

# *NOTITIAE*

*UNIONIS APOSTOLICAE CLERI*



**May - August 2010**

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***LET US WALK TOGETHER***

## **NOTITIAE**

*Unionis Apostolicae Cleri*

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**n. 120 May - August 2010**

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*On front cover: The celebration of the Priestly Year in St. Peter's Square, Rome on 11.06.2010*

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### *JOURNEYING TOEGTHER TO BECOME SAINTLY PRIESTS*

Please accept cordial and fraternal greetings from the grand family, “The International Confederation of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy” (AUC).

We were in a special symphony with the priestly year: the theme, the recipients, the proposals, our spiritual thirst, everything. Now, as it is just over, let us join together to render thanks to God for the sowing done by him for the good fruits that are beginning to manifest in us and in the clergy all over the world. With enthusiasm let us engage ourselves being faithful witnesses to Christ in today’s world. The apostles, the Cure of Ars and all the saints will help us.

Let us recognize, on the other hand, the tasks that this seed of God suggests to the Apostolic Union of the Clergy in particular. The year of priests continues. Surely, God wishes that we cultivate in ourselves the seeds that God has planted in us in this year, and that we help our brothers to cultivate other seeds and new fruits in so far as he has sown in

them. We must continue to respond to the call of the Lord, to revive the grace received, to collaborate with the Good Shepherd in the clergy.

The priestly year has confirmed us in the way of life and service that we have been following. New AUC groups are born or are strengthened in various countries. This is the first goal that is proposed to us for having better and numerous Diocesan unions that help themselves affectionately and effectively to be good pastors, saintly pastors. In this stage, it is very useful for the groups to follow the hand book “*Brothers and Servants*” (of which we have some more copies to send to the nations that ask for it). The future and the success of AUC plays in this most basic level: to increase in quality and quantity the AUC groups, their apostolic life and their services in the diocesan presbyterate. For in this way we will be faithful in our mission and we will have new memberships and more fruit.

The other members of AUC and other brothers are undergoing serious stages

in the renewal of their ministry and in their life, for which the 40 guidelines published in the book “*Disciples Pastors*” are useful (the text is available in French, English, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese). It is used in the meetings of the clergy and for their reflection and personal growth. At the end of this second stage we will have a good growth in our life, ministry and relations. Besides we will have a good personal and communitarian project of life for a greater growth in the coming years. With these steps, the brothers and their small fraternities go ahead on their journey to be good pastors, holy pastors every day.

To strengthen these stages, we are creating tangible programmes: formation of animators, services to the clergy of the nations who have special needs, animation of the AUC fraternities, service of communication towards the clergy throughout the world etc. Who and with what means are these programmes done? We are inviting members and friends of AUC to participate generously in these, may it be with permanent prayer support, or with the services that you wish to offer, or financial offerings or with the three types of contribution if you wish. In the brochure “*For our Priests*”, attached with have these proposals. You may photocopy it and give to others. Let us invoke God to help us to form groups of “Friends of

the Clergy” to support the services of AUC. These groups would be a great blessing for our diocesan and national unions.

What is it that remains from the priestly year? What have I gained? Among the great fruits let us wish that there remains the commitment to help us grow in union with God, in the pastoral charity and in the Christian life. Holiness is an urgent priority in the ordinary life, which the Church is asking from us. Thus every group and fraternity of AUC will become a cradle, school, environment, and force of holiness. Our faithfulness is holiness.

In this bulletin let us share the important information on the seeds planted by the Good Shepherd in the clergy during this priestly year and a beautiful reflection on the relationship with which we must live among the pastors, as the fruit of it. In addition, diverse reports express the life and services of AUC shared in different countries. All these invite you to share your experience of the life and service to the clergy. We request you in a special way to strengthen the life and service of your AUC group, and to send us some brief reports on your experience on the humane renewal of the clergy, which would be the central theme of the next issue of the Bulletin.

*Msgr. Julio Botia*

## Let us Reflect



### FATHER, BROTHER AND FRIEND

*Msgr. Carlo Ghidelli\**

As the year of Priests is just concluded, it is natural to ask what are the fruits that it has produced, not only in the priests but also in the entire people of God. It is a question rather legitimate, but perhaps it is too early to think that one can give a clear and sure answer. It seems more opportune to me, to enquire if we have done everything to accommodate the characteristic spirituality of the ordained ministers including the bishops, priests and deacons.



