

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

# *People of God*

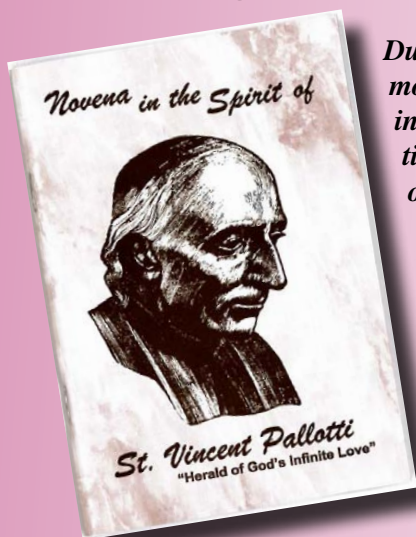
The Year of Mercy

*"For the love of Jesus Christ, we  
must persevere until death,  
lovingly nailed to the  
mystic cross."*

Spring 2016  
The Pallottines

St. Vincent Pallotti

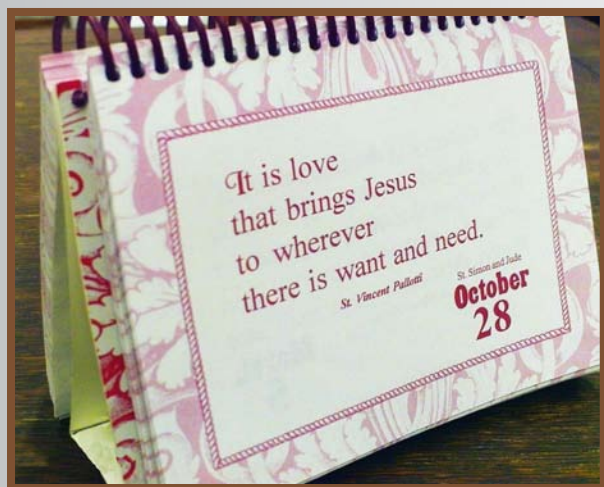
# Touching Base with St. Vincent Pallotti



*During the Middle Ages a form of prayer commonly known as "Devotional Novenas" came into practice as a way of offering prayers and petitions to Mary or the Saints for oneself and for others, particularly in times of urgent need.*

*Believers fervently placed their important requests before God and put their hope and full trust in Him to grant them strength to endure their difficulties in faith and await salvation. In our novena to St. Vincent Pallotti we ask this great saint to intercede for us and help us grow closer to God who is Infinite, worthy of our love and merciful toward us.*

*This 4 x 6 inch, 52 page booklet contains 9 days of prayers and reflections in the spirit of St. Vincent Pallotti. For a copy of this booklet send \$3.50 (this includes shipping and handling). For your convenience you can use the postage paid envelope enclosed in this newsletter to order.*



## Pallottine Perpetual Calendar

### Help save a tree!

Go "Green" and own a calendar that is re-usable year after year.

Each day throughout the year you will find a special thought or quote from St. Vincent Pallotti to read and reflect upon. Order our desktop perpetual calendar for only \$8.95 (Postage/handling included in this offer.) For your convenience, use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to order your copy today. Be sure to include your name, address and payment.



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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,


Ministry - A simple word, yet a powerful one that seems to summarize many of the articles in this issue of our newsletter. During the Jubilee Year of Mercy which began on Dec. 8, 2015, Pope Francis encourages all Catholics to practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Ministry to God's people is our Pallottine way of taking his words to heart.

As Pallottine priests and brothers it has been our mission to reach out to the sick, the poor, the uneducated, those in pain, those in prison and to anyone in need spiritually or physically. We serve the poorest of the poor in India, Africa, and South America. We have established schools and clinics. We often fill the void in parishes that have no priests.

As Pope Francis speaks of God's mercy, he wants all to know of the Father's love for each and everyone of us in spite of our sinfulness.

Let us, who ask God for mercy on ourselves, in turn show mercy toward others. Happy reading!

Fr. Joe Koyickal



# *The Year of Mercy*

On December 8, 2015 Pope Francis opened the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica, marking the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

As he said in his letter to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the new Evangelization, "It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective."

Often when we hear the word "Mercy" our first thoughts turn to the notion of "Forgiveness." Unlike "Justice" which often carries with it a demand for redressing a wrong unfairly committed against someone, or meting out deserved punishment, "Mercy", on the other hand, has more of the flavor of pardoning guilt even though the guilt is real and the pardon is totally undeserved.

