

BREAKING NEWS

The organising committee for the Walter Silvester Memorial Lecture is negotiating with a recently honoured Australian _ with strong links to the Pallottines in the Kimberley _ to deliver this year's lecture, probably in October, around the time of what would have been Fr Walter's 89th birthday.

With the recent historic apology to the stolen generations in the Federal Parliament, we are confident this year's lecture will be as outstanding a success as the inaugural lecture, 'Beyond the Ash-heaps: A Priest, Two Popes and the Church', delivered by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at the Australian Catholic University's Melbourne campus last year.

LOOK OUT FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER OR KEEP AN EYE ON THE PALLOTTINE WEBSITE (www.pallottine.org.au) FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

REST IN PEACE., FR. GERHARD

After his long illness, Fr. Gerhard Christoph went to his eternal reward on 8th March at Nazareth House, Geraldton where he had lived for some years.

There was a Vigil Rosary at the St. Vincent Pallotti Chapel at Rossmoyne on Wednesday 12th March and the Mass of thanksgiving for his life was celebrated there on Thursday 13th March.

He was buried at the Karrakatta cemetery. Fortunately, his sister Barbara was able to travel from Germany to represent his family.

DATES TO REMEMBER.

Next Community Day at 85 Studley Park Rd. Kew Tuesday, 6th May.. starting with Mass at 11.00 am..

Taize prayer.....8-9 pm on the First Friday of each month — **except** June.

Mariana reflection Day 19th April

Queen of Apostles celebration 10th May

Happy Eastertide to You and to All Your Family

Yes, thank you to those who you recognized the real need we are experiencing in defraying the costs associated with the production of this newsletter. Your contributions have made a significant difference. **BUT**, it is easy to put such things aside, isn't it? We know there are some forgetful (and penitent) recipients who just need another reminder to 'catch up'. **\$10 per year** from everyone would very adequately cover costs.

Pallottine Family UAC Newsletter

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PALLOTTINE FAMILY (UAC) NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

the SORRY declaration

After so long, so much urging and rejection, and after so many precedents from other bodies, secular and religious, it seemed almost unreal that 'sorry' day had finally arrived on the opening day of the current Parliament. Now that the emotion has died down, and the politicians are once again up to their normal crassness in facing each other across the floor perhaps the event can have some perspective.

I'm not sure that I can add a lot to the many positive commentaries and analysis of what has been labeled – and I wholeheartedly agree – a momentous day for Australia. Standing alone in the crowd on the Perth Esplanade lawn at 7.00 am that morning, with the city skyline as a backdrop, and with the sun rising, I confess that I felt a palpable sense of history, straining to see the TV screen in the distance [only one of several TVs chose to operate that morning but the audio was full on]. And I felt proud to be part of a country that had at last come to this point.

Even more the moment had a sense of Lenten liturgy about it – the honest admission and sorrow for past wrongs which seemed to be sincerely 'owned' by the Prime Minister, the expression of deep regret and request for forgiveness, the very strong resolve to make

this moment one of stepping forward, the commitment that it must never happen again, and the release which that brought in terms of the palpable joy of a long, standing ovation. His words seemed to carry the crowd, certainly those near me, many of whose quiet tears suggested they were probably victims directly or indirectly. To quote Fr Frank Brennan: 'What a *graced day* in our nation's history'!

I actually came away feeling more of a Christian! And glad that I belonged to a country that was no longer in denial but whose populace as a whole and not just a minority could, through its leaders, at last own its own history, admit the immeasurable harm that had been done, and respectfully and graciously apologise to the aboriginal people sitting in front of them.

Perhaps the only point made that morning that is open to challenge is the speed with which the government hopes to make good – 'close the gap'. Those who have been confronted for a lifetime by the dysfunction that past policies brought about cannot imagine how 10 years can really be sufficient to reverse them. Just the same we have to applaud the intention.

I wonder if there aren't Pallottine associates – or their offspring who have inherited their spirit – who could get on board somehow in this? Who felt a spark, a tinge, that morning?

