

PALLOTTINE FAMILY (UAC) NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015



Advent The Season of Hope

Three weeks ago, when the month of November had just begun, I saw a sign outside a store that read: CHRISTMAS is HERE! I was reminded of what I used to see in malls in the USA – all

the Christmassy stuff on display way before Christmas! That's the result of all the commercializing of this great feast over the age; and whether we like it or not we get sucked into it. In fact some of us may already feel the holiday stress in the air.

In the face of all the hustle and bustle (the "holiday madness" as some would call it), we tend to lose out on a great time of "preparation" that the season of Advent offers us. There is no better way to truly delight in the Christmas season than stepping back, slowing down, and giving ourselves the opportunity to experience a quiet time of reflection and spiritual preparation. This quiet time is a gift from the Church, practiced by Christians throughout the ages – giving us the time and space to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

ADVENT is the first season of the Church year leading up to Christmas. At each of the four Sundays a new candle is lit, symbolizing the light of God coming into our lives in different ways, drawing us closer into an all-embracing circle of love.

The driving dynamic of Advent is HOPE. The original hope was for a child to be born, who would bring justice and peace to the world, and who would be the bridge between humanity and God. But that larger hope is filled with smaller ones, daily hopes, which shape us as people.

- Some hopes will shape our relationships. The Christ child grew to be a man who embodied forgiveness and generosity. A life of hope sees the good in others and is patient with their shortcomings.
- Some hopes will shape our work-life. No matter what jobs we do or work-positions we hold, as people with hope, we maintain fairness and integrity. We make our work matter for the common good.
- Some hopes will shape our character. Jesus exemplified that – he showed true internal freedom. A hope-filled person cannot continue in anxiety, or be controlled by one's inner compulsions.

Christmas is an exciting time for all of us, especially for children. Having the right attitude and perspective will help us and our families avoid the excesses that make certain Christmas preparations frantic and draining. As the theologian John Shea says: "The task seems a delicate one of learning, of making the customs and traditions serve the Spirit."

Take a look at some of December's demanding activities with new eyes, eyes that fully expect to find God in every moment of this season of Hope.

Fr Ralph Besterwisch SAC

A CALL TO PRAYER

One of the issues mentioned at the Australian Congress this year was having some kind of Pallottine Prayer Circle. We are investigating ways to have a Prayer Circle via electronic means. However, there may be many good Pray-ers out there that do not use electronic gadgets and may be interested in praying for others. We need an interested person to be the Prayer co-ordinator and people willing to pray for others. If this ministry appeals to you forward your name to me and we will go from there.



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Pallottine Family Newsletter

Quarterly Circular for members of the
Australian Pallottine Family

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SAC Regional Assembly

On the 14th of September 2015, 15 SAC members from the Regina Mundi Region together with the Rector General Fr. Jacob Nampudakam SAC, General Councillor Fr. Francois Harelimana SAC and the Provincial of Epiphany Province Fr. Varghese Pullan SAC gathered at Rossmoyne together with the 13 non-SAC representatives from various parishes and apostolates to begin the XIV Society of Catholic Apostolate Regina Mundi Regional Assembly with a Retreat Day directed by Fr Pat Jackson SAC. During the morning session of the Retreat Day, using multimedia, Fr. Pat spoke about St. Vincent Pallotti, his chrism and his vision for the UAC and the SAC. In the afternoon session, Fr. Pat showed us a documentary video on the life of Eric Lomax, a WW2 POW survivor recently made famous in the movie "Railway Man"; and combining with a reflection on St. John's Gospel Chapter 20 verses 19-23, he took us on a journey of forgiveness and healing; and thereby bringing the Retreat Day to a close.

On the following day, 15th of September 2015, the SAC members and non-SAC representatives gathered together in the Rossmoyne Hall to begin the business day of the XIV SAC Regina Mundi Regional Assembly to discuss matters pertaining to the UAC.

