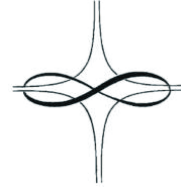




Pallottine Family (UAC) Newsletter

Spring 2024

Australia



Saturday, 26th October

10.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

St Christopher's Syndal

Celebration of the Feast of the Union

founded by St Vincent Pallotti

Photo L-R: Anne Dowling, Mary Whiting, Mark Brolly, Cheryl Sullivan

The four Australian representatives at the recent 4th International Congress held in Rome will lead our annual Reflection/Renewal Day which will conclude after Mass in the afternoon. During Mass members of the Pallottine Family in Australia will renew their Act of Apostolic Commitment. Similarly, members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate throughout the world will be doing the same. Here are photos of some of them who were also at the Congress. We belong to a truly universal family. Flags: DRC, Rwanda, Paraguay, India. People also from Germany, Argentina.



“Following the renewed enthusiasm and hope that we received from the IV General Congress of the Union, all the members, cooperators and friends of the Pallottine Family, are invited to celebrate our charism. The Ecclesial vision of Communion, Participation and Mission – the Synodal Church – was so prophetically visualised by St. Vincent Pallotti. It is our spiritual and apostolic heritage. Here is the greatness of our charism.”-Fr Jacob, President of the UAC GCC.

Come along as we joyfully reflect on and celebrate together our commitment to living as people inspired by the charism of St Vincent Pallotti and with Christ, our hope, let us set out together with renewed joy and hope. BYO Lunch. RSVP: Morning & afternoon teas provided. For catering and setting up purposes please let St Christopher's Parish know if you are coming by 23 October. Phone: (03) 98028538 email:secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au

Child Safety is of vital concern. The UAC has a child safety team working to ensure safety for all who have contact with our apostolates.

If you have any concerns about the safety of children within our UAC/Pallottine Family, please contact our UAC Designated Person for the protection of minors - Marita Dunphy via maritadunphy@yahoo.com

In this newsletter, we share news, views and reflections of the way the UAC (Union of Catholic Apostolate) lives the charism and vision of St Vincent Pallotti here in Australia.

Saint Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry *Recipient Report from Teresa Lynch (Archdiocese of Adelaide)*

Do You Know Your Slavery Footprint ...?

Human trafficking is flourishing; it is a widespread crime and a lucrative business. Social, economic and political factors intersect to create an environment ripe for recruitment and exploitation which ultimately has no regard for the dignity of the human person; their rights have been and are being stolen. With some 50 million people enslaved globally, about 71% of whom are women and girls, there are more modern-day slaves than ever before in human history, despite the introduction of abolishment laws throughout the 19th century and the implementation of various Modern Slavery Acts in the 21st century. The face of modern slavery includes domestic servitude, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and forced labour.

As I commence writing this report, on the eve of the United Nations Tenth World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, I am confronted by this morning's ABC news headline, "Mother ... jailed by Victorian court ... [believed by the judge to be] the first person in Australia to be jailed for breaking forced marriage laws", which were introduced into federal parliament in 2013. Forced marriage is real, it is on the rise, and it is occurring in my own backyard of South Australia. As highlighted by the news headline, human trafficking is not the sole domain of organised crime groups; perpetrators can include members of the victim's own family.¹

Awareness raising is a pillar of the voluntary work I undertake through my membership of ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans) and as one of two, South Australian, lay regional co-ordinators. Over the past seven or so years with ACRATH, I have consistently collaborated with others through education and awareness raising sessions to make visible that which is invisible; modern slavery and slavery-like practices, hidden in plain sight. Working across the two dioceses of South Australia, our small band of volunteers has given focus to campaigns on fair trade / supply chains, encouraging parishioners, community members, people in our Catholic agencies, schools, and service groups to find out more and in a spirit of solidarity take action, no matter how small, to address these injustices. Modern slavery affects each and every one of us; we each have a slavery footprint. When facilitating awareness raising and education sessions, I invite participants to reflect on their lifestyle, to think about what they own, wear and eat; there is always an audible and animated conversation when they hear that choices involving furnishings, clothing, tea, coffee, tinned fish, toiletries, vehicles, sports equipment, mobile phone and other electronics suggest about 70 slaves 'working for them worldwide'. There are various online² tools such as 'Made in a Free World' which assist us to further understand the impact of global supply chains on our everyday lives. Further, our social responsibility has been highlighted by Pope Francis on numerous occasions, most often connected to his Message for the World Day of Peace 2015, when he quoted Pope Benedict XVI's words from *Caritas in Veritate* 2009, "Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral - and not simply an economic - act". If one needs any additional guidance on our individual responsibility to 'think globally and act locally' we need look no further than the parable of the Good Samaritan, referred to as "a stranger on the road" in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*; "each day we need to

decide whether to act or be an indifferent bystander".³ Making several references to trafficking and slavery throughout the text, Francis acknowledges the Church's historical slowness to condemn slavery, urging us on "with our developed spirituality and theology, we have no excuses" [any longer].⁴ Inspired by Dorothy Day, the Catholic Worker movement and the Young Christian Workers movement, faith in action through social justice and community service have long been core to my way of being in the world. As a most grateful recipient of the Saint Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry, the funds will contribute to the fees associated with my enrolment in the Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture. This qualification requires 600 hours of study across four intensive units; Catholic Ethos and Care of the Person, Ethics in a Faith Based Context, Catholic Social Thought in Practice and Leading the Mission in Catholic Organisations. These units align with the aims of the Saint Vincent Pallotti Scholarship, particularly social justice and pastoral care which in turn correlate with strategic directions of ACRATH; preventing and addressing injustice (modern slavery), pastoral care of victims and survivors (advocacy) and raising awareness (mission). Through these studies, I have been building a solid foundation steeped in Catholic Social Teaching, Thought and Practice, theology and ethics to underpin the awareness-raising and education activities I undertake in the community: I believe this approach provides credibility and benefits the participants who engage in these justice and pastoral based activities which I co-facilitate. It is one thing to know that an action is wrong, it is another to understand why it is considered wrong; studying church documents and the philosophers has expanded and deepened my understanding, I feel more equipped to engage in the arising dialogue.

