



# PALLOTTINE FAMILY (UAC) NEWSLETTER

## December 2011

### ADVENT - A TIME FOR CHANGE

We are at the threshold of the season of Advent, the first period of the Year of Worship, which is established by the Church to prepare us for the coming of Christ. The “coming of Christ” refers to two events of Jesus’ reaching out to us, the humans: the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ. The “first coming” stands for the Bethlehem-event in which Jesus came to the world as its Redeemer and Saviour. The “second coming” points towards Jesus’ appearance as the Judge and Lord of the world. Hence, the season of Advent invites us to take a look back into the past and a look forward into the future. By looking back we meditate on the event of incarnation of Jesus in which we encounter the compassionate Jesus reaching out to us in and through his work of redemption. By looking into the future we reflect on human destiny as a person moves on to encounter Jesus

as the one who judges human actions justly and in all fairness. In this manner the Advent season calls for a preparation that is focused on the past and leading us into the future. Our movement from the past to the future takes place in the light of the present, because the present is a piece of time that connects our past and the future. Thus, the preparation associated with the season of Advent directs us to learn from the past, live the present and move towards the future. Our past should not disappoint and discourage us, but it should help us to look at our present with the sense of purpose. What we could not do in the past we can do in the present. Moving from the present to the future we do not look at our life with fear and anxiety, but prepare ourselves to meet the Lord, who is the just Judge. Therefore the preparation associated with the season of Advent is a holistic, complete, and total. As we enter the season of Advent let us not hesitate to look into our past to learn lessons from it for our present, live the present with determination and journey forward into the future with hope and a sense of purpose.

Fr Jude SAC



### Pallottine Family Newsletter

Quarterly Circular for members of the  
Australian Pallottine Family

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## Farewell to Sr Joy

On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 St Christopher's parish and school farewelled Sr Joy Shelley who is retiring from her pastoral care role here and returning to Singapore ...A joyous Mass was celebrated by Fr Pat Jackson and Fr Eugene San in her honour, with many fine tributes being given , a true testament to all the hard work and ministering to our parish that Sr Joy has carried out over the past ten years..The Mass was followed by a sumptuous lunch in the recently refurbished hall appropriately decorated with blue and white balloons to match the tablecloths. It was indeed a festive occasion with approximately 250 people attending.

Needless to say, the farewell is tinged with sadness in that we are saying goodbye to, and will miss, Sr Joy a great deal .She has contributed so much to the parish and school, a quiet achiever,a presence in our midst since 2001, when she lived at Kew and travelled to St Christopher's every day. In 2003,after Brother Kevin retired Sr Joy took on his former role and came to reside at the Presbytery.

Sr Joy, a Cannossian nun ,worked as a science teacher in Singapore then became a Vice Principal and Principal in schools in Hong Kong.On semi retirement she joined the Curriculum Development Institute in Singapore with its brief to develop a moral education program for government schools. The task of the team was to train teachers and monitor the program in schools. On retirement Sr Joy came to Australia to nurse her sick mother who died a number of years later.

Being such an expert teacher, Sr Joy soon started a Sunday School at St Christopher's with 4 children. Today, there are approximately 70, aged from 4 to 20, whose motto is: " To know Jesus better." There are different groups according to the ages of the children and young adults, with leaders and leaders in training having periodical Leadership Formation on Sundays. Popular events at Sunday school have been Bible Quizzes ,Christmas parties,active games,prayer poem writing and Biblical art expression.A regular feature of Sunday School is the children arriving with their Bibles which they use to match " Cate Quiz statements" ,inspire their growing faith;write a Bible prayer and contemplate the word of God.



Sister Liz, a former postulant, Sister Joy & Father Pat



Presents galore!



Sister Joy with Mr Shane Tobin, School Principal



Lunch organisers Ronnie & Deidre



Sr Joy was also involved in various groups in the parish including the Pallottine Spirituality group RCIA, the Parish council and many more. She was always willing and able to assist Fr Pat in the running of the busy parish of St Christophers and even found time to tend to the presbytery garden. As a tribute to her gardening skills there is now a plaque in the garden on which is inscribed "Sr Joy's Garden." This will be a constant reminder of her presence here for 10 years and the wonderful contribution she made.