Coincidentally, on this date exactly 50 years ago, on the 15th of September 1965, Pope Paul VI, responding to the wishes of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council to keep alive the positive spirit engendered by the conciliar experience, established the Synod of Bishops as a permanent institution in the Church.

It was appropriate that we began the Regional Assembly discussions on the 50th anniversary of the Synod of Bishops since the word "synod", derived from two Greek words syn meaning "together" and hodos meaning "road" or "way", literally means a "coming together" or "walking together". So here we were, on the first business day of the Assembly, a group of ordained and non-ordained, consecrated and lay, married and celibates, male and female, all coming together and walking together to the drum beat of St. Vincent Pallotti.

After a day of dialogue and deep listening with the broader UAC, the SAC members continued 3 more days among themselves discerning and deliberating the various issues concerning Regina Mundi Region and beyond.

Our desire was to create "synodality" at our Assemblies - the ongoing process of dialogue, discernment, collaboration and collegiality - each listening to the others and everyone listening to the Holy Spirit.

"Synodality" is a process which did not end with the closing of the Assembly on the 18th September 2015 but is intended to continue into the future.

Fr. Eugene San SAC



60th Anniversary of Bidyadanga Community - La Grange Mission

An invitation was extended by the Bidyadanga Community to their friends which included Aboriginal communities, priests, ex teachers, workers and lay missionaries who had been part of the La Grange Mission story during the last 60 years.

What a great feeling it was to be in the warmth of the Kimberley and especially in the presence of our Aboriginal friends once again as they warmly welcomed us all! The general consensus from the ex-lay missionaries was: 'It felt like we were coming home!' On Sunday 28th June, around the Feast of St. John the Baptist, whom the church is named after, a spirit-filled con- celebrated Mass, officiated by Bishop Christopher Saunders and assisted by Fr. Benny Calanza and Fr. Emil Ciecierega SDS, was the first part of the celebrations. At the end of the Mass a plaque was unveiled in remembrance of Fr. Kevin McKelson in recognition of his enormous contribution to the community for nearly 40 years. I quote the words written in English on the plaque: "Fr Kevin McKelson" SAC, OAM

Parish Priest of La Grange 1961 – 1995

He respected our culture, recorded our 5 languages, taught us to pray in our languages and started Bidyadanga Community. We are forever grateful."

Following the unveiling, a song which had been written by Jessica Bangu was sung by the people in his honour. Fr. Kevin was respected by the Bidyadanga Community for his incredible humanity, compassion and love for the people of La Grange. The presence of his two nieces, Mary Malone and Louise Evans-Mirabile for this occasion was very much appreciated by the people of Bidyadanga.

After Mass we went up to the cemetery and Bishop Christopher blessed the graves. This area held many memories for us all. As time has passed, many changes have taken place since the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's. The most obvious was the absence of the many people whom we loved who have have passed on to eternal peace with God.

Next in the day's celebrations was a delicious luncheon which was prepared by the people of La Grange. The familiar families were delighted to introduce us to the next generations. It was a beautiful and memorable afternoon. A photo display depicted the different eras of their journey.

We would like to acknowledge the work done by Madeline Jadaí and Maureen Yanawana who were responsible for organizing this event. They did a mighty job and we thank them for their thoughtful work.

Mary Saunders

See <http://australianoftheday.com.au/maureen-yanawana.html>



THE RENOVATED SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES PARISH CHURCH, RIVERTON

"It is said "that a good place of worship in a proper setting is the antidote to the exhausting harshness in the outer world."

On Saturday the 14th of November 2015, the newly renovated Sanctuary was blessed by Fr John Flynn at a Thanksgiving Mass concelebrated with the Pallottine community. The scope of the renovations was " linking the old with the new".

It was therefore fitting for Fr Flynn to bless the Sanctuary as he was the Parish Priest who built the Parish Church in 1970. This has been one of the most major renovations in the Parish since its commencement in March 1951.