Introducing the New Executive Officer

Pallottine Family Newsletter

Quarterly Circular for members of the Australian Pallottine Family

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Publisher: UAC Secretariat 85 Studley Park Rd Kew Vic. 3101 Tel.: (03) 9855 0211, Fax: (03) 9855 0211 Email: uacsec@tpg.com.au

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Hello to all UAC members and associates. My name is Patrick Caruana and I am proud to have been appointed as the new Executive Officer. I will endeavour to work with and for you to advance and grow the Union of the Catholic Apostolate, always contemplating the words and actions of St Vincent Pallotti. I would like to provide you with a bit of background that will help you understand my background and why this role means so much to me.

I am forty – three years old and the oldest son of George and Carmen who migrated here to Australia after

marrying in Malta in 1964. I am extremely proud of my Maltese heritage because Malta has been extremely pivotal to world history. In the 1500's the first great siege of Malta took place where the island was gallantly defended by the Knights of St John and the Maltese against the Ottoman Empire. Had Malta fallen it would be fair to say the end of Christendom would have been nigh. During World War Two, Malta again withstood a siege by the axis powers and enabled the eventual defeat of those powers and a relatively free Europe. Of course these two major events in the islands history are forever linked to the Maltese Catholic faith, which was instilled by St Paul when he was shipwrecked there. I have one brother and two sisters and am married with



three children, Georgia, Chiara and Joseph. I live in the Geelong suburb of Grovedale.

I have a strong faith and spirit of individuality that was fostered by my parents and grandparents who always allowed me to follow my conscience. I have also been very fortunate in having had two great priests in my local parishes as I grew, Father Dominic Degeorgio and Father Frank Buhagier as well as a terrific mentor at my secondary school, (St Pauls in Altona North) Brother Bob Reising. These men encouraged my faith by their actions and way of life. I saw through them the dignity and humanity of Christ and can honestly say they inspired me with my faith.

My interests include music, art, literature, photography, cricket, Formula 1 motor racing, social justice and of course spending time with my family.

I do hope that you will introduce yourself to me as we meet at various occasions, and feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

**UAC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Information sheet for UAC scholarships/study grants.**

The Union of the Catholic Apostolate (UAC) consists of both religious and lay members of the Pallottine family. Founded by St. Vincent Pallotti in Rome in 1835, it endeavours to spread the concept of a Church in which all people are actively involved.

The UAC offers scholarships/study grants to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity which is consistent with UAC aims and objectives.

These grants will be awarded to successful applicants who demonstrate enthusiasm and ability in a particular area of endeavour e.g. youth ministry, pastoral care, vocational training, community service, indigenous health and education.

Funds will be allocated annually to successful applicants at the discretion of the scholarship committee. They will provide up to \$2,500 towards the cost of courses of study, programs and conferences.

An Information sheet and Application forms for the scholarship/study grants are available from;

UAC Executive Officer,
Patrick Caruana,
85 Studley Park Road,
Kew,
Victoria, 3101.
Tel. 0419 414 510
Email: uac.eo@pallotine.org.au

Applications close on 21st April 2008. Submission is via the application form (see Page 7), C.V. and covering letter to the address listed above.

AN INVITATION TO SHARE A DAY OF LISTENING AND REFLECTING AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI.

The Mariana Community invites you to join them on Saturday, 19th April at the Pallottine Community, 85 Studley Park Rd. Kew to celebrate Vincent's birthday and to listen, reflect on and discuss the theme : "*The spirituality of Apostolic Friendship*".

Our presenter will be Deb Kent. Deb has studied and written about this theme and she lives out of it—believing that a primary vocation of secular people is one of friendship/relationship.

The day will begin at 10.00am and finish at 4.00pm with drinks and afternoon tea as we formally celebrate Vincent's birthday. (The actual date of his birthday is 21st April.).

Please bring something to share for lunch. The cost of the day is a gold coin donation.

If you would like further information, please contact Cheryl Sullivan on 9 416 7138



The Mariana Community invites you to a Eucharist on Thursday, 5th June, to mark the end of our 50th Anniversary Celebrations. It will take place at 85 Studley Park Road, Kew at 7.30 p.m.



