



UNIONE DELL' APOSTOLATO CATTOLICO

Piazza San Vincenzo Pallotti, 204 – 00186 Roma, Italia

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Rome, June 18th 2013.

Re: A Common Project for the entire Union for this year

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Union,

With hearts full of gratitude we bless God and thank him for the graces of the Jubilee Year of the canonization of our Founder St. Vincent Pallotti.

The slogan of the Jubilee Year – ***Let the holiness of God shine forth*** – touched a deep chord in our hearts and inspired us to strive more deeply to follow Vincent's path to holiness.

Desiring to further deepen this spirit of the Jubilee Year throughout the Pallottine Family, the General Coordination Council, in its annual meeting in May, reflected on our common mission and decided to invite all NCCS, LCCs, communities, groups and individual members and collaborators of the Union to engage in a common project for this coming year, from today for a whole year, until new indications from the General Council around June of next year.

When describing his foundational experience of January 9th 1835, Vincent Pallotti listed the third objective of the Union as establishing 'an institute of universal charity in the exercise of all the spiritual and corporal Works of Mercy so that... [the] Lord, who is infinite charity, be known in human beings' (OCCC, X, p. 199). With this in mind, the common task chosen by the GCC is the second of these traditional spiritual works of mercy, that of 'instructing those lacking knowledge'. Furthermore, it was decided that this should be undertaken with a particular emphasis on the family in the context of the New Evangelisation. As we know, there are great challenges in the whole area of family life in our times: how to reach out to families or family members who lack knowledge and convincing lived experience of Christian faith, how to accompany and help equip families to live their Christian witness in today's world more deeply and authentically, in order to recognise and fulfil their specific vocation wherever they find themselves? Our primary question for the entire Union is how can we, as Union of Catholic Apostolate at every level, offer our charism more effectively and concretely in service of families during this year? It will also be a way for everyone to recognise ourselves to be one large Family as Union.



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The slogan we have chosen to accompany this project is "Know God and make God known".

- it is a spiritual project - to 'know God' - to commit ourselves more fully to come to know God more deeply since those who wish to evangelise must always first and continually seek to be evangelised themselves;
- it is an apostolic project - to 'make God known' - to instruct those whose knowledge of God has not yet reached the depths of their being. It involves engaging in the work of evangelisation, transmitting to others our own lived experience and knowledge of God, whether to members of our own family, our friends, our neighbours, our work colleagues... Can I think of one or more people with whom I could share something more of my 'knowledge' of God, of my relationship with him? What apostolic initiatives can we as NCCs, LCCs, groups and members and collaborators of the Union organise during this coming year to concretely evangelise families, to help families come to a more profound living experience and knowledge of the love of Christ and to choose to live a deeper and more authentic Christian witness, how can we support families in the Union in an ongoing way in their path to grow and be transformed more deeply in the love of Christ in daily life?

As an aid to your reflection and discernment, this letter is also accompanied by two talks given at the 2nd General Congress of the Union in 2010, on theory (Roswitha and Alois Wittmann) and praxis (Monika Urban) in relation to the Union and family life.

This proposal is a means by which the GCC is seeking to more fully and effectively implement one of its fundamental roles - that of engaging in spiritual discernment of the signs of the times and the needs of the Church (cf. GSt 78) in order to help inspire and coordinate the life of the entire Union in its efforts to give an adequate response to these signs and needs. It is not meant to substitute or compete in any way with all of the good work already being undertaken in other apostolic fields, but rather to identify one particular area of priority at this time and give concrete common direction to the entire Union. Neither is it meant primarily to simply encourage holding a number of one-off or short-term events over the course of the year, but rather to make this area of family apostolate an enduring priority in our apostolic planning and activity. The General Coordination Council will meet again in May 2014 and discern further common priorities



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for the Union as we all continue to seek to respond to the needs of the Church and the world in a coordinated way going into the future.

Each one of us shares in the mission and apostolate of Jesus, Apostle of the Father; we too are anointed, we too are 'sent to bring Good News to the poor' (Lk 4:18). Let us commit ourselves at every level of the Union to take up this call; let us set ourselves to 'know God' and do all that we can, particularly in the area of the family, to 'make him known' between now and this time next year.

Fr. Jeremiah Murphy, SAC,
President.

Sr. Adelheid Scheloske, SAC,
Vice- President

Fr. Rory Hanly, SAC
General Secretary.