We give thanks to Our Loving and Gracious God, who is indeed the giver of all good gifts as we come together in a new setting each day to seek His wisdom, guidance, courage and strength. A special thanks for Fr. Paul Manickathan, our Parish Priest for his vision and coordinating the thoughts and views of the various committees.



Pallotti College looks back on 2015

Looking back over the year which has been an incredibly busy one, some of the highlights were:

Along with our very generous and hard-working overseas volunteers who now make up our extended Global Pallotti family, we have been blessed with the return of Paco & Rosella who are long term volunteers for us. Some of our young volunteers have returned to us for a second time and are really very committed to our vision. Ian, whose mother sadly passed away during the year, is enjoying a well-earned break over December and January but will return, refreshed for another busy year. Sadly our long term and well-loved team member Joseph passed away this year and is sadly missed. Daphne returned refreshed after a holiday, thank goodness as she is such a valued member with many years of experience behind her; Nola still cares for her flowers which are such a lovely part of the ambiance of Pallotti. Our SAC Team members are such a blessing for us. Special Celebrations were held for Dean's 28th anniversary of ordination in November. Lindsay's outreach continues to be something we are enormously proud of and committed to supporting. He is an angel of the streets and byways as well as a great connector of people and valued friend to many different churches, organisations, ministries and guests of Pallotti College. How he fits into his week all he does we never know! Long and tiring days and nights are the answer! May St Vincent continue to bless all our team members with his Spirit of love and hospitality.



Introducing a delightful addition to the Pallotti College team - Eva Pinkava, who is the lovely voice at Reception for 2 days each week. If the name sounds familiar you may remember Eva as a news reader for 3AW back in the days of John Blackman, she also had her own overnight program.



Sr Kath Tierney joined the Board of Management this year. Kath is a delightful addition and brings extensive administrative expertise and experience to our Board.



The inaugural Pallottine Camino which, thanks to all the hard work by Lorraine, Helen and the team, was a great success, the Retreat for Pallottine family and The Pallottine Congress followed.

This year also saw the re-instatement of The Pallotti College Retreat Team. We had a good year with many people blessed by participating in one of the varied retreats and we have an exciting year of retreats to come in 2016. Check out the Brochure!

Pallotti College once again hosted the LinC AGM. LinC is a combined churches support and referral organisation. We also participate on the LinC Board of Management. We have continued our good connections with many welfare agencies in the Valley and beyond.



A visit from the Pallottine General Jacob and consultor Francois was eagerly anticipated and we all enjoyed the event along

with several fruitful discussions and affirmation around our various ministries.

With the Soup kitchen drawing to a close for the year, we now look forward to our lovely Christmas Liturgy (Midnight Mass at 8.30), the Supper afterwards and our Christmas lunch.



Pallotti Team member Jackie Clough, brings her beautiful ministry of Children's Toys to enhance our free Christmas lunch and many generous volunteers line up to help make the day so wonderful.

From Holy Child Parish to Holy Land

Well here we were a very excited group of 16 people (including our Parish Priest, Fr Leenus), on Friday, 16th Oct. 2015 at 9 pm at Melbourne International Airport waiting to begin our 12 day journey, that was 3 years in the planning.

A little history: 3 years ago a couple of our parishioners asked,

“Couldn’t we arrange a pilgrimage from our parish that would be great”.

And so the idea was born, we hadn’t arranged a pilgrimage before, so where to begin.

We had to decide the key areas we wanted to visit, who we would ask to arrange our tour, how much would it cost and ultimately who would come.

At times we wondered ‘was this really going to happen’, but against all odds here we were.

We arrived in Jordan, after a short stopover in Doha, somewhat bedraggled but very excited and full of anticipation. First to Madaba to see a large Byzantine-era mosaic map of the Holy Land, which of course only excited us more to envisage the places we were going to visit over next 11 days.

Then to Mt Nebo where Moses saw the Promised Land for the first time and last time, and our journey back in time began.