Please join us for a light supper afterwards.

CELEBRATING QUEEN OF APOSTLES' FEAST DAY

This great feast on the Pallottine calendar will be celebrated at 85 Studley Park Road, Kew, on SATURDAY 10 MAY AT 2PM with prayer, sharing of faith and, of course, the chance to socialise. Fr Eugene San will lead us in a paraliturgy before a ``colloquium'', an opportunity for us to converse in faith about Mary the Mother of God and how she inspires us to lead apostolic lives in these early years of the third millennium. With World Youth Day and Pope Benedict's visit to Australia coming only a couple of months later, it's a good opportunity for us to pray, reflect and offer ideas for renewal in our lives as members of the Pallottine Family (the UAC) and of the wider Church. And, of course, it's good to catch up for a cuppa and a chat later in a relaxed setting _ in all, a fruitful and pleasant way to spend an autumnal afternoon! Please bring a plate and we'll have the urn on the boil.

For further details, contact: Fr Eugene on 9853-8506 or Mark Brolly on 9350-1134 or 0419-329-119.

No need to book, just see you there!

UNION OF CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

Application form for the UAC Scholarship/Study Grants for Lay Ministry

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other.....

SURNAME.....

GIVEN NAME

ADDRESS

-----POSTCODE

PHONE ----- EMAIL

OCCUPATION

ACTIVITY FOR WHICH THE AWARD IS SOUGHT

RELEVANT BACKGROUND/EXPERIENCE

Please complete in not more than one page attached to this pro-forma, your response to the following criteria:

the way this grant will benefit your nominated community;

genuine financial need;

your commitment to advancing Christian apostolic values.

Forward the completed application form, including names and contact details of two referees by 29th March 2008 to

UAC Executive Officer,
Patrick Caruana,
85 Studley Park Road,
Kew, Victoria, 3101.
Tel. 0419 414 510
Email: uac.eo@pallotine.org.au

approach of the local clergy. Michael has made many useful and informative contacts with many of the clergy and religious and I feel that in his new post at St. Francis of Assisi these contacts will expand and solidify. Of special interest from an Australian history point of view the museum at Changi, a free facility which traces in word and picture the sad and at times vicious nature of the fall of Singapore in the 2nd world war and the suffering that followed. At the other end of the island is the war cemetery at Krangi. There are books containing the names of all the allied soldiers buried there. Each of the graves is similar in structure. There are a huge number of graves dating from February 1942 when Singapore fell.

Mike McMahon, SAC. Rossmoyne 28th January 2008

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATION COUNCIL.

Some of you will be aware that Pat Heywood, our first Executive Officer retired from her position at the end of 2007. As an inaugural position, there was much to establish and Pat set up many processes as well as developing strong relationships, particularly getting to know and work with the LCC in the West as well as the East. Patrick Caruana has taken the role of Executive Officer and we look forward to working with him as he promotes the work of the UAC. It is a new road for Patrick and one he is enthusiastic to develop.

The first meeting of the NCC for 2008 was held in Perth. We recognized that it is vital to meet with the "group from the West" and looked forward to hearing of their experiences/expectations and praying. playing and planning with them. The next newsletter will provide the outcomes of this experience.

There are many events planned for the year – all outlined in other sections of the newsletter. We look forward to meeting with you as we celebrate together in 2008.

Cheryl Sullivan
For the NCC

PALLOTTINE SPIRITUALITY VERSUS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

By Fr. Joe Butscher SAC

I am not so sure whether we can ask if there is any difference between Pallottine and Christian Spirituality.

First let's look at Christian Spirituality.

Christian Spirituality has many facets. It is a spirituality which has grown over thousands of years. Its basis is: the Gospels, or better the whole of Scripture (the Old Testament with the Psalms etc. is an important part of it), the Faith of the Church, her Tradition and also her Liturgy.

Principles of Spirituality

1.A Christian Spirituality will and must always be an expression of the Gospel, of the Faith of the Church.