*Msgr. Carlo Ghidelli*

I put myself in the perspective with which Pope John Paul II wrote *Pastores Dabo Vobis* that the Bishop should be a father, brother and friend to his priests. And it is exactly on the relationship between the bishop and the priests that I wish to focus the common attention. The considerations that I develop begins from my experience as a bishop without neglecting the forty years of my priesthood lived in my home diocese, but also necessarily involve the priests and the deacons, who share the same ordained ministry.

Everyone feels provoked to make an examination of conscience to revise, if necessary, his style of life, yielding

to the loving call of the eternal high priest, who can dictate to each one of us the demands of true following and the total dedication to the ministry.

The first characteristic of our relationship is that of parenthood: the relation between the Bishop and the priests, intended by the Pope is analogous to the relationship between the father and the children. It is a simple analogy, but of precious implications and possible applications; what do we intend by it. Now it is the father's duty to love all his children, all without distinction, and such a love manifests itself in various times and in various ways: in childhood, in adolescence, in youth and in mature age, in tenderness

and in firmness, in patience and in force, in readiness for dialogue and in the exercise of the authority: all necessary attitudes intimately united among them. Only thus it is possible to bring together the proper characteristics of the paternity of every family.

We must agree that when talking about the paternity of the Bishop, even when seen with regard to an individual priest, we should uphold all the notes typical of the natural fatherhood that we have mentioned earlier. Otherwise we shall reduce the discourse into sentimental and almost romantic dimensions and that will not be the safer way to review the relationship between us in a beneficial way. What now comes to my mind is that which St. Paul writes to the Christians of Corinth: "I have given you to drink milk, not solid food, because you were not yet mature. And even now you are not, because you are still carnal" (1 Corinthians 3, 2-3). Here the ironical, almost polemic, tone of the discourse is obvious. Paul wishes to set mature interpersonal relationships with his faithful. We, the Bishops, priests and the deacons, who are called to work with precise and diversified responsibility in the one vineyard of the Lord, should do so all the more.

Without wishing to contradict the thinking of Jesus, that recommends children as the ideal of Christian life for their simplicity and for their maximum openness to the reception of the gift, Paul, setting himself in another perspective, introduces the

ideal of the human maturity as a model for true discipleship. It can also be read in the letter to the Ephesians Chapter 4, verses 13-14: "until all of us come to the unity of faith and of knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming." The extremely important fact is that the perfection to which Paul refers is not simply that of the single Christian but that of the whole Church, head and members, and it is to be well clarified; a maturity that cannot but be but manifested in the body of Christ that is the Church. Similarly our maturity cannot but occur in the whole presbyterate of which we are integral and vital parts. And it is legitimate for all to desire not only to build good and promotional relations between the bishop and every single priest but also in the bosom of every presbyterium.

It seems to me right that all keep on working so that all relationships among us (not only between the bishop and priests but also among priests themselves) are marked by human maturity; it is presumed that an adult no longer needs milk, caresses and "candy" (though they never taste these), but "solid food" that could be understood as the ability to dialogue frankly and sincerely between persons who do not have to defend themselves, but are at the service of a cause that is beyond both of them. The talk would certainly deserve wider expansion and deepening, but it is good to leave space

for further reflections and personal contributions.

The second characteristic is that of brotherhood: even to this proposal we have to seek the help of analogy. Being brothers as children of the same parents is certainly something beautiful, even gratifying: there is no doubt. The Bible and our own experience offer us ample confirmation. Sometimes, there are also problematic aspects, which rarely degenerate into unadvisable gestures or in ruptures hardly usable. We should not see it as a reason for abuse: it is too easy, in my opinion, to appeal to the fraternity when the basis of a healthy and solid human formation is lacking.

Because the experience of brotherhood can be applied to relations between the bishop and priests, in my view, it is necessary to introduce some novelty, but new by the evangelical novelty. Such a fraternity cannot in fact rely only on the fact of belonging to a single "order", even though appreciable because it is given to us by the pure grace from the Lord Jesus through the mediation of the Church.

The sacramental foundation of our fraternity, which is a fact that cannot be denied, is a precious gift about which we are all perfectly aware; we try to live and manifest it concretely, sometimes in interpersonal relationships. It is necessary to pass this verification if we want that our life of total consecration to Christ and his Gospel assumes the character of bearing witness to the entire People



of God.

In this regard, I recall another exhortation of Apostle Paul: "Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be lazy in doing good, but be fervent in spirit serving the Lord" (Romans 12, 10-11). Having traced the mystery of Christ and the salvation of all humanity by virtue of the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection, Paul makes a series of exhortations, among which this one related to the brotherly love excels. Worthy of special note, in my opinion, is what Paul writes about the mutual respect between believers in Christ: "outdo each other." The discourse, for a greater reason, can and should be understood as the relationship between bishop and priests. If mutual respect is lacking, I think, any relationship based on true brotherhood is virtually

impossible. This requires that the “brothers” prove to be adults not only by the chronological age reached but by the maturity of which, on the basis of the teaching the same Apostle, we spoke a moment ago.

