member you will receive a wallet-sized membership card, a 5x7 certificate of membership, and over the course of the year 12 different prayer cards. Membership is always FREE.

**Come join the over 600 members in our Prayer Network. Simply fill out the information form below and return it in the envelope provided or mail directly to:**

The Pallottine Prayer Network \* 5424 W. Bluemound Rd. \* Milwaukee, WI 53208

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## **THE FUTURE STANDS BEFORE YOU!**

**Come live it with the Pallottines!**

**See what we have to offer you.**

Our Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, believed that ALL people, both young and old, men and women, can be apostles. We invite you to use your gifts and talents with us for God's Kingdom.



We Pallottines work in schools, parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, retreat centers, missions, adult education programs, and much more. Embark on a new adventure in your life with us!

For more information about the Pallottine life-style, visit our vocation website at:  
[www.pallottines.org](http://www.pallottines.org)

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[www.pallottines.org](http://www.pallottines.org)  
for past & present issues  
of our newsletter &  
other information.

## Editor's Desk

Dear Readers,

In the midst of winter's ice, snow and cold, we all look forward to the big changes that come with spring.

Yet, even in the middle of winter, things don't just stand still. The days get shorter and shorter, only to grow longer once again. The snows come, but we can usually look forward to a January thaw or two. Thanksgiving gives way to Christmas and New Year's, which in turn are left in the dust as Valentine's Day and Easter approach.

Winter may seem static and unyielding, but change is with us year round.

In this issue of our newsletter you will find many changes that are going on in our province and with the Pallottines around the world. I hope you find the articles and pictures both informative and entertaining.

Just think! Easter is almost here!

Happy reading,

Fr. Joe Koyickal



# *Now Begins the Living of the Letter!*



About two years ago we reprinted an article written in 1995 by Fr. Joseph Heinrichs, SAC for the

Bicentennial Celebration of St. Vincent Pallotti's birth (1795 - 1995). In the spirit of our celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life this year, we were amazed how many of his comments still stir within us as we incorporate the theme "Wake Up The World" into our daily Pallottine life. Once again we would like to revisit some of his thoughts with you for further reflection. Fr. Heinrichs says:

**I suggest now** that [Pope John Paul II's] praise and respect for St. Vincent's life, work, spirit and ideals, calls directly into our hearts and minds. All of this becomes a mighty challenge for us: laity, priests, sisters, and brothers.

To be announcers of the Gospel "through the witness of life and verbal testimony" we must enjoy a deep, on-going Christian formation, "nourished and sustained by continuous contact with Christ through prayer, through liturgical celebration, fraternal life in community, the exercise of charity and theological reflection."

Nothing of this which our Holy Father urges is new or unknown to us. But his message at this moment in time makes an unusual demand of us, what we Pallottines must be, men and women of prayer, charity, community and of on-going study. We cannot ignore or rationalize away this message.

We are announcers of the faith and this should prompt us to become all that which Our Holy Father holds out before us. The call to the foreign missions is the first; "A challenge of the new evangelization is that of bringing the Gospel of Christ where it is not known," the Pope urges. He is fully aware of the Pallottine commitment to foreign missionary activity and, he insists, the Church is grateful.

"The proclamation of the faith leads one to rediscover that God is love (cfr. 1 Jn. 4:8). This was a theme of the continual and untiring preaching of St. Vincent Pallotti, which had its foundation in his personal experience of being loved by God, unconditionally and without limits. His meditations never cease to resound in the hearts of his spiritual children. God the Infinite Love is ever-present and everywhere. God, Charity in essence, created 'human beings in his image and likeness'

4 (Confr. Gen. 1:26-27; Opere Complete III, 151); the human person 'is not an

image painted on canvas, ... but a living, manifestation of God's Love who gave his only begotten Son (cfr. Jn. 3:16) to reestablish with sinful humanity a new covenant; to live in Christ, thus to live in the love of the Father (cfr. Opere Complete III, 34-40).