From here we proceeded into Israel where over the next few days we visited the Grotto of Annunciation, and Basilica of St Joseph, as well as CANA, where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding, at his Mother’s request. Here, some of our group renewed their marriage vows, so special for them in such a place. We also visited Mt of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, Taghba the site of the Miracle of Multiplication, where we had our first taste of St Peters fish, and Church of the Primacy, where Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection.

A special moment was our boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, after viewing the famous fishing boat from the first century A.D. where one of our group members raised the Australian flag alongside the Israeli flag.

Over the next couple of days we visited Mount Carmel, Megiddo and Jericho to view the Mount of Temptation, before going to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

While every place we went was inspiring, a particularly poignant place was Shepherds Fields and the Church of the Nativity to visit the grotto where Jesus was born, and where his journey on earth began.

From the Mount of Olives we walked down the traditional Palm Sunday road, where as we struggled to walk down this steep road we could truly imagine the struggle of Jesus carrying his cross after having already been tortured, and here we continued our pilgrimage today by walking along the via Dolorosa (the way of the Cross) praying for our special intentions at each station before entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the final 5 stations.

Continuing our journey, we visited Mt. Zion and St. Peter in Gallicantu (built over the site of the high priest Caiaphas) and onto Ein Karem to the birthplace of John the Baptist.

We drove to the town of Bethany, where Mary, Martha

and Lazarus lived and in Lazarus’ case also dies (we visited his tomb) before proceeding to Masada to go up the cable car to view the ruins of Herod’s palace. While we were on the hilltop a sandstorm of proportions we have never seen here enveloped us, before the lightning and thunderstorm bringing torrential rain started, making it impossible for us to descend since the cable car could not run in this weather. All part of the monumental experience we shared.

Our last day was a free day in Jerusalem and saw us back at the church of the Holy Sepulchre where rather than visit the areas in awe of them as the first time we took our time and considered the places we were standing and the impact it had on mankind’s future. We touched the spot Jesus was crucified, his tomb and members of the group led us through the Divine Mercy prayers in the spot that Mother Mary watched as her son was being crucified, at 3 pm.

As a group we came away truly moved, this was not just a tour of famous sites, this was a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of Jesus’ life on earth. Being able to envisage what Jesus suffered for our salvation as we stood at the sites where it occurred was not something I can express in words.

We had left as a group of parishioners from Holy Child Church, Dallas and returned as a family (our as one of our members described us as her pilgrimage family), united and strengthened in our faith.

We had shared laughter, joy, illness, fear and spiritual growth.

So while very bedraggled and tired, we returned home at 11 pm on Wed 28th Oct truly rejuvenated.



MONEY MATTERS

Thank you for all who support this publication by giving contributions –whether by hand, by mail or directly into the bank. I’ve heard that some of you have experienced a difficulty when using the latter method. For others it has worked!! Anyhow, it’s the Commonwealth Bank—CBA .

BSB: 06 3 142

Account Number: 1010 4176.

Hazel Irma Raftis

Born to this world:
17th March 1922

Returned to God:
29th October 2015



Hazel was a wonderful Pallottine co-worker with Fr Benno Rausch in their ministry at Marjorie Maria Cove which is a holiday house for disadvantaged families in need of respite. She passed away peacefully where she wanted to in the little cottage called Camaldoli, situated just below Marjorie Maria Cove on the Pallottine property at Millgrove. She was a true Catholic, spiritual, prayerful, a woman of great compassion, love, joy, hospitality and a welcome to all, especially those who were most in need. Hazel was born into a Jewish family and converted to Catholicism when she married her husband Richard. He died at the young age of 36 years. She was left to raise her three children, her first child, Dennis died at 10 days old. Hazel ran the family Hay & Corn Store at Blackburn for the next 29 years. During this period she was a great benefactor of the Pallottine's and many other people and organisations.