The fraternity of which the apostle speaks is unique in its kind: it does not close the brothers in themselves, above all it doesn't isolate them from the vital environment that is the presbyterate in its entirety, but it opens them to the serene and sincere horizontal or vertical direction: that is among the priests themselves and a single priest with his bishop. The “brothers”, the real ones who are aware of the operational implications of this title, also know to confront openly, but always with mutual respect and clear understanding of their responsibilities, aware, at the same time to have a father from whom the exercise of authority derives. Sure, it's important to defend proper rights, but to live in the logic and dynamism of a community of faith, it is equally necessary to recognize and respect others' ministries. It is then up to the bishop to show that he exercises his authority under the sign of service and not according to the characteristics of power.

The third characteristic is that of friendship: we all know that friendship is an experience that covers very varied and diversified manifestations: all gratifying, though perhaps not all equally valuable. In fact there are friends who are willing for every sacrifice to preserve friendship, but there are others who are ready to trade

also on this floor but are above all unstable in cultivating an amicable relationship. Excellent and realistic reflections in Sirach 6: 5-17 and parallels in many places, unfortunately, are often neglected if not ignored altogether.

Sometimes it is heard saying that a father should also be a friend to his children; nothing to object, even if the statement demands some critical reflection. Even when a father gives out some amicable trust, he is fully aware of his educational role, never abdicates his primary educational role. The friendship that exists between the bishop and priests cannot be inspired by or be based on completely personal free choices, which are often moved by sympathy or natural affinity. Here also there are absolutely new values, which are inspired by the Gospel of our Lord which involve ascetic engagement by both the parties that must enter into the game. Without an ascetic engagement across the board, it is not even remotely conceivable that there can be genuine friendship between the bishop and priests.

The biblical text that illustrates this theme fully, in my opinion, refers to an expression of Jesus himself: “No one has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer I call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends because all I heard from my Father I have made known to you” (Jn 15: 13-15). In the literary context

of the so-called “farewell discourses” of Jesus, reported by John the Evangelist in chapters 13-17, these words sound like a wonderful summary of the feelings of Jesus on the eve of the supreme gift of himself to the Father. And it is this gift that should inspire the spirituality of us, the bishops, the priests and the deacons.



The friendship about which Jesus speaks has nothing sentimental or selfish, but it is a full and unconditional participation in his ministry, a full sharing in the programme of the life of the one who came not to be served but to serve, namely to give His life as a ransom for many (see Mark 10:45). It is an involved friendship: Jesus wants to have friends who are willing to share fully his mission, which however requires a total dedication to the saving plan of the Father.

If we are able to submit ourselves to this revision of life, and especially if we have the grace to amend our lives according to the indications that are given to us or rather that which we have welcomed from the Word of God, is always able to illumine our ways as believers and ministers. Then we can speak of having lived a priestly year in a true sense because in it we tried to perfect in us the spirituality which emanates from the unique priesthood of Jesus Christ; the spirituality which teaches us to be not only priests but also victims and altar of our priesthood.

I remember an expression which was so felicitous and inspiring. We pray in

the liturgical hymn of the “Holy Week” in which the cross is hailed not only as a “glorious and fruitful tree,” but also as a “nuptial bed, altar and throne that welcomes the body of Christ the Lord.” We recognize and welcome these lines of priestly spirituality according to which every bishop and every priest feels called and laid out to live its horizontal relationships without neglecting the vertical reference to Christ the Bridegroom, King and the Victim.

With a final caution: the three distinctive roles “Father, Brother and Friend” of relations between bishops and priests must be kept together and never separated. If in the conscience of the individual bishop (also in the conscience of the individual priest) this triple attitude remains strong and is translated into concrete and permanent attitudes, then an apostolic form of living inaugurated by Jesus with his apostles and disciples will be certainly assured as the Church has always advised its ordained ministers.

*\* Bishop of Lanciano- Ortona, Italy*



## ***THE SITUATION OF AUC IN AFRICA***

*by Mons. Justin Kayitana, International Councilor for Africa*

There are 17 French-speaking, 12 English-speaking and 3 Portuguese-speaking countries where AUC is known. In general, on the basis of the existence of the AUC in Africa, the various nations can be classified into three categories, including their linguistic areas:

- The countries where AUC is more or less active: they are 5.
- The countries where there is AUC but is not active: they are 18.
- The nations where AUC is not well known, but there are some contacts to promote it.