Pope John Paul concludes these reflections by reminding all Pallottines that it was in the light of Pallotti's conviction about the Infinite Love of God that our Saint chose for himself and us as a motto the words of St. Paul: "The love of Christ impels us." (Cfr. 2 Cor. 5:14)

Then our Holy Father continues with a subject dear to his own heart as well certainly to St. Vincent's: "On this occasion I would like to exhort each and every member of the Union to contribute in a concrete way to the realization of the Founder's desire expressed in these words: 'in seeing or thinking of the poor...I would like to become their food, their drink, their healing tonic, their clothing...I would like to be transformed into light for the blind, speech for the mute, hearing for the deaf, health for the sick' (Opere Complete X, 15-16). Love for the poor must constitute, therefore, an intrinsic and primary concern for the Union."

Whatever the work and programs intended to help our neighbors in their bodily and spiritual needs, they will be like those of St. Vincent's, which "gave witness to fraternal charity and contributed to the building up of the civilization of love."

His Holiness prays that each Member of the Union may aspire to this school, that each be committed to the realization of the intended goal of the Union of Catholic Apostolate so that in our Founder's own words, "it might perpetually be in the Church of Jesus Christ an evangelical trumpet that calls all, that invites all, that awakens zeal and charity in all the faithful."

As St. Vincent Pallotti would have all of us member of the Union, lay, religious, priests united with Mary, Queen of Apostles in the Cenacle, so our Holy Father wishes that all the communities of the Union of Catholic Apostolate may be real "Cenacles" where truly the Holy Spirit is felt and active.

Obviously, Pope John Paul's letter brought great joy and encouragement to all Pallottines. Nor should one be surprised that we were indeed proud.

However, as Fr. Heinrichs so correctly states: "Now begins the living of the letter."

# International News

## Fr. Stanislaw Szulminski, SAC - An Apostle of Reconciliation

*Excerpts from an article by Henryk Kietlinski, SAC - Warsaw, Poland*



Fr. Stanislaw Szulminski, SAC, a member of the Polish Pallottine province [prior to its division], was born in Odessa on the Black Sea July 10, 1894 and died in a labor camp at Uchta on the White Sea in western Russia on Nov. 27, 1941.

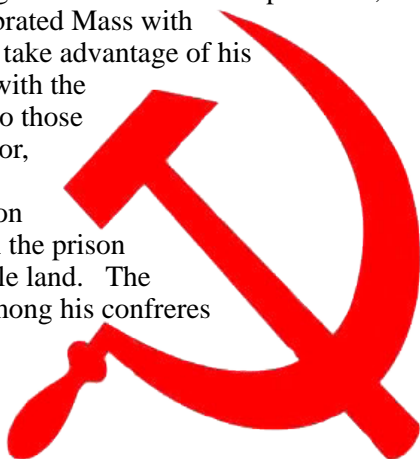
His Cause for Beatification was officially initiated in St. Petersburg, Russia on May 31, 2003. People refer to him as “The Apostle of Reconciliation” between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church.

Stanislaw was already a diocesan priest when he entered the Pallottines and desired to dedicate his entire life and strength to uniting the Eastern Orthodox Church with the Catholic Church, and was given an assurance that he could pursue his calling. A priest who knew him well described him as “a soul who lived daily life with God and in God.”

In Poland Fr. Szulminski founded an association called ***The Apostolate of Reconciliation*** as a section of the Union of Catholic Apostolate, and by 1939 this group already numbered one hundred. Several times he requested permission of his Superiors to travel into the Soviet Union in order to dedicate himself to pastoral work there. In 1939 he was sent to the Pallottine house ***Okopy Trójcy Świętej*** (The Trench of the Most Holy Trinity) near the meeting point of the three borders of Russia, Poland and Rumania. He was arrested by Soviet guards on Oct 24, 1939 and sentenced to five years hard labor at Uchta. At the labor camp he served his fellow prisoners in an heroic manner.