In collaboration with Fr Benno, when Hazel retired, she devoted herself to running the holiday house called Marjorie Maria Cove, which started in 1988 and continued to her death. Hazel provided much comfort to so many people, always ready to listen and pray for them while often providing practical support as well. Fr Benno recognised her giftedness for loving everyone regardless of their circumstances, race or creed, he said that she was the most important person in that work, because of her life experience, which qualified her to help women and families. She could talk to all people about God; lead them prayerfully to deal with their problems. Her funeral was held at Casa Pallotti on the 5th of November, 2015 and was attended by approx 130 people with Fr Eugene San SAC as the main celebrant and Fr Pat Jackson SAC.

Hazel was a true apostle of St Vincent Pallotti and lived out his charism and mission each day of her life. Promoted to Heaven, she leaves us with a great example to follow in our ordinary lives. A generous and beautiful ladyRest in Peace.



2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GATHER AND SHARE SESSIONS

As in previous years we will be holding three "Gather and Share Sessions" in 2016 – the venues have not been decided at this time – but the dates have, we will advertise the venues in forthcoming PFN's.

Dates: 1 May, 31 July, 9 October 2016

UAC FORMATION PROGRAM

As was commenced in 2015, an initial **UAC Formation Program** will be held at Saint Christopher's Parish Syndal. This program is for those who want to learn more of the great charism handed on to us through Saint Vincent Pallotti, recognising that this charism is the call for us to be apostles following the Gospel of Jesus. These sessions can be seen both as initial and ongoing formation so all are invited to attend.

Dates: 6 March, 15 May, 21 August and 23 October 2016.

CENACLE PRAYER EVENINGS

These evenings will provide all of us in the Pallottine Family with the opportunity to pray together on a monthly basis. The evenings will be **held on the 22nd of each month** at the various Pallottine venues. The prayer time will be from 7.30pm to 8.15pm with a further time for a cuppa together, with the finish by 8.30pm.

To start the year there will be a Mass celebrated at Pallottine College 85 Studley Park Road Kew on Saint Vincent's Feast Day 22nd January at their usual Mass time of 5.15 pm (we are asked to arrive a little after 5.00pm). We will have a light dinner together following this Mass so please bring a plate or a bottle to share.

The cenacle prayer meetings will commence at 7.30pm in February:

**22nd February at Saint Christopher's,
5 Doon Avenue, Syndal**

**22nd March, Pallottine College,
85 Studley Park Road, Kew.**

If anyone has any questions please feel free to ring Cheryl Sullivan on 9416 7138

Volunteer Caretaker opportunity!!

The St. Vincent Pallotti Epiphany, Retreat and Conference centre at 50 Fifth Ave. Rossmoyne. W.A 6148 requires the services of a live-in couple to help in the running of the centre. This situation would suit a retired or semi-retired couple.

For further information, see www.pallottine.org.au/retreat-centres, phone 08 9457 2645 or E mail epiphanycentre@bigpond.com



BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

It is now over a decade since the death of Irene Munsey. Irene, a member of the Mariana Community, was a woman of amazing dedication and compassion. Many years of Irene's life were lived in the Yarra Ranges – initially as the woman who offered hospitality at Monserrat (one of the ministries on the Pallottine Property at Millgrove), then as Maternal and Child Health Nurse in the Warburton region and finally as volunteer extraordinaire in Warburton.

In order to capture some of the life of Irene – or Miss Munsey as she was known to many – Mariana Community commissioned a short book to be written, therefore,

It is with great delight Mariana Community invite you to the launch of Irene's booklet

ON SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 2.00PM
AT – OAK MAREE, 5 MC NAMARA'S ROAD
MILLGROVE.

(Melways Reference 289 A:2)

PLEASE RSVP BY 24 JANUARY 2016 TO:

Kath Curtain at curtaink@tpg.com.au phone 9882 8967
or

Cheryl Sullivan at cherylsullivan11@bigpond.com phone
9416 7138



0.5 EFT FORMATION WORKER – TO COMMENCE FEBRUARY 2016 ONE YEAR CONTRACT (WITH POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION)

UNION OF CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

The Union of Catholic Apostolate (UAC) is a communion of individuals and communities who are inspired by the vision of Saint Vincent Pallotti.