2.Various Christian Spiritualities must never compete with other Spiritualities or exclude them. We must never act or talk as if our particular Spirituality is so important that anyone not embracing it is not fully Christian.

3.Any Christian Spirituality should be an expression of the signs of the times and be an answer to the needs of the People of God.

4.There is complete freedom to adopt a certain genuine Christian Spirituality.

SPIRITUALITY AND SPIRITUALITIES: THEOLOGICAL CRITERIA

St. Paul reminds us: *"there are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of the in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good But it is one and the same Spirit who produces all these gifts, distributing them to each as he wills"* (1 Cor. 12:4-7;11).

What theological criteria, consistent with Catholic tradition, can one apply to the variety of spiritualities?

1.Any Spirituality in the Church must have its basis in the Gospels and the teaching of all books of the New Testament as well as in the Tradition of the Catholic Church.

2.It is an expression of the Holy Spirit being alive in the Church in our time inspiring individuals and groups to find new ways of living the Good News and witnessing to it.

3.Sometimes a new Spirituality may rightly address certain deviations from the Spirit of Jesus and the Gospels. A good example of this is the Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi addressing the lack of Poverty and quest for worldly power with many leaders in the Church.

PROGRESS OF THE PALLOTTINE ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

A consultation was held with the members of the Region in 2000 about the possibility of using half the money obtained from the sale of land at Rossmoyne to fund a scholarship for Aboriginal students. The members gave a decisive affirmation to the idea.

We investigated the most efficient and beneficial way of actualising this proposal. Our investigations revealed that the greatest and most pressing need was in the field of Tertiary studies. We consulted with legal experts on the best way to structure the scheme and the result was the Pallottine Aboriginal Scholarship Trust. The great benefits of the structure we adopted were twofold:

- The monies are paid directly to the Universities or TAFE College where the students undertake their studies. This precludes any misappropriation of grants.
- The Trust is set up in such a manner that all donations to the trust are fully tax deductible.

We then worked out an application form which any candidates are required to fill in.

We then decided on a committee of 6 people to review these applications. There are three Pallottines on the committee (Bryan Tiernan, Ray Hevern and Michael McMahon) Three Aboriginal people (Robert Isaacs, Donella Brown and Colleen Drage are the other members of the committee . The selection of members was done in such a way as to represent metro Perth, the Midwest (round Geraldton) and the Kimberley.

We have evolved a method of judging the applicants. Candidates nominate two referees. A member of the committee interviews the referee . They are asked about the applicant

- Their scholastic ability
- Their ability to knuckle down to study
- Their commitment to Aboriginal causes
- Their connection with the Pallottines.

The whole structure was in place by 2000 and the first scholarships were awarded for the 2001 scholastic year.

In 2006 the committee decided that because of the large number of applications that the scholarship should be restricted to people studying in WA institutes of higher learning.

Initially about \$60,000 was allocated but the scheme has proved so successful that in 2008 about \$140,000 will be distributed.

Already in 7 short years there have been

- Two people who have graduated as doctors
- Four more are entering the home straight in medicine
- Five people have graduated as teachers.
- Two people have graduated in social work
- Two people have graduated in science.
- One Person has graduated in modern music
- Two have graduated in law
- One person in media studies.

The committee decided a few years back that the length of the scholarship for any individual would be four years. A person who is awarded a scholarship for one year will have the scholarship renewed for the following year if they complete their studies satisfactorily.

The operating cost of the trust is minimal. It has spent only just over \$6,000 in 7 years of operation.

On the other hand it has distributed \$535,000 in fee payment over the same period.

Another most pleasing aspect of the operations has been the generous response of many donors. Over the period in question we have received close to \$160,000 in donations. Over the same period our investments have earned nearly \$640,000.

The net result is that the capital of the trust stands at \$1,400,000, an increase of \$200,000 since the inception.

The late Eddie Wishart and Barry Hall have taken care of the financial side of the trust. They have been highly competent and cooperative.

The committee has been highly professional in their operations.