When a pardon was granted to him and a large number of the other prisoners, he revealed to them that he was a priest and celebrated Mass with those who were set free. However, he did not take advantage of his release document, and stayed on in the camp with the remaining 40 prisoners in order to be of help to those who were suffering. He accepted the hard labor, hunger and the humiliations he endured as a penance, and offered them for the reconciliation between the Churches. He died in his sleep in the prison camp. His remains still rest in that inhospitable land. The fame of his holiness and martyrdom spread among his confreres and the laity in both Poland and the Ukraine.

It remains very much alive there today.



# International News

## ***Pallottines in the Taiwan*** - Excerpts from an articles by Soloman Raj Titus, SAC

Taiwan has seven Catholic dioceses. Pallottines are present in two of them, those of **Taichung** - Frs. Anthony John, Leo Antony and Antony Fernandes, and **Chiayi** - Frs. Bala Gilbert and myself.

“Mission” in this country primarily means evangelization. Since the 17th century onwards great missionary congregations contributed immensely toward evangelization here. Despite this effort, the reality is that we are still a missionary church, where only one percent of the population is Catholic. While Taiwan as a whole is relatively rich, the church is poor and, in particular, still needs substantial



Fr. Jacob Nampudakam, SAC (center), our Rector General, met with the Pallottines in Taiwan recently.

personnel support. The people themselves here need to zealously take up the work of evangelization and to find ways to present the gospel to a population this is both a beneficiary and victim of the global economy and culture, and also experiencing a rapid degradation of faith.

As a Pallottine, I am aware that our founder St. Vincent initially sent his followers to far away countries as missionaries. That call is certainly relevant in the mission atmosphere of Taiwan today... where traditional Chinese culture has taken deep root in the lives of the people, and our younger generation has been affected by consumerist and materialistic trends and is in danger of losing its basic sense of reality of God. Together with the local church our task is to strive hard to keep Catholic spirituality alive. 7





# International News

## *The Pallottine Story in Côte d'Ivoire*

*from an article written by  
Franck Sylvestre Allatin, SAC*



Our Lady of Peace Basilica in Ivory Coast  
entrusted to the Polish Pallottines in 1991

The coming of the Pallottine presence in Côte d'Ivoire (The Ivory Coast) is a story of collaboration between the Polish mother province and existing Pallottine entities in Africa. Numbers of priests from Cameroon and Rwanda helped in building up what is today the Delegature of Ivory Coast. That collaboration has been maintained across the years and has found concrete expression in joint pastoral work and formation. It has instilled a spirit of belonging to a larger community, extending far beyond the frontiers of the country itself.

In the past three years 5 priests have been ordained for the Delegature, the very first fruits of the mission in the Ivory Coast. 13 others are still in formation in postulancy (4), novitiate (2), philosophy (4) and theology (3).

Our main building project at present is the construction of a formation house of theology in Abidjan, designed to accommodate students from all the other Pallottines entities in Africa. A proposal to open further missions in neighboring countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso or Ghana is also under consideration.

This picture of the Pallottine presence here would be incomplete without mentioning the Union of Catholic Apostolate (UAC).

After years of training and formation, a National Coordination Council, with three local councils, was constituted in 2012. The movement is growing slowly but steadily with at present 15 persons having made their Act of Apostolic Commitment and others who are in the process of joining.





# From the Provincial

## Celebrating Changes in Life.

In early January of this year I traveled back home to India for a relaxing visit with family and friends. I was truly amazed how things are changing. The Pallottines in India are really growing and expanding into new areas and opening new missions. One of their main focuses these days is the Arunachal mission in the North Eastern part of India which is a very promising region for evangelization. The people are so open and eager to hear the word of God. A vibrant community is being built up there.



Fr. Joe Koyickal

While home I also had the privilege to participate in the Ordination of one of my cousins. He was ordained a priest for my own diocese in India. He is the 5th priest to be ordained in the Koyickal family. It was very special. We celebrated our joy and gratitude to God at a special Mass where all the priests except one concelebrated on the occasion of our family reunion. What a wonderful event.