Pope Francis gives us great insight into this concept when he continues in his letter, "I desire that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed." He invites all to come closer to God by walking through the "open doors" in Rome or in designated churches in each diocese throughout the world, and he links this symbolic gesture of coming back to the Father with receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and partaking in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the fuller expressions of our desire for forgiveness and (re)union with Christ.

# *Come “Experience the Closeness of the Father...”*

**Pope Francis**

## **Some personal reflections by a Pallottine Father**

I am impressed how Pope Francis wants the sick, home bound, and elderly, who might not be physically able to leave their homes, to experience their closeness to the Lord who through his passion, death and resurrection gives meaning to pain and loneliness by offering up their own daily pains and illnesses to God.

I was touched by his words about God’s mercy to those incarcerated, who, knowing perhaps better than anyone else what it means to be punished, sincerely wish to turn their lives around and become productive citizens once again. His suggestion that “the gesture of directing their thoughts and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door” to me is an outstanding example of how sincere the Pope is in proclaiming God’s mercy and love for each and every one who wishes to receive it.

Pope Francis goes even further and he encourages all to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and thereby demonstrate their commitment to live by mercy as Jesus himself taught us. Even though I’ve heard about the works of mercy since my early seminary days, I admit I had to refresh my memory about them.

As a bit of a sideline I share my findings with you here in case you are interested or need some updating yourself:

The Corporal Works of Mercy: Feed the Hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked, Shelter the homeless, Visit the sick, Visit the imprisoned and Bury the dead. ( continued on next page)

# *The Year of Mercy*

*(continued)*

The Spiritual Works of Mercy: Instruct the ignorant, Counsel the doubtful, Admonish sinners, Bear wrongs patiently, Forgive offenses willingly, Comfort the afflicted, and Pray for the living and the dead.

I must admit that if I or anyone else, truly lived and practiced those works of mercy, I (and they) would certainly be very good Christians.

As Pope Francis continues his letter he touches on our communion with the faithful departed and how we should pray “that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.” What a wonderful thought for all to contemplate.

So convinced is Pope Francis in the mercy of God that he extends his hand toward those who have had abortions and wish to be reconciled with God, that he has granted all priests permission to absolve the sin of abortion. He goes so far as to say, “I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it.”

It is clear to me, from all Pope Francis says and writes that he wishes all to experience God’s mercy in their lives. He wants them to feel touched by the hand of God who created us because He loves us so much.

This brings me to another aspect of mercy. Indeed, mercy has to do with forgiveness, but if we think about it, it also has much to do with love. God owes us absolutely nothing. Still he created us and sustains us here on earth and invites us through His Son Jesus to be with Him forever in Heaven. Now, that is truly love.

More than a century ago, our founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, expressed a similar idea about God’s mercy when he speaks about it as one of the greatest gifts of love that God has for us. He put it this way: “My God, my entire life is a continuous miracle of your mercy and the greatest one is...



that you transform me into yourself perfectly. O my God, how could you do this unless you were moved by your infinite love and mercy towards me, unappreciative as I am, always ungrateful and always a sinner?"

"Therefore, my God, permit me to call the light that daily shines upon me, the light of your infinite mercy; the night that is given to me for rest, let me call, the night of your infinite mercy; the food and drink which is never lacking, the food and drink of your infinite mercy; everything created and preserved by you and given me to use for my temporal need, the gift of

your infinite mercy, even the air I breathe, the earth I walk upon shall be called, the air and earth of your infinite mercy." We are so unworthy of God, and yet He gives us life out of love for us. How great indeed is His mercy. Hopefully we will use this Jubilee Year of Mercy to experience the God who cares for us so much and wishes us to take full advantage of his mercy and love.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Pallottine Fathers are "opening the doors" of St. Vincent Pallotti Church, EAST at 5424 West Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI for any who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on any Thursday evening from 6 pm to 7 pm. Everyone is invited to stay for the Holy Hour. God bless us all during this Year of Mercy. 7