Sr Joy was indeed an angel in our midst and we wish her well on her retirement in Singapore. We all hope to keep in touch by email and Skype as she is now the proud owner of a laptop, a parting gift from the school and parish. Sr Joy is skilled in using a computer so we will all look forward to hearing from her and following her life in her new abode in Singapore.

Ronnie Poskitt on behalf of the Parish Council.

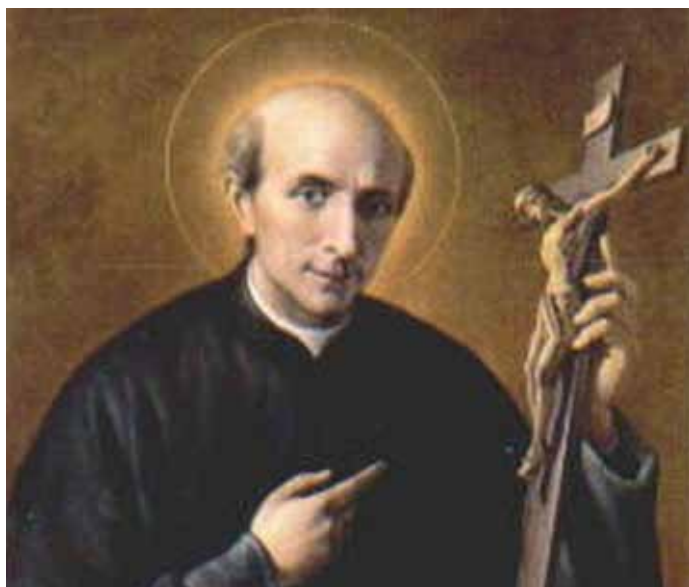
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## A year of celebrations for Pallotti's family

Australians and people around the world inspired by St Vincent Pallotti are gearing up for more than a year of celebrations in 2012-13.

The 50th anniversary of St Vincent's canonisation on 20 January 2013 will be preceded by a full 12 months of prayer, renewal and rejoicing by members of the Pallottine Family.

But participation in this global celebration will be only one cause for thanksgiving for Australian UAC



members. Three significant local anniversaries also occur during 2012-13:

- the 75th anniversary of the Pallottine house at Kew in mid-2012;
- the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Pallotti College, Millgrove in January 2013; and
- the 50th anniversary of the Pallottine camps and youth ministry at Millgrove, now centred at Casa Pallotti.

The first gathering of this momentous year will take place at Kew on St Vincent's feast day, 22 January, which in 2012 falls on a Sunday. A paraliturgy will be held at 5pm, followed by a social gathering.

The overarching celebration will be the Golden Jubilee of St Vincent's Canonisation.

In a letter to UAC National Coordination Councils around the world the UAC General Secretariat wrote:

"We wish this 'tempo forte', this 'special time of grace' to be marked by an intense spiritual and apostolic renewal in the lives of all the members of the Union so that we may live the Gospel life and experience fully, just like St Vincent Pallotti did during his earthly life."

Preparations have begun already for Australian commemorations of the anniversaries: the Pallotti College team have done some preliminary planning: Fr Pat Jackson has a group considering ways to mark the anniversary of the camps and youth ministry; and more than 40 people met at Kew on 15 October for a brainstorm to generate ideas for the celebrations. Eight days later, a meeting of organisers of the brainstorm met to collate the responses.

It was decided to establish a coordinating body to arrange, in cooperation with all the relevant communities, activities for the year through five groups:

Eucharist and liturgy; formation and information; history and media; social events; and social justice.

Please keep an eye on the Pallottine Family Newsletter, your email/letterbox and publications such as Kairos for details of events to come. And remember Sunday 22 January 2012 at Kew – a great way to catch the spirit of what promises to be a memorable time in our history.

Mark Brolly, UAC Local Council President.