Almost 20 years after a conversation between a group of religious sisters which saw the establishment of ACRATH, the future rests with lay people, due to the diminishing numbers of religious orders. Organisational sustainability requires recognition of and calling forth the gifts, skills and talents of others which is at the heart of continuing to build up the body of Christ in the world. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Trustees overseeing the Saint Vincent Pallotti Scholarship for Lay Ministry for its decision to contribute to my ongoing formation so that I may continue to be an engaged, active member of the body of Christ in the world, to bring forth a world free of human trafficking and modern slavery. Things have a price and can be for sale, but people have a dignity that is priceless and is worth far more than things (Pope Francis 2014).

¹Silva, Kristian "Victorian mother jailed for forcing daughter to marry man who murdered her six weeks later", abc.net.au/news/shepparton, 29 July 2024

²Nolan, J & Boersma, M *Addressing Modern Slavery*, 2019, UNSW Press

³Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* of the Holy Father Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship, 2020, St Paul's

⁴Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* of the Holy Father Francis on Fraternity and Social Friendship,

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer

November 22 at 7.30 p.m.

“Remember in November”

St Patrick’s Murrumbeena

A time for especially praying for deceased family members and friends and those who mourn for them. Some of those from our UAC family, that this year we pray for, are Jim Hennessy, Noel Belfrage, Ron Tait and Peter Ward (Mary’s nephew).

A volunteer is needed to lead this Prayer session in November. If you could do this, please contact me, Anne Dowling, on 0429 869 457. If I don’t answer leave a voicemail message and I will respond.

Volunteer Prayer Leaders will be needed also for 2024 on 22nd of most months. I would happily support anyone who is happy to give it a go. Leave a message as above.

Flamme d’Amour Orphanage – Democratic Republic of the Congo

After telling those at the Congress that we, in Australia, provide some support for this orphanage, I received hugs of gratitude from some of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters from Rwanda and one who is now working at a Medical Centre not far from the orphanage. They emphasized how vital this support is. I would like to pass on hugs to all those who have donated and to invite others to join them through regular direct debit or at least a donation or two.

ACCOUNT NAME:

UAC Keshero Project

BSB: 083 347

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 439 222 523

God of love, you enter into our spring seasons, into our deepest places of inner dwelling, into the heart of our transformation.

You give us glimpses of the truth.

May we allow our experience of spring to speak to us of necessary change and growth.

Grant us an openness to the continuous process of letting go and moving on that is a part of the human condition.

We are grateful that you are our faithful companion on this journey.

Amen.

— Attributed to Rev. Dan McDonald, S.J.



Above: Participants from Brazil and Cameroon

Below: South Koreans and then Cubans



The group from Cuba believed it was a miracle that they could be there. They said it was only after the visit of Pope Francis that Churches were able to open freely again.

The **IV UAC International Congress** was held at the International College of the Capuchins near Rome. It is an enormous building, easily able to accommodate the almost 200 participants at the Congress who came from 29 countries and 5 continents.

There was an atmosphere somewhat like that of a family reunion. In many ways that was what it was. We were all caught up in some way with the Charism of St Vincent Pallotti.

Some were newer, younger faces, and some were people I had met before. All exuded joy! There was storytelling, talks, discussions and moving liturgies with some amazing singing. People communicated with each other despite the variety of languages spoken. A smile, a hug, a greeting in the language of the other, passing a plate at the meal table.

Even though the temperature was extremely hot, there was a sense of energy, exuberance, and vibrancy.

This was a sign of hope that left me feeling excited by the possible future directions of the UAC. In Australia, we can feel isolated, or that we are just a small group but we are part of a much wider universal community. We want to continue to maintain connections with the participants.

It was a high-tech conference. Our name tags had a QR code to access details of the conference, What’s App messages contained daily updates, translations of homilies, words of hymns and much more. The Congress was live-streamed. This is one of the ways we can move into the future using means such as What’s App, Zoom and Instant Translation.

“With Christ our hope, let us set out together with renewed joy and hope.”

UAC-ARM: Union of Catholic Apostolate – Australians Reaching Out on/in Mi

*We need new members on this Committee so that the valuable work that is done by a sma can continue into the future. We have a few members from Melbourne, one from Koroit, one fr and one from Geraldton. We meet quarterly on Zoom, check how we are going with our Acti report on progress and see what more is needed. A **huge** need right now is more members. F information, or to volunteer, contact Anne Dowling: 0429 869 457 or Cheryl Sullivan: 0417 3 Leave a message.*

From Merle Gilbo, editor of this newsletter who really appreciates the responses received till n
A big thank you to those who responded to the front-page questionnaire in the Winter Edit

However, we recognize that it is SO easy to put off tasks like this that we want to give you and you and you – another chance to let us know what you would prefer.

I would like to continue receiving the Pallottine Family Newsletter by post.	Yes	No
I would prefer to receive it by email	Yes	No
My email address is		
I am in a position to make a financial contribution	Yes	No

Please post your reply to Merle Gilbo, 2/26 Ford St. Ivanhoe, Vic 3079 or
email merlegilbo@hotmail.net.au

BANK DETAILS: NAB (National Australia Bank BSB: 083 347 Account No. 569130037
Please remember to include your name so we can record your Contributio

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