The Holy Doors at the Vatican in Rome, Italy

# International News

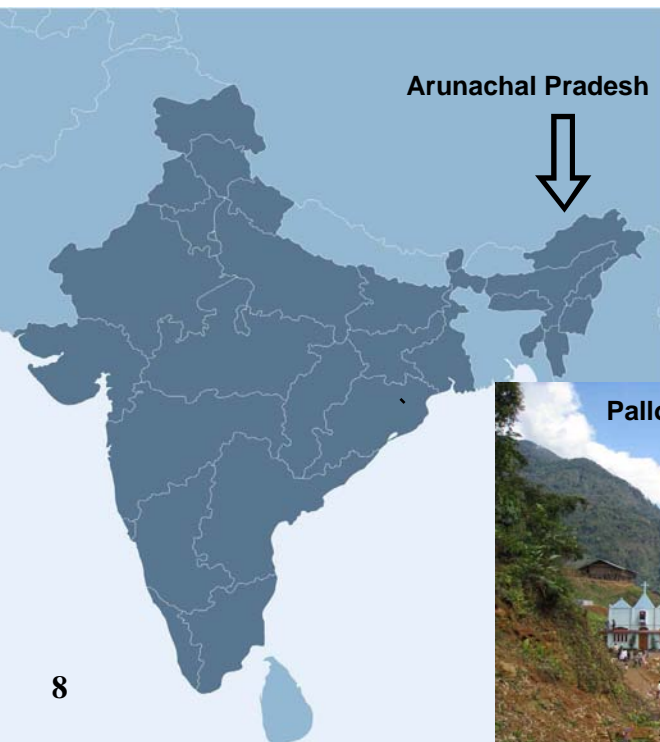
## *The Pallottine Mission in Arunachal Pradesh*

I'm sure the first question that you, as one of our readers, might want to ask is, "Where in the world is Arunachal Pradesh?"

A good question because I myself had to go on line to answer it! In pursuit of this mysterious place, one would have to make his or her way through a tiny corridor in Northeastern India and continue East and then North to a remote region along the Chinese and Myanmar borders. That is Arunachal Pradesh. This is a rocky part of India situated in the Himalaya mountains. Its people are from a rugged stock with more Asian than



Indian features and have lived here for many centuries. As many of these people have already accepted the Catholic faith from earlier missionaries to the region, our Indian Pallottines have come not only to help them deepen their commit-



**Pallottine Mission Church**





ment to Christ, but also to help them improve their standard of living through better education in such areas as language skills and math, improved health care, and more advanced agricultural knowledge to produce more and better crops and livestock to benefit their own nutri-



**Sacred Heart Mission School**



**Local school children**

tional needs and provide them with extra income through the sale of their surplus goods.

They have also established a school that is highly appreciated by the people since schools are few and far between in this part of India. Often parents who

would otherwise like to send their children to school, simply can't because of weather and distance concerns.

It is our goal as Pal-lottines to help bring a brighter future to the people of this very remote part of India.



**Typical home in the region**

# International News

## *Zambia Pre-school Finished and Functioning*

The Pallottines are happy and proud to announce to our donors and supporters of our mission in Zambia that an important part of our school building project, the Pre-school, has come to fruition and we are now able to feed, clothe and begin the educational process for many of our smallest mission children.

The new facility provides more room and a safe, clean and healthy environment for these children to live in and do what they do best -- **be kids...** kids who love to play, sing, laugh, learn and share meals with each other.

A great deal of love and effort went into this project as many of the adults at the mission were eager to “role up their sleeves” and participate in the actual building of this facility. It is truly their school!

In this area of the world where AIDS and HIV have claimed and continue

*The children listen attentively to one of their teachers at the school.*





The children are always eager to eat a good healthy meal with friends.

to claim the lives of so many adults and children, and have disrupted the very family structure of the entire nation, it is critical that the children we care for, see, feel and understand that they can have a brighter future, live long and prosperous lives and learn skills and trades that will help them find good jobs later on in life. So many of the young people who live on the streets have little or no hope and live with the attitude “eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you will die.” A nation cannot long survive under these conditions.

Zambia needs its children to be happy, hopeful and healthy. Each child that we can reach and help brings the nation one step closer to becoming again the prosperous and happy country it once was.

We wish to extend our sincerest thanks to all of you who have helped make our mission and its school a place where people feel loved and cared for and about. We couldn't do the good work we do without your help. God bless you.