We are seeking to employ an enthusiastic person to work with the UAC Formation Coordinator and Committee. The successful applicant will have: relevant tertiary qualifications, highly developed communication and formation skills, and will promote the charism of St Vincent Pallotti by offering appropriate Adult Faith Formation and Initial UAC Formation Programs. This work will primarily be conducted within the Pallottine lead parishes, facilities and ministries within the Melbourne archdiocese.

To obtain a copy of the Position Description please email: frp.jackson@syndalcatholic.org.au

**Applications, addressing key selection criteria
close on: 9th February 2016**

LAY MISSIONARY DATA

Five years ago Mariana Community decided to compile a list of lay missionaries trained by both Pallottine Priests and Mariana Members for Pallottine Missions in Western Australia. The training period extended from 1959 until 1982, although Mariana Community wasn't involved in the 1981 training. The Pallottines continued, although the last training in which Mariana members were involved was 1982.

The small group to commence data collection were Kath Curtain, Patricia Harwood and Mary Rowe (deceased). Pat Heywood (deceased), UAC Executive Officer at the time gave considerable assistance being able to source the Pallottine archives. Merle Gilbo included notices requesting information in several editions of the Pallottine Family Newsletter. Subsequently a vast number of former lay missionaries, their families and Pallottine priests and brothers have contributed valuable information related to names and dates.

Finally Kath and Cheryl Sullivan, Mariana Coordinator and President of the National Council of the UAC in Australia, have collated the information which has come in from across Australia and the task is finally completed. We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have contributed, too many to name personally. We realise there may be gaps in the information (some surnames are missing), however the names of 240 lay missionaries are recorded. The tremendous contribution by generous women and men, in the service of our indigenous sisters and brothers on the Pallottine Mission Stations in Western Australia, is now proudly recorded as part of Australian Church history.

May Mary Queen of Apostles and St Vincent Pallotti continue to inspire our evolving earthly journey. At Vincent prayed:
*Breath in God and breath out God,
find God in everything and
communicate God to all,
thus creating about you
a divine atmosphere.*

Kath Curtain & Cheryl Sullivan
1 December 2015

Masses on Christmas Eve.


Mass will be celebrated at 8.30 pm on Christmas Eve at both 85 Studley Park Rd. Kew and at Pallotti College, Millgrove. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join in.

*May God bless
you with peace,
joy and love at
Christmas and
all through 2016*




Pallottine Family UAC Newsletter

85 Studley Park Road, Kew VIC 3101
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Pallottine Camino



April 23rd—25th, 2016

“the love of Christ urges us on”
Vincent Pallotti

A pilgrimage walk
from St Christopher's Parish Syndal,
to Pallotti College Millgrove.
Approximately 65km over three days.

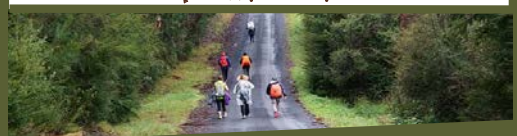
The inaugural Pallottine Camino in 2015 was a blessed time of fellowship and prayer as we ambled through beautiful and varied landscapes.

Please join us for the
'2016 Pallottine Camino'

- The route includes sections of Dandenong Creek Trail, the Warburton Rail Trail and O'Shannessy Aqueduct.
- A good fitness level is required as we walk 20+ km per day
- Cost: Approx. \$240 includes:
 - * Meals and accommodation at Pallotti College for two nights in a private room with shared bathroom facilities
 - * Transfer to and from Pallotti College
 - * Maps and daily prayer resources based on Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment "Laudato Si"

You are invited to register your interest in the 2016 Pallottine Camino, to reserve your place and receive further information as it becomes available. There will be an information night in February. Limited numbers apply.
Contact Lorraine on 0402 217123 or lorraine613@bigpond.com

All Welcome



SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

You can read this publication also
at the SAC Website
www.Pallottine.org.au