

Pallottine Voices

Winter

2025

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Carpet Pilgrimage Bro Bartholomeo Brazil Meeting Fr Fitzpatrick UAC Assembly

Carpet with Bullet Holes

The 50th Anniversary of the deaths
of five Pallottines in Argentina

On July 4th, 2026, the Pallottine family worldwide and the Mother of the Divine Love Province will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the massacre of the five Pallottines in Argentina.

They were Frs. Alfie Kelly, Alfie Leaden, Peter Dufau, professed student Salvador Barbeito and student Jose Emilio Barletti.

We mark the date on which our confreres were killed



to remember our connection with them. They were our brothers in Christ and the marking of the 50th anniversary of their deaths provides us with special and significant moments to acknowledge the impact they had on the Pallottine family and the people they ministered to.



Prayer in its different forms is an essential part of remembering our confreres. The following prayer can be found on the Pallottine website:

Lord, You chose from among the men and women of our people your sons Alfredo, Pedro, Alfie, Salvador and Emilio, giving them the grace to share the same option for the Gospel. Grant that the message that they proclaimed in the unity of their lives until their violent deaths, we may announce it animated by that same spirit and with the strength of your love.

We pray with a meek and humble heart that the deaths of our Pallottine brothers may finally be recognised. Award them endless light and peace, and to those who cut short their lives, repentance and conversion in fullness.

Through Christ our Lord, source of all true peace. Amen.

Pallottine Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

The Pallottine Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in France took place from Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th of September 2025. This important Spiritual event involved pilgrims from two parishes we minister in the Archdiocese of Dublin, St Patrick's in Corduff and St Anne's in Shankill.

Fr Liam McClarey, our Provincial, was among the pilgrims and he also played the role of Spiritual Director during our days of prayer and reflection.

The photo shows the Pallottine group there.



The Perpetual Consecration of Bro Bartolomeo Florian SAC

Ambrose Gurti SAC

With hearts full of joy and thanksgiving, the Pallottine family and faithful gathered on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025, to witness and celebrate the Perpetual Consecration of Brother Bartolomeo Florian into the Society of the Catholic

Apostolate (The Pallottines).

The solemn concelebrated Mass took place in Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Gallapo, Tanzania, presided over by Fr. John Onna, SAC, the Rector of the God of Infinite Love, East Africa Region.

O t h e r

religious groups,

parishioners and family members attended in large numbers.

In his homily to mark the occasion, Fr. John reminded all present that Consecrated Life is both a gift and mission. He thanked the parents of Bro. Bartolomeo for their important role in nurturing his call, and supporting him in his response

to the call and offering their son for the service of the church and our Society (The Pallottines). He emphasised that 'our relationship with God is ongoing.' The first call we received was to become Christians through the Sacrament of Baptism. Our Founder, Saint Vincent Pallotti, said 'through the Sacrament of Baptism we are called to be apostles of the Eternal Father.' Therefore, he invited every baptized person to maintain that closeness and intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle of the Eternal Father.

Bartolomeo responded to the call to follow Christ closely in the Pallottine Spirit of Apostolic zeal and unity. And that is why our Liturgy today was filled with symbols and reverence to mark that significant moment in his life and in the life of the Pallottine family, not only in East Africa but also in the Mother of Divine Love Province, which has been instrumental in supporting the formation and training of candidates for the priesthood in our Region.

We thank God for the gift of Brother Bartolomeo's vocation and pray that he will remain faithful in his life as a consecrated member of our Society. May Saint Vincent Pallotti continue to inspire him as he lives out the call to 'revive faith and rekindle charity' in the Church we serve and in the world in which we live.



Brazil Meeting

From Tuesday, August 19th to Friday, August 22nd, the continental meeting of Pallottine Major Superiors of South America was held in Santa Maria in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil.

The meeting was presided over by Superior General Fr. Zenon Hanas SAC, and was attended by Major Superiors representing 307 Pallottines serving in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and



Cuba. Frs. Liam McClarey SAC, Pablo Bocca SAC and Juan Sebastian SAC represented our Province. During his opening address, Fr. Hanas referred to the Jubilee Year, whose theme is closely linked to the theme of hope.

He emphasized that reflection on hope, and sometimes on its painful absence, is an important element in our reflections on life today and our future.

Christmas

As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us be inspired by the teaching of St Vincent Pallotti who urges us to focus on the birth of Christ as a model for imitating divine love and mercy, reminding us to become agents of peace, practice works of mercy, and to foster a sense of spiritual family rooted in faith and love, especially for the vulnerable.

Happy Christmas to you all

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**The Supreme Advantage
Homily for the Funeral of**

Father John Fitzpatrick SAC

Eamonn Monson SAC

Back in February when Rory and I visited John in the Bon Secours Hospital, he spoke to us about the readings and hymns he wanted for his funeral. These readings from the Word of God express something of John's faith, and to speak of John is to speak also of the Gospel of Christ in the same breath. The two are inseparable.

The second reading speaks of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. John's life was shaped by this advantage: the person of Jesus was woven into every aspect of his life, every fibre. Woven in ways that you might not notice and he would not be one to show off his relationship with Jesus. But it was there in everything. In every drink, in every meal, in every conversation.

It was the foundation of his faith, a faith that was grounded in Jesus, grounded in reality, lived out in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary. There was something seamless about John's life – his bright intelligent mind, his tender heart and kindly soul and body all flowed in and out of each other very naturally. John lived his life as an advantage, not in the sense of taking advantage of people or of having advantage over anyone else, but it was the advantage of life itself to be lived happily and always with hope.

