



SAC
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Christ has risen – he is the light of his people

ITEM 22

Meeting of the Commission for Pallottine Youth Apostolate

The meeting took place from 6-9 March 2012 in Rome. It was the second meeting of the Commission, which was constituted by General Council in 2011.

It is our objective to connect the Pallottine youth worldwide. To realise this objective:

- a new website was created: www.pallottineyouth.net &
- a facebook account opened: <http://www.facebook.com/Pallottineyouth>.

We are pleased if as many as possible visit our website and stay in contact with us and with each other. We ask you to send us pictures, films and news (please send to: andy.givel@pallottiner.ch).

The next meetings of the Commission:

- 1-7 July 2012 / Coordinators for youth ministry
- July 2013 / Rio – in advance of WYD

Andy Givel sac – Gossau - SWITZERLAND
member of the Commission for Pallottine Youth Apostolate
27.03.12

ITEM 21

Pallottine Aboriginal Scholarship Presentation – 2012

History records that our Society came to Australia in 1901. The small initial group – two priests [one Irish and one German] and two brothers [German] settled at Beagle Bay in the Kimberleys where they replaced the outgoing Trappist monks [French]. After 10 years their *Sept Fons* community had concluded that a mission to aboriginals in the remote north-west was not compatible with their monastic lifestyle.

In 1909 the newly created German Province accepted ongoing responsibility for the Kimberley mission and subsequently – competing at the time with the same Province's Cameroon venture

– many men were sent to the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit [rodneysen.net/2008/01/the-great-south-land-synchroblog.html]. Until the ordination of the first Australian, in 1946, they provided exclusive support.

The aboriginal people appreciated them, and responded enthusiastically to the Good News they brought. Activity spread to other centres on the north west coast, later to the eastern boundary of what became the Kimberley Vicariate under the first Bishop Otto Raible sac. With the first non-aboriginal settlers arrival, from the late 1700's, aboriginal people found themselves at the very interface of the clash between a rich 40,000 yr old traditional lifestyle, and the so-called 'developed' culture of an invasive industrialised West. They had little means of resistance, and quickly succumbed to an overpowering force. They had their land confiscated, their rights for the most part ignored. Their health levels deteriorated significantly – and their deep spirituality based on their attachment to the land was ridiculed.

The role of the Pallottines, while not without fault, has been to champion the very humanity of these people while trying to both offer them the Gospel, and restore and uplift their dignity as persons. Communities were developed in the north where nomads who could no longer survive chose to become sedentary. Permanent shelter, education and health facilities were provided, employment training commenced. This later extended to remote towns. In the 1940's, in the south west, hostels were opened to again meet the need for education for young people excluded from the mainstream schools by racist policies.

Due to aging and sickness, and a lack of ongoing vocations, direct Pallottine ministry to aboriginals came to a formal end in 2006. Facilities in the north west had reverted to Diocesan responsibility, those in the south either handed across to aboriginal control [Wandering] or put up for sale [Tardun]. A major Perth boarding hostel [Rossmoyne], established to provide young country students access to secondary education, became redundant and part of it was sold.

The funds from this last asset sale became the core deposit of what was titled the **Pallottine Aboriginal Scholarship Trust**. Established at the end of the last millennium, it was intended as a way of indirectly retaining our Society's ministry role to this community by the provision of academic fees for selected students tackling post-secondary studies. Since the first grants, in 2001, the Trust has committed a total of \$931,892 in support of 126 grantees. Each year a Presentation ceremony is held in our Perth 'Vincent Pallotti Social Centre' on the site of the original hostel foundation. A pictorial record of this year's event can be seen on the above link.

**Ray Hevern sac – Shelley – AUSTRALIA
26.03.12**

ITEM 20

Mariana Community in Canonisation Year

The lay Mariana Community will by this be known to most Pallottines I am sure. Founded originally – under the inspiration of Walter Silvester sac – as *Ver Sacrum Maria* it subsequently evolved into the *Mariana Community*. As such it is mentioned in the new UAC Statutes as a ‘member community’ of the Union. Its fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 2007. For the past 6 years one of its members, Cheryl Sullivan, has been an elected member of the UAC’s General Coordinating Council.

The Community’s interpretation of the charism of our Founder is that, as a group of single lay women, bound together by a shared discipleship with Mary, they strive to:

“live lives of love in and for the world – acting justly, loving tenderly, and walking humbly with our God, as we respond to the call to transform all creation”.

They do that in their local circumstances, not necessarily in a physical community but bound together spiritually. They pursue their individual callings, right across the country, using their God given talents and skills to spread the message of Jesus, by responding to the world’s needs in justice and love.

The Mariana Community shares in the goals of this canonisation year and, as an early initiative, is offering a series of ‘santi ritiri’ at their Millgrove house, situated close to our Pallotti College. An invitation is attached as a pdf file above.

**Ray Hevern sac – Shelley – AUSTRALIA
02.04.12**