The only dark cloud on the horizon has been the rapid increase of fees for courses. We would hope to build up the capital of the trust so that we can keep pace with the increased cost of courses

Donations are fully tax deductible and can be sent to:

Father Michael McMahon (Chair)
Pallottine Aboriginal Scholarship Trust,
60 Fifth Ave.,
Rossmoyne, WA. 6148

Receipts are sent by return mail

MORE NEWS FROM THE WEST

LCC (West) meets on every second Tuesday of the month in the Pallotti Room, Rossmoyne. During the most recent meeting, the committee decided that Rossmoyne parish will be hosting St Vincent Pallotti birthday celebration on Sunday 20 April 2008 in the Epiphany Retreat Centre grounds (Pallotti's birthday falls on 21 April). The details will be arranged when the committee meets again on Saturday 15 March with the presence of members of NCC for the very first time. The NCC members are Fr Ray, Fr Dean, Cheryl, Mark and the newly recruited executive officer Patrick. The committee agreed to invite those who attend the formation meeting, which rightfully would be held on 11 March, to the Saturday 15 March meeting to discuss, as one of the proposed topics on the agenda, the direction of the formation programme. Hopefully, this 15 March meeting will enlighten the formation group of the activities of LCC (West). It is, indeed, an exciting prospect to have a joint meeting - NCC, LCC (West), Formation group and the people concerned are looking forward to a fruitful and purposeful meeting.

We'd love to hear from YOU!!!!

As you read this, has something come into your mind?

Perhaps you were a lay missionary in La Grange or at Tardun or elsewhere and would like to 'remember' or 'make contact with someone' Have you visited Taize—as many tourists now do?

Are there aspects of the life of the Pallottine family that you would like to know about?

There are many ways of making the connection. For example:

My phone: (03) 9 497 1691 E mail:
merle.gilbo@blaze.net.au
UAC Secretariat (Pat Heywood)
(03) 9855 0211

JOHN NAGLE VISITS CHENNAI AGAIN

After a long journey I arrived in Chennai to begin the long train trip to Amaravathi on January 28th. This was to be my third visit in three years.

A major project since my last visit was to equip the school with desks for the boys who previously were required to sit on the floor for lessons. These photos tell the story better than words.



Before



After

Fr Balaji told me that there is so much demand for places at the hostel that he intends to take another 50 boys in June this year. This is in addition to other initiatives to assist adults in furthering their education in English and computer studies. This programme is called PASIFA. The workload that he and assistant Fr Thomas have is enormous.

Fr Balaji had arranged a picnic to Bhavani Island for the boys and Sr Valsa's girls to mark my arrival. A bus was borrowed from a neighbouring school for the 1.1/2 hour drive.

The island was an ideal spot for children with the normal swings and ropes and trees to climb. It was a most enjoyable outing.



Happy Girls



All too much for Ravi on the way home

On my previous visit I asked Balaji if I could take the boys out to dinner and he said he would find a place that would take us. He found The Lotus Restaurant in Vijayawada and again borrowing a bus we had a most happy and enjoyable experience. Indian boys like to dance and the manager provided us with a music box and they enjoyed themselves for 4 hours.

There was much discussion regarding the further education of the boys who would qualify to go to college would need to leave the hostel to do so. It is important that funding be found to support the boys in this stage of their lives. It was a most enjoyable, inspiring and spiritual visit. The project book is full for the coming year and may God reward them for their work in His name.

DESCRIPTION OF TRIP TO SINGAPORE

From the 12th to the 19th of January I had the privilege of spending just short of a week with Michael Gitner in Singapore. I am not exaggerating to say that it was the best holiday that I have ever had due to the energy of Michel who managed to drive me to every conceivable point on the Island. The main island is 26 miles long and 14 miles wide. There are a few smaller islands which are also part of the republic of Singapore. I arrived in the evening of Saturday, was met by Michael at the very functional and well appointed Changi airport. We drove from the airport to St. Joseph's Church which is situated at the opposite end of the island to the airport.