Over the past few days we have spoken a lot about the vast variety of friendships he had and maintained, the variety of people with whom he related, all the different people who came to see him. It is quite an astonishing array of people and he had a unique capacity for keeping us all within his kind embrace. He was at ease with himself and so was at ease with any person (or most persons) – it could be people in high office or it could be with Jack my homeless friend in Hastings whom he always asked after.

The Interior Castle of St. Teresa of Avila has come to my mind quite a lot as I have pondered John's life. She writes of her vision of the soul "as if it were a castle made of a single diamond or of a very clear crystal, in which there are many rooms, just as in Heaven there are many mansions" It's if John himself was like a beautiful single diamond, clear crystal, having many rooms within him and each of us occupying our own particular place in his life. When I said this to Fr. Donal he said, "and it was John who

decided exactly which place each one of us would occupy." This is true!

I am really grateful for the place he has given me, truly astonished by the place he allowed me to occupy in his life. I wasn't much part of his rich social life and so didn't often or even ever get to meet the great friends who shared that with him. What I experienced from him was a genuine love that saw the best in me when I couldn't see it myself, a love that protected me, guided me, brought me on holidays, a love that was always kind. And also a love that was free to depend on me whenever necessary.

Perhaps my place came into focus last October and November when he became ill and I just happened to be in

Rome and it fell to Rory and myself to deal with his illness. As well as being his brother in community, his personal friend, Rory had to do all the practical thinking and planning and getting things done.

What John asked of me is that I would pray with him, anoint him, hear his confession. "It was God who sent you" he said. With me he was not afraid to speak of death, never feared that the Sacrament of Anointing was a reminder of death. It was all part of the supreme advantage and his natural destination because it was not death itself that was his destination but the person of Jesus, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary and the young Blessed Carlo Acutis and all the array of John's loved ones. In this context his choice

of Gospel is appropriate, Jesus saying to John personally, "I am going now to prepare a place for you...in my Father's House where there are many rooms." We read this Gospel to him the other morning shortly before he breathed his last.

The place prepared by Jesus in Eternity has its beginnings in all the places that John occupied in this world, beginning with his home in Ballyduff, the family who loved and shaped him right up until his last breath; the various Pallottine communities within which he became the man and the priest that God called him to become; the ministries through which he served and all the people with whom he served. Thurles, Tanzania, Rome, Corduff, Dundrum and all the places he visited as Provincial, an office he occupied with great humility

It is one of the most blessed features of our Pallottine life that our families so naturally become part of our community experience. This we witnessed beautifully in the sad and lonely days leading up to John's death. Family and community became one reality. We moved



in and out of each other effortlessly and we were all there together with him to urge him on, the love of Christ in us urging him on towards the gates of paradise.

Eternity begins here on earth and in a rather lovely meditation St. Vincent Pallotti ponders this link between the ordinary things of life and the life of heaven. To God he says, “You have given us all kinds of delicious food and drink to taste, so that we may fall in love with the delights, the sweetness of heaven.” That we may fall in love!

What we do now relates to Eternal Life, what we taste, what we love and enjoy, the table that we share together all these lovely things are connected to heaven and somehow prepare us for it.

And that brings us to the first reading from Isaiah in which God makes this promise, that He will prepare for His people a banquet of rich food and fine wine. What could be more appropriate for John.

The most significant of all banquets, the table of the

Eucharist is what gave him an abiding connection with heaven and it was particularly beautiful to celebrate a simple Mass with him in his room. Martin did this regularly. We both did this by his bed in his last few days. We touched heaven, we experienced the supreme advantage.

The last words he spoke on Wednesday were that he needed to go to the Lord, it was time for him to go and, even though it would take him three days to make that journey, it happened at the end of the Fourth Watch of the night which is a sacred time of blessing in Scripture. It was during the fourth watch that Jesus walked on the water and took hold of Peter’s hand. On August 23rd just as the hour of 6am passed, Jesus walked on the waters of John’s life, took hold of him and brought him home.

Now we will take a quiet moment to ponder our own personal place in John’s love and affection; the place that he occupied in ours.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis

UAC General Assembly

The VII General Assembly of the UAC was held from September 7th to 14th, 2025, at the San Giovanni XXIII Spiritual Center in Frascati, Rome, on the theme: “The Charism: a single gift, a single calling.” With a passage from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4:32): “Now the company of believers were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common.” Fifty-five participants with voting rights took part in this Assembly.

Bro Stephen Buckley SAC, President of the UAC in Ireland and Fr Rory Hanly SAC participated in this important event.



Jubilee Year

The Jubilee year of 2025, themed, “Pilgrim of Hope” is an occasion offered to each one of us by the Church for spiritual renewal, emphasizing hope, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. The theme of “Hope” is also found in the feast of Christmas. During the season of Advent and Christmas our Liturgy invites us to focus on reflecting about our root of salvation, renewing faith and hope for the future, and anticipating Christ’s second coming.

Bishop Clésio Facco SAC

On Sunday, August 17th, 2025, the episcopal ordination ceremony and installation of Bishop Clésio Facco SAC, as Bishop of the Diocese of Uruguaiana (RS) took place. Monsignor Clésio in the back row adds to a number of Pallottine confreres who are serving as bishops in different dioceses in Africa, South America, Asia and Europe.



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