## Some Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Recipeints



Maurie and Bernice Boland



Lawrence Gigliotti and friend

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## ONGOING FORMATION

In our Pallottine family ongoing formation is a continuous life-long process following on after we have experienced a period of initial formation.

Recently in one of the Pallottine formation publications, the distinction was made between 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' ongoing formation. Ordinary ongoing formation happens each day and is concerned with our everyday spiritual giving and receiving. Extraordinary ongoing formation refers to particular occasions for re-charging our spirits, e.g. "special occasions, courses, congresses, formation meetings on various levels (spiritual, pastoral, cultural), taking place especially in group settings."

We need to combine both the ordinary and the extraordinary means to keep deepening our worship, our prayer, our meditative reflection on the Gospels, all the while strengthening our commitment to loving service, to peace-making, to stimulating the reality of loving kindness, to suffering with Christ, quietly and humbly, and sharing the communion of our insights with like-minded apostles.

How do we manage the ongoing formation which is supposed to happen everyday? Mostly we're on our own with this one: how we manage each day and live out our commitment as UAC members is the nitty-gritty of all our lives no matter what age or stage we're at. All the formation manuals insist that the prime responsibility for any formation is that of the individual herself/himself and this personal responsibility seems to be the key to ordinary ongoing faith development.

Extraordinary ongoing experiences are quite different. For a special function, like a feast day celebration, a UAC congress, a local 'Gather and Share' session, a celebratory pilgrimage, the Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture, the Remember in November Eucharistic gathering, - whatever the special function is - we mostly find it easy enough to decide yes, we can attend that, or no, can't do it this time.

In these cases the pivotal decision depends on two responsibilities, the personal and the communal. The personal decision belongs to ourselves and derives from our own self-knowledge and self-needs-awareness. The communal responsibility derives from our membership of a wider group, e.g. SAC, Mariana Community, Pallottine parish, Pallotti College or Casa Pallotti team, or maybe from a former group to which we belonged and in which we continue previous group friendships.

The good thing is that there is a sort of feedback and feed-in aspect to both the ordinary and the extraordinary. When we decide to attend another course, join in special events like feast day celebrations, days of prayer or retreats, spiritual conferences etc., we bring our ordinary efforts then take away additional insights which heighten the everyday and prepare us once more to explore our Pallottine charism further, to re-animate our faith and rekindle our charity, at the same time spreading that fragrance further among our confreres, communities, workmates, families and friends.

Pat Heywood



## Father Michael McMahon Place

Last issue, Maria Rohr drew our attention to the blessing and opening of this significant place.

Now, Kimberley Community Profile (KCP) has kindly said that we can draw on their resources to bring you some relevant photographs and something of the story that led to it.

Putting that article into my own words, we can say that the facility, the first of its kind in Broome, was set up to provide meals and clothing on a needs basis and a modern ablution block to give users a way to 'freshen up'. It seems that the decision about the name was solved quite easily because the love and dedication of Fr. McMahon to the poor and marginalised was widely recognized.

In his words at the opening, Bishop Saunders remarked that the place is fittingly named and that it has been put under the patronage of St. Martin de Porres, who cared for the poor so admirably.

The Bishop went on to thank the many agencies, organizations, companies and individuals who helped in the ways within their capacity. Some names are known and will be recorded, others remain anonymous. He also commended Centacare who have taken on the task of managing the Centre, and with the whole community, he expressed his confidence that it will go some way to alleviating the misery of too many people living 'on the margins'.

Merle Gilbo

Maria Rohr on the right



Speakers at the Celebration



## More News from the West

### Queen of Apostles Parish, Riverton WA

In September our Parish Music Ministry held a Spring Concert with the aim of high-lighting the capabilities of the pipe-organ, in serious need of upgrading from when it was first built in 1970, and raising an interest for learning this grand instrument by future young organists.

Dominic Perissinotto, organist at St Patrick's Basilica in Fremantle was guest performer. Having set up two cameras – one for his footwork and the other for his hands – and projecting the images from the camera onto a screen, the audience was able to see for themselves to appreciate the skill and intricacies of playing the pipe organ.