Singapore has a population of about 4 million and the two most used languages are English and Mandarin. The transformation in the place since the republic was established has been most remarkable. Anyone who has been to Singapore is struck by the very tidy and neat nature of the Island which from what I gathered is in stark contrast with the former state of the place before Lee Kwan Yew and his People Action Party took the reins of power. Without going into too much political commentary it is fairly true that Singapore is a one party country with only a small and fairly innocuous opposition party which currently hold only two seats in the Parliament. Lee is no longer officially the PM (his son now holds that position) but his influence is seen as paramount in the life of the country. Singapore is surrounded by the Islamic countries of Malaysia and Indonesia both of which are in clear sight from Singapore. The relationship particularly with Malaysia is often quite tense and that is the justification for the very defensive posture that Singapore adopts. Every young man is required to serve two years of National Service. The defence posture of Singapore has been modelled on Israel where the first intake of National Service people received their training. There is a great deal of secrecy surrounding the defence measures that Singapore has adopted.

It is interesting to note that the incarceration rate of Singapore is roughly three times what it is in Australia so that even though there is a very tight security in operation there must obviously be still pockets of anti social behaviour.

There is amazing contrast on the island itself. There are rows upon rows of high rise buildings some for business purposes, some for tourist purposes and many for residential purposes. The best way to describe these buildings is that there are miles upon miles of buildings like the tall buildings of the CBD in an Australian city. In contrast to this there is a considerable amount of native vegetation between these dense concentrations of buildings. The road system is superb with freeways. Flyovers and arterial roads. Clearly the structure of the roads is very much governed by the wide use of cars. Though due to the generosity of Michael I did not use the public transport system I was told that it was both efficient and cheap. There are both trains and buses which provide this service. Ferries provide transport also to nearby parts of Malaysia and Indonesia.

Singapore is just in the Northern hemisphere so January

is their cooler month but also the time of monsoons. Just about every day I was there it rained, sometimes quite heavily. I was amazed that there was no attempt to trap the rain fall with tanks. I was told that the rain is so polluted that this is not an option. Whether this is due to the pollution of the traffic in Singapore or from pollution in nearby Indonesia and Malaysia, or a combination of all these factors I am not sure.

In every locality there is provision for sporting activities and also community centres. Granted the great diversity of ethnic origins in Singapore this seems a very enlightened idea. The main dominant group appeared to me to be Chinese speakers, then those of Malay extraction people from Malaysia and Indonesia and Filipino and Indians, Bangladeshis, and Pakistanis. These later groups constitute the main providers in the more menial tasks. The common language used by all groups is English though at home or in their own ethnic groups they use their own native tongue. These community centres are a positive effort to keep a common outlook and granted the present state of tensions between groups in the world they seem to be successful. As far as I could judge there was no overt sign of ethnic tensions.

The Catholic population of Singapore is quite small, around 4% of the total population but the facilities that they have created are most impressive. There are about 12 separate parishes in the island and all Churches are big by our standards. Many of the Churches hold about 1000 people and have attached halls, meeting rooms and eating facilities. There are well developed catechetical classes in all the Churches and the RCIA programme produces many converts each year. In every Church I visited there was a small air conditioned room in which there is explosion of the Blessed sacraments. The one Sunday Mass I attended was full (about 800 people) and a very good representation of all ages. Three of the Churches I noted were extremely well appointed with full air conditioning, adequate underground parking and the latest in audio visual equipment. From what I observed and what I gathered from conversation the Church seems in a stable financial position. In most of the Churches there were so called Columbariums where the ashes of the deceased are placed. In one Church they even indicated the price of the slabs in which the ashes were placed. The dearest of them, at eye level, were \$6,000.

The priests live in the presbyteries which are generally speaking well appointed but the priests seem, at least by Australian standards remote from their parishioners. Each presbytery has office staff and domestic help such as cooks and people who care for security and general maintenance of the facilities.

Singapore is quite unique in that it is the hub for many Asian counties and from this point of view it would appear to me that this strategic placement could provide a key for any future vocations. I spoke to two or three people with close and ongoing contact with Burma and these spoke of a steady flow of vocations from that country. This is an avenue which Michael has identified and is in my opinion well worth investigating.

Many people spoke of the very friendly and outgoing nature of Michael which contrasted from the more remote