# Local News

## *Healing Inside Out: Practicing Psychology with the Spirit in Mind*

*by Fr. Jose Eluvathingal, SAC*



Reaching out to people suffering physically, emotionally and spiritually was an integral part of Vincent Pallotti's healing ministry. The city of Rome had many who needed such attention from Pallotti. Though not as visible and chaotic as was Rome in Pallotti's time, the world we live in today too has many who seek such healing. Pallotti encouraged people to join forces with others engaged in apostolates they themselves would like to engage in. This is what inspired me to join the behavior health ministry of the Catholic Charities as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

After completing a Master's degree in Clinical psychology from Cardinal Stritch University and then obtaining a PhD in counseling psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, I began my ministry in the field of mental health. I have completed five years with Catholic Charities at its offices in Racine, WI. I work with individuals, couples and families who seek better functioning and more meaningful relationships. While some of my clients are going through a rough patch in their lives temporarily and are seeking guidance, others have been struggling with their mental illnesses for quite some time. Everyone is welcome to the behavioral health services offered by Catholic Charities. For those struggling financially and those seeking psychological healing in a Catholic context, Catholic Charities is often the preferred choice.

The advantage of being both a priest and a counselor is that I am able to look at healing holistically. Though physical and emotional healing gets a lot of attention in therapeutic settings and in research, the spiritual dimension is often ignored. Probably because spiritual training is not often integral to the education imparted to future counselors and psychotherapists in most of our universities today. By integrating that oft-forgotten dimension of the spirit, however, one more relevant layer is added to the therapeutic process of healing. Doing crisis intervention, consultation, and educational presentations at the request of Catholic Charities for individuals and institutions in need in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is also part of my ministry. Despite some challenges and disappointments that usually come along with helping those who are psychologically distressed, my job is very rewarding. I enjoy continuing to work with my clients at Catholic Charities.

# Local News

## *Our New Postulant: Thadeus Brooks*

Let me introduce myself. My name is Thadeus Brook. I am a candidate aspiring to pursue my studies to priesthood with the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers. I live here in Milwaukee, WI at the St. Vincent Community house on 76th Street near Pius XI Catholic High School. I am the middle child with nine sisters, three nieces and one nephew.

As I grew up, I attended Bay View High school and in my junior year decided to join the United States Army, which I proudly served for eight years.

As I transitioned from Army life back to civilian life I tried to find my vocation, so I went into teaching music and eventually became principal of the school.



Fr. Leon Martin with Thadeus In  
Pallotti House Chapel



On my journey of faith and mission to serve I became very active in my home parish, St. Catherine of Alexandra, where the music director helped me to find the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers.

In December 2015 I completed some courses at Cardinal Stritch University, and in January 2016 started my studies at Sacred Heart School of Theology. It has been almost one year since I joined the Pallottine community, and I'm looking forward to the years ahead as a member and a Pallottine priest.

# The Cook's Corner

## *Rice, Broccoli & Cauliflower Casserole*

by The Pallotti House Chef

While digging through my old loose-leaf recipe book, I came across this recipe tucked away in between two pages that had stuck together.

If you're like me and don't want to spend a lot of time preparing a hot meal for yourself and your family may I suggest this easy casserole to whip up and enjoy.



### What You Will Need:

1 box Chicken flavor Rice-a-Roni

regular size.

1 can of Cream of Mushroom soup and one can of water.

Fresh broccoli and cauliflower florets steamed to desired tenderness.

(You can use frozen vegetables.

Just prepare them per instructions on package.)

1 8 oz. jar of Cheez Whiz

### Here's What You Do:

Prepare the Rice-a-Roni as instructed on the package and at the same time steam the broccoli and cauliflower florets to desired

After the Rice-a Roni and vegetables are ready, pre-heat the oven to 350° F.

While oven is heating, in a medium sauce pan, mix the can of mushroom soup with the water and the Cheez Whiz until thoroughly blended.

*Cooking tip: Heating the mixture will make mixing things easier, but this is not absolutely necessary.*

Combine the rice, soup mixture and vegetables together in a casserole dish. Cover and bake at approximately 350° F. for about 30 minutes or until completely heated through.

(You can also make this casserole ahead of time and refrigerate. However, it may take a little longer to heat the cold ingredients.) Enjoy!



# 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)

Or write to us at:

**Pallottine Vocations 5424 W. Bluemound Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53208**

## ***Vigil Lights During Lent and 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. 01 08 15 22 29**

**Mar. 07 14 21 28**

**Apr. 04 11 18 25**

**May 02 09 16 23 30**

Return this slip to:

**The Pallottines 5424 W. Bluemound Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53208**