Other performers at the concert were mostly from our Music Ministry and performed well. Pav Silva a Yr 12 student sang Schubert's "Ave Maria"; Kate How, mezzo soprano, sang a variety of items and also played the flute; Matt Williams played the violin and the Yr 11 Girls Chorale from Rossmoyne Senior High School sang under the baton of their teacher Clare How, who is also leader of 9am Family Group Choir. About 130 people attended and afterwards commented how much they had enjoyed the musical experience. A delicious afternoon tea followed in the Hall.

Although the concert did not raise any funds, it was still considered worth having and will be considered for a biennial event in the future.

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### THANKS and CONGRATULATIONS

**Thanks** to Fr. Benno Rausch for a story of post-war Germany. Fr. Benno had read an article by Fr. Michael Whelan in the winter edition of the Swag, the Council of priests' quarterly magazine. Fr. Michael had recalled two remarkable speeches made on the floor of the Vatican Council on November 8th 1963. Cardinal Frings of Cologne spoke first, focussing on the negative effects of the centralising tendency of authority in the Church, specially criticising the Holy Office. The second speaker was Cardinal Ottaviani who strongly disagreed and demanded an apology.

This reminded Benno of life when the Second World War ended in 1945. He was 14, things were very bad and people were really starving. Every day, women could be seen, with children clinging to them, walking for miles, offering their treasured possessions –jewels, table ware, bed linen to the 'Haves' for a piece of bread, a few potatoes, an egg--anything eatable.

Cardinal Frings (Cologne) ordered all parish priests to announce from the pulpits of churches packed with old people, women and children, praying for the return of a husband, father, brother, sister. "If there is nothing to eat and you are starving, you won't commit a sin if you go and help yourselves from those who have". From then on, the rule, blessed by the church, for city and country people, became the norm, called 'Frings/ing',

an adventurous nightly occupation. In return, the 'haves' formed teams of children and old people, to watch their gardens and fields. There was one case, in Benno's village when the Frings/ters slaughtered a large pig and dragged it home. It is likely that the Cardinal would have said..." That was taking it a bit too far" But it is no surprise that he was a match for Cardinal Ottaviani in the 60s.

**Thanks** also to all those who responded to the appeal headed "Maybe you can help" in the September newsletter. A goodly number of bags of books, stationary, pens and pencils, crayons, art and craft material have accumulated for future transport to the Philippines where the Indian Pallottines will put them to good use. Thanks also to those who sent money to be used for the purchase of similar items.

The **congratulations** are for three Pallottine Brothers who will celebrate milestone anniversaries of profession soon.

**FOR BROTHER LUDWIG GUNTER**, that will be 55 years on the 30th November, 2011.

**FOR BROTHER VIM VAN VEEN**, that will be 45 years on 24th February 2012

**FOR BROTHER BARRY HALL**, that will be 40 years on 22nd February, 2012.

*140 years of service to God and to many, many people. May you enjoy continued blessings.*



## REST IN PEACE.

The death of **Joan McFarlane** has reminded me of my early days in the Pallottine Younger Set Days. It was in the early 50s that I was 'invited' to go along to a meeting and one of the first people I met was Joan. As time went on, we became very good friends. While musing about what I should write about Joan, I asked Pat Heywood how she remembered Joan.

Pat reminded me that, by her membership of the Pallottine Younger Set and the apostolic groups, Joan was truly a pioneer of the UAC. We remember her father too, lovingly called Brother Frank, and chief builder, painter, handyman, mechanic, not only supporting Joan but also all of us in many ways.

After some time as an office worker, Joan had trained as a teacher, worked as a lay missionary in Papua/ New Guinea for a number of years and as a secondary teacher when she returned to Australia.