I was also able to visit some of our old missions. Again so much has changed. Several new schools and parishes have been established in different regions imparting faith and quality education to many. Some of the missions that were so remote and inaccessible during my time have become so easy to reach with the development that has taken place through the efforts of the Pallottine missionaries. I felt happy to be part of these efforts in some way. I also participated in the Golden Jubilee celebration of the first Pallottine Seminary in India where most of the Indian Pallottine priests, including myself, studied. In fact, I taught in this seminary for two years soon after my ordination. It was such a grand celebration. Almost 80 Pallottine priests concelebrated at the special Mass. Eleven of them were celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their Ordination.

There is so much to be grateful for. I thank all our friends and benefactors

**Some of the many concelebrants at the Golden Jubilee Mass.**



for their continued support. You make it possible for us to continue our good works. May God bless you in abundance.

Wishing you all a fruitful Season of Lent!

*Fr. Joe* 9

# Local News

## Fr. John Moves to Retreat Center



After retiring from Parish ministry when he turned 70, Fr. John Scheer, SAC has taken up residence at our Retreat Center in Elkhorn, WI.

This seems to be the perfect “fit” for him as he is our province’s outdoor hunter, fisherman, camper, boater and all-around woodsman.

The country setting of our retreat house with its many wooded areas and trails affords him the opportunity, not only to relax and enjoy life and wild life a little more, but also to take on a more active role in caring for and maintaining this beautiful and tranquil piece of property.

His presence at the retreat house has the added benefit of having a

priest available to say Mass and to hear confessions for any of the groups using our center but not having their own priest along.

In time and as time permits Fr. John plans to offer his services to local area parishes that may need a help-out for Sunday Masses or other special occasions.

We wish you all the  
**10** best, Fr. John!



# Local News

## *St. Vincent Community House To Become a House of Formation*



Fr. Leon Martin, SAC

Originally purchased as a residence for the Pallottines teaching at Pius XI Catholic High School just a half block north, St. Vincent Community has seen many changes over the past 50 years.

From the 1960's through the early 2000's many a Pallottine priest and brother lived at this house, which for many years was known as **The Pius XI Faculty House**. However as our ministries changed and our members passed away, the house began to empty until around 2005 there were no more Pallottines activity teaching a Pius and only three of our men just living in residence. Needless to say, things began to fall into disrepair over the years until our province decided something had to be done with the building. Therefore over the past 4-5 years new window were installed, and the outside was tuck pointed and patched. Last December a new \$20,000 boiler was installed and work is in progress to update the electricity, bathroom fixtures, carpeting, furniture and interiors of the rooms.

Fr. Leon, who is the Chaplain at Pius, has recently taken up residence at the house and finds it to be very convenient for him living so close to where he works. Since he is also our Vocation Director he sees great possibilities for the building to become a house of formation for any new and prospective members.

There is a great and long history associated with this house and we are trying to keep it as vital and active piece of our ministerial work here in Milwaukee.





# Culture of Encounter

*by Fr. Bruce Schute, SAC*



Shortly after this new year of 2015 began, President Obama announced a relaxing of censures against Cuba, a diplomatic rapprochement between the United States and Cuba. This was certainly a change politically, but it also highlighted the role the church, namely Pope Francis, played in this change.

On Dec 18, 2014 Pope Francis in his morning homily explained his philosophy of history this way; “Step by step, history is made. God makes history; we make history. And when we fail, God makes adjustments and sets history back on course, walking with us all the time.” Continuing on, he mentioned biblical people like Abraham, Moses and Jesus’ earthly guardian, Joseph, “The Lord inconveniences them. The Lord inconveniences us to make history!”

It is known that Pope Francis wrote individual letters to Presidents Obama and Raul Castro and no doubt expressed these ideas about leadership. This initiative by Pope Francis into the political sphere has certainly found many who have strong opinions both in accord as well as strong opposition to the removing of barriers between the United states and communist led Cuba.

What I find important here is what Pope Francis often refers to, the importance of personal encounter in bringing people or institutions to reconciliation. “Encounter” is one of his most frequently used terms. A biographer says this concept comes from the writings of Romano Guardini, an Italian-German priest philosopher. In Francis’ apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), he wrote, “The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy, which infects us in our close and continuous interaction.”

