

# Pallottine Voices

Winter

2024

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*In this issue: Missionary Testimony and Promotion Blessed Carlo Argentinia Fr Jamie*

## Missionary Testimony

**Fr Martin Mareja SAC**

Fr. Tommy Ryan, SAC was ordained a priest in 1974 in Ireland, and has been working in East Africa since 1985. He is the founder of the Siuyu Rehabilitation Centre in Siuyu, Singida Diocese, Tanzania.

He runs the Siuyu Rehabilitation Centre together with Sister Rosemary Ombay, SAC, of the Pallottine Missionary Sisters, and with other Sisters of the Province in East Africa.

They work together with a very committed group of lay people from the Union of Catholic Apostolate. His testimony helps us understand the breadth of this **'Everyone'** to which both the Holy Founder refers in his apostolic insight and Pope Francis in his message for World Mission Day 2024.

The following article is from the message for Pallottine Mission Sunday, Rome 6th October 2024. Let these brief words from Fr Tommy engage you:

For almost 40 years I have been working in various areas in East Africa. In the last 30 years I have felt especially close to the people who are disabled, but it is only in the last 18 years that I have been devoted full time to those who are disabled. Usually, we view disability as something negative, but in some cases, it can be a blessing. This, without doubt, has been the case with me myself over the years.

Up to 30 years ago I was walking without a stick. Then with one stick, later with two, and after a number of years with a walking aid, and now I use a wheelchair. But I have no aches or pains so I can't complain. My diagnosis is a weakness in the legs which comes from a nervous system disorder. Living in a Centre with some children who use wheelchairs and have

no hope of ever walking, and seeing how happy they are, who am I to complain? And while I am in the final stages of life here on earth, they are at the beginning.

The Siuyu Rehabilitation Centre is for children of primary school age who are disabled, run by the U.A.C. (Pallottine Family). There are usually between 35 and 40 children of whom about 85% have intellectual impairment. For some it is mild, some medium, some more severe. At present there are six children here who have a physical impairment only and they study in mainstream classes in the government primary school in the local area. All the other children here in the Centre go to the local primary school each day, but to special classes and with special teachers.

Such children must be included in our society and must feel included. They are those of whom Pope Francis talks about when he says we must be ready to include all. They have much to offer the Community. God did not create useless persons. When Jesus took the little children in his arms and blessed them, maybe one or more were intellectually impaired or physically handicapped?

Living with such children is a real blessing, and I feel indeed blessed!



Frs Tommy Ryan and Martin Mareja

## Blessed Carlo Acutis

The first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis arrived in St Patrick's Parish, Corduff, Blanchardstown on September 10th 2024. The Parish is ministered by two Pallottine confreres, Frs. John O'Connor and John Regan.

Blessed Carlo was beatified in 2020 by Pope Francis and he will be canonised soon.

What follows is a powerful Testimony experience by parishioner Robert Long who attended Mass with his family on the 10th of September this year.



My wife and I, along with our three small children, attended mass in St. Patrick's Church, Corduff in celebration of the visit of the holy relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis in September. We were awed at the solemnity and reverence of the Mass as well as the attendance on that autumnal evening.

Our family was honoured to have been requested to bring the gifts of Holy Communion to the altar on that most sacred occasion. The mass and blessing had a particularly

deepfelt effect on myself and my wife, who was nine months pregnant at the time. It would seem all our anxieties and trepidations about the upcoming birth of our fourth child were lifted from that night. Since that time, Thanks be to God, our son was born happy and healthy and my wife was blessed with a swift labour without complications.

In honour of Blessed Carlo Acutis, our son will be christened with the middle name Carlo.

The official prayer approved by the Bishop of Blessed Carlo's home diocese of Assisi asking for his intercession reads as follows:

“O God our Father,  
 We thank you for giving us Carlo,  
 A model of life for young people,  
 and a message of love for all.  
 You made him fall in love with your son Jesus,  
 Making the Eucharist his “highway to heaven.”  
 You gave him Mary as a beloved mother,  
 And you made him, through the Rosary,  
 a cantor of her tenderness.  
 Receive his prayer for us.  
 Look above all upon the poor, whom he  
 loved and assisted.  
 Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace  
 that I need (mention your intention).  
 And make our joy full, raising Carlo among  
 the saints of your Church,  
 So that his smile shines again for us  
 To the glory of your name. Amen.”

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## Misson Promotion and Appeals 2024

**Fr Martin Mareja SAC**

The Pallottines conducted a Coordinated Parish Promotion Program (CPPP) in the diocese of Killaloe in 2024. Most Rev Bishop Fintan Monahan invited us to pay him a visit on the 11th of January 2024 before we made contact with Vicar Forane in 15 different Pastoral Areas of the Diocese.



The meeting was an important one because the Bishop gives guidelines on how to smoothly conduct promotion in his Diocese. It's worth noting that the Pastoral Area program was in operation and so it was really crucial for us to meet with the Bishop. After the meeting, he and his Secretary Fr Ger, treated Bro Stephen and I to a sumptuous dinner which indeed set the tone for a fruitful and an experience-filled promotion and appeal in the diocese.

The promotion team for this year was comprised of four members: Frs. Liam McClarey, Oliver O'Brien, Bro Steve and I. We shared the spirit of our charism with members of God's family in the diocese. We also used the opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to family members, friends,

helpers and benefactors of the Pallottine confreres from the diocese who worked in the missions, in particular in Tanzania. Some have now passed to their Eternal Reward and their hard work planting the seed of faith will always be remembered.