She loved teaching and it was a big disappointment to her when the effects of Multiple Sclerosis made it necessary to retire. That disease caused her last years to be difficult ones as she became dependent on others for ordinary life activities. Even when it became difficult for her to speak, you could tell of her interest in people by the way her face lit up when their names were mentioned. Thank you, Joan. Rest in peace with your loved ones. Merle

I didn't know **Gwen Keppel** very well but I remember the great work she did with Fr. Roger McGinley at Montserrat. She was a loyal member of the Pallottine Family. What I didn't know then was that there was another link between us. Somehow, in a conversation with Phi, a fellow parishioner, the word Pallottine came up and she asked me if I knew Gwen, telling me that Gwen was her godmother. Wondering how to confirm if I had correctly heard of Gwen's death, I made contact with Phi and, yes, she had died on 30th August this year.

Phi went on to say: "When my sister, Nhung, and I came to Australia from Vietnam as teenage refugees in 1980, we were staying at the Eastbridge (Nunawding) hostel. Gwen came in and, there and then, invited us to live with her. We stayed for about a year and when we were baptized, she became our godmother. She was such a kind lady, looking after strangers in this way. We have never forgotten her kindness and have kept in touch over the years, especially since she went into care".

It was Phi who told me about Gwen's funeral at Sacred Heart, Kew, where had been housekeeper for a time. . Gwen's daughter, Anne, told of the ups and downs of her mother's life but of her optimistic and generous spirit, her care for so many people. While growing up, Gwen had little church connection but, in her teens, while rooming in Clifton Hill, she had made friends with the young people around the Catholic Church. She knew she wanted to belong and she was baptized.

As Anne said: "It is her devotion to her faith, to her friends and to many needy people that we celebrate today". Thank you, Gwen. Rest in peace and joy.

Merle

**Peter Julian Sullivan**, the brother of Cheryl Sullivan died at Cheryl's home on 1st September 2011. Peter was a man of passion and strong convictions. He was known to and loved by members of the Pallottine Family who had the good fortune of being part of his life and experiencing his humour.

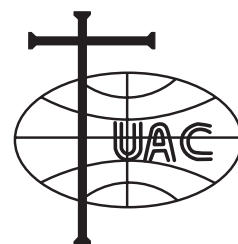
Peter had lived with HIV AIDS for over ten years and he did indeed LIVE. He saw his illness as part of his life, not his whole life and when diagnosed with cancer some twelve months ago he again lived with the diagnosis and saw that as part of his life's journey. One of Pete's favourite sayings was "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift – that is why it is called "the present". He did not just say that he lived it to the very end. The night before he died he said "I have had a beautiful day". What a wonderful way to live – and die. He is greatly missed. May he rest in peace. Cheryl Sullivan

As we go to press, we have heard that another veteran Pallottine priest and missionary, **Fr. Kevin McKelson** has gone to his eternal reward. Rest in peace and joy, Fr. Kevin.

**Let us remember in our prayers the members of the Pallottine Family who will gather in Rome, 14-17th January, 2012 for the General Assembly of the UAC.**

## UAC INFORMATION AFTERNOON

With the assistance of Fr. Dean and the National Council, our Union members are preparing for an information afternoon about St Vincent Pallotti and UAC in the Parish of Riverton on Sunday 4th December. Parishioners have been invited via the Sunday Bulletin and personal letter invitations. Through this we hope to raise an awareness of St Vincent Pallotti and his vision for the Church, as part of the upcoming 50th anniversary of his canonisation. We hope this will lead to an increasing understanding of Pallottine spirituality and mission, as well as interest those who may like to become part of the Pallottine Family.



**You are most welcome to join  
the Kew or the Millgrove  
communities for Mass on  
Christmas Eve.  
Both at 8.30pm**

**May the meaning of Christmas  
be deeper,  
its friendships stronger,  
its hopes brighter,  
as it comes to you each year.**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!**

**BEST WISHES FOR MANY  
BLESSINGS IN 2012.**



**A MATTER OF MONEY.** In fact, a gentle reminder that there are considerable costs involved in bringing this newsletter to life. \$10 per year from all recipients would help a great deal.

*Thanks to the people who send contributions, they are greatly appreciated.*

**Pallottine Family UAC  
Newsletter**

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