When I take these ideas into my personal life I begin with my encounter with the Lord. “Dear Lord help me face the people in my life honestly – the ones that are so affirming and those that challenge me in what I say and do and with all that they bring in their life.” The gospel is very clear. I meet Jesus in people with all their life joys and struggles.





# Local News

## *Sr. Toni Joins Development Office Staff*



**Sr. Toni  
Gradisnik, SSSF**

You may have heard a new voice on the phone when you last called our office.

You may have noticed a little note added to a “Thank You” letter that we sent you.

Well, now we would like to introduce you to the person behind those changes coming from our Development Office: Sr. Toni Gradisnik, SSSF.

Sister Toni is a School Sister of St. Francis who has actually been acquainted with the Pallottines for many years having grown up in a Pallottine parish (Little Flower) and later St. Therese, and having known Fr. Hapka who was assigned there and even came to her First Communion party. She also worked with Fr. Greg Serwa and Fr. Leon Martin on formation programs for religious communities.

Sr. Toni is not afraid to get down to business and take on a multitude of tasks, and feels quite at home in a Development Office having been in charge on one herself for many years. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and “fresh air” to our fund raising efforts.

Sr. Toni is also involved with the Alverno College board, the Pius XI High School Board and with committees within her own community. She even works part time at a parish helping keep their Sunday collections accurate and in order.

As if that weren’t enough to do, she has now taken on this part time position with us answering our mail, updating our database and keeping track of incoming Masses, memorials and other requests for prayers from our many donors and benefactors. She is indeed a very busy and involved woman.

Thanks, Sr. Toni, for joining our staff. May your stay with us be long, happy and filled with many more fine memories with the Pallottines. Welcome aboard!

# The Cook's Corner

## *Beef Taco Skillet - Three Ways!*

by The Pallotti House Chef

One evening a friend of mine invited me over for a quick supper and served this wonderful casserole type dish.

Immediately I thought of my cooking column and asked her for the recipe, which she admitted she had found on the Campbell's Soup website. In fairness to them I will give you the website here:

***CampbellsKitchen.com***

For those of you who don't have a computer or just don't want to take the time to look the recipe up, here it is:

### **What You Will Need:**

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 can (10 3/4 oz.) Campbell's Tomato Soup (regular or less sodium)

1/2 cup salsa

1/2 cup water

6 flour tortillas (6"), cut into 1" pieces

1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

### **Here's What You Do:**

Cook beef in a 10" skillet, stirring to break up the meat.

Pour off the fat.

Stir in soup, salsa, water and tortillas. Heat to a boil.

Reduce heat to low and cook for 5 minutes. Stir.

Top with cheese.

Makes 4 servings.

### **FOR TWO OTHER VARIATIONS:**

#### **1) Creamy Mexican Fiesta:**

Stir in 1/2 cup of sour cream with the soup.

- 2) **Ranchero Style:** Use corn tortillas instead of flour tortillas (a great idea for you gluten free people!) and then substitute shredded Mexican cheese blend for the Cheddar cheese.



# Looking for Memorial or Sympathy Cards?

Use this form  
to send for  
2 free cards  
and envelopes  
Today!



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## Vigil Lights for Lent & Easter

During the Lenten and Easter seasons we often remember our loved ones by lighting vigil lights in their memories.

This year let us light a 7 day vigil light for you and your intentions at the statue of St. Joseph in our community chapel. Simply fill out this form and send it to us at the address below. We will light a 7-day candle for you, starting on the Monday you circle.

Please light a 7 day vigil light  
for my intention:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like of make an offering of :  
\$3   5   7   10   Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

**(Circle a month and Monday  
to light the 7 day candle.)**

- Feb. 02 09 16 23**  
**Mar. 02 09 16 23 30**  
**Apr. 06 13 20 27**  
**May 04 11 18 25**  
**Jun. 01 08 15 22 29**

Return this slip to:  
**The Pallottines   5424 W. Bluemound Rd.   Milwaukee, WI 53208**