The Pallottines are committed ever to continue to realize our motto – "The love of Christ urges us on". St. Vincent Pallotti, our founder, wanted clergy and laity to pray and work together to bring the love of Christ into our lives and extend that love to our brothers and sisters in need wherever we find them in the world. That is precisely what motivated many men and women from Ireland to leave the comfort of their own country and culture, their family and friends, and to go out to different countries around the world to share the love of Christ with others.

On behalf of our Promotion team I wish to express our sincere gratitude to my brother priests and lay collaborators in the diocese, and in particular in the parishes we managed to visit to facilitate our promotion and appeal. We thank them for their support, and generosity and for providing accommodation for us. We will treasure that support always.

Be assured of remembrance in our daily prayers and mass in our communities here and abroad. Our founder, St Vincent, urged all of us to unite our efforts in the daily work of spreading the love of Christ – and in struggling to alleviate famine and suffering. We see how apt are the words of Christ: "I was hungry and you gave me to eat". Let me conclude with this short prayer:

*Lord inspire us with a deep love of You.  
Help us in our work of serving our brothers  
and sisters in need.  
Our Lady Queen of Apostles, pray for us.  
St. Vincent Pallotti, pray for us.*

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

## From the Misson Office

I believe many of us will have already done all of our Christmas preparations and shopping by the time Pallottine Voices arrives in your post box. Children are waiting and wondering what Santa will bring down the chimney for them this year! I myself think of children in war-torn areas, especially where Jesus was born and was familiar with. What would they like Santa to bring to them? I would say PEACE is all they need so that they can celebrate Christmas with their families and other children in the streets. The best gift we can give them is to continue to pray for the gift of peace.

On behalf of all the members of our Province I wish to express our sincere gratitude to you our associates, benefactors, staff members and friends for your donations, prayers and support without which we wouldn't be able to continue with our work and our support for the missions. Thank you very much.

I wish you, your families and friends, a happy and peace filled Christmas. And may these words of our founder St Vincent Pallotti be an inspiration to you all.

**"We must try to become ever more like our Lord Jesus Christ, our first born."**

Fr Martin Mareja SAC



## From around the Province – Argentina

**Fr Pablo Bocca SAC**  
Provincial Delegate



The Pallottines arrived in Uruguay and also in Argentina in 1886, opening a chapel and college in honour of Saint Patrick in the city of Mercedes in February 1887. This occurred under the leadership of Fr Whitmee and with the presence of the first priests: Fr Thomas Dunleavy and Fr Patrick O’Grady. In 1901 the Pallottines received the actual day parish of Our Lady of the Rosary in Suipacha and in 1902 a parish in the area of Capilla del Señor.

The pastoral activities at first were to attend to the needs of the Italian and Irish communities that lived in these areas. With the addition of the schools came the main and current apostolate here in Argentina. The Pallottines were then invited into communities in Rawson, Belgrano, San Antonio de Areco and Castelar. As of today, we are currently present in 6 parishes in Mercedes, Belgrano, San Antonio de Areco, Suipacha and Castelar.

We have eight active members of the Mother of the Divine Love Province: Bertie Flanagan, Tom O ‘Donnell, Nestor Moran, Juan Sebastián Velasco, Johnny Sweeney, Charles Lafferty, and Pablo Bocca and Cyril Ingosi from the East African Region working in the parishes above, whilst Seamus Whelan is based in the North of Argentina helping a local community there.

Preparations are also ongoing to mark 50 years of the massacre of six Pallottine confreres; the Servants of God Alfredo Leaden, Pedro Duffau, Alfredo Kelly, Salvador

Barbeito Doval and Emilio Barletti.

Remembering them in the 50th Anniversary of their killing reminds us of the sacrifice one can make in following Christ. On the 40th Anniversary, Pope Francis sent a lovely tribute to the Pallottine family. Part of the message translated from the original message in Latin was, ‘remembering these witnesses can be a stimulus for all of us. They present us with a surrendered life, without thought for themselves, that as the servant of the Gospel seeks to be where the Lord is, among the last. May the Lord Jesus, who called them to this vocation, bless them and the Holy Virgin care for them.’

## Fr Jaimie Twohig SAC

A Man of Faith and Dedication



Ordained on the 16th of July 2016, Fr Jamie’s first appointment was to St. Anne’s, Shankill, where he has served for the past eight years. He was a devoted priest in our community, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who have had the privilege of knowing him. A man of profound faith, he exemplified what it means to live a life dedicated

to the Lord. His commitment to spiritual growth and the well-being of his parishioners has been an inspiration. Jaimie’s love for the Lord is evident in everything he does. He approached his ministry with deep devotion, inspiring all to know, love and serve the Lord.

Jaimie’s commitment to prayer was not just a personal practice, it was a core aspect of his life and ministry. He excelled in his ministry to the youth in our parish and beyond. He is leaving behind a well-established and active youth group, based on the power of prayer. One of Jaimie’s most remarkable qualities is his kindness. He has always been welcoming to everyone who walked through the doors of our parish. His smile and sense of humour is infectious.

As Jaimie prepares for his new appointment in London, we are saddened to see him go but wish him the very best. We are confident that he will bring the same prayerfulness, dedication and compassion with him as he has demonstrated here. And YES, Jaimie we will miss you! Fr Jamie, wherever you go you will always be a part of our community here in Shankill. We are grateful for the years we shared together. May God bless you in all your future endeavours.

Fr. Jaimie celebrated his final Mass with us here on Sunday the 10th of November and everyone was welcome to join us afterwards in the Resource Centre for refreshments with an opportunity to say farewell to Jaimie.

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