For most of these nations, the work of renewal or recovery is still essential! Each area has its own linguistic moderator. The animator for the Portuguese speaking nations is Don Feliciano Palanga of Angola; for the English speaking zone the Animator is Fr. Cletus Gotan of Nigeria; for the French speaking area the Animator is Msgr. Justin Kayitana of Rwanda, with the collaboration of Fr. Jean Claude Kombede of Togo.

*NB: At present we are working on the updating and in the next issue of the "Bulletin" we will give more accurate statistics.*

In almost all African nations, the priests are of various national associations which are entry points waiting for the birth of the Apostolic Union of Clergy. In general, priestly vocations are constantly growing (Note: In the next issue we will give you some statistics).

About the economic status of priests, it is clear that most of them live in extreme poverty, and some even in conditions of suffering, particularly those who depend on the intentions of the Holy Mass provided by Europe (which is good enough for the diocese!). Now the donation of the old continent is declining every year!

During the year 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, we have in our plan training sessions for diocesan priests in different linguistic areas, according to the plans and timetable that have been prepared. We wish to have a zonal meeting for English-speaking countries in Kenya in the last week of November 2010. There will be another Zonal Meeting for Togo and the neighboring French-speaking nations in the first week of February 2011, and one for French-speaking nations of Cameroon and Central Africa in the second week of February 2011.

## MEETING OF THE AUC ANIMATORS OF AFRICA

From 3 - 6 May 2010, at Libreville, Gabon, we had a meeting of the AUC regional animators of Africa. It was the second attempt in these last years. Unfortunately, though we had expected, Fr. Cletus Gotan, Animator of the English-speaking nations and Fr. Feliciano Palanga, animator for the Portuguese speaking nations, did not turn out. Msgr. Justin Kayitana, international Councilor and Animator for Africa, Fr. Kombede Jean Claude, who has been confirmed as Secretary for the animation of AUC in Africa and Msgr. Julio Botia, the international President participated in the meeting.

The first thing that we have done was to remember the responsibilities entrusted to the international Councilors as animators of AUC in the continent. They have the representation and the responsibility to do the animation.

The others are collaborators in the assignments that have been entrusted to them.

We have analyzed the situation of AUC in the French speaking nations, planned the calendar with two zonal

meetings in the month of February 2011, specifying the criteria for the preparation and the distribution of assignments for their realization. One will be in Anheo, Togo, where the national unions of Togo, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Bad, Senegal and Benin will be invited. The other one will be in Cameroon, in the second week of February 2011, where the Central Africa, Chad, Congo Brazzaville and Cameroon will be invited.

In relationship with the animation of the English-speaking African nations it is hoped to profit from the collaboration of the Fr. Cletus of Nigeria, and above all, the service of Fr. Biju Mathew, who is the AUC International Animator. On this base, a meeting has been planned for the English-speaking countries in Kenya, in the month of November 2010. To this the national Unions of Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Africa and Kenya will be invited.

Yes, we can say that the animation of AUC in Africa proceeds with strength and enthusiasm.

## AUC MEETING WITH THE PRIESTS OF GABON

*On 4 - 5 May 2010 Monsignor Botia, with the help of Mons. Kayitana and Fr. Jean Claude coordinated a meeting with the priests from the three dioceses in Gabon.*

*In a climate of great simplicity and brotherhood we shared ways and means of sanctification in daily life. We did this from two exposures, which followed the work of the*

*corresponding group and plenary sessions.*

*All these steps have led the participants to accept the proposal of AUC with sympathy and concrete steps to live the same in their diocesan presbyterate. In Libreville,*

*with the support of the Archbishop, we have formed two AUC groups.*

*We greet and wish them to continue to walk this road with enthusiasm to help and assist our brothers in the priesthood.*



*Zonal meeting AUC, Gabon - 2010*

## **FROM TANZANIA**

From 8 - 10 June 2010 we had a meeting of priests of the Diocese of Songea and Mbinga, in which delegates of priests from other dioceses were also present, of the Metropolitan and the laity. The purpose of the meeting was a workshop on various issues in order to update our pastoral service before the conclusion of the priestly year.

The meeting was opened by His Grace Emmanuel Mapunda, Archbishop of Mbinga, with the celebration of the Holy Mass, held at

the Chapel of Peramiho Major Seminary. The topics of the workshop were the following:

- 1. Priesthood in the Holy Bible and in the Traditional Religions - Speaker: Rev. Fr. Camilus Haule.**
- 2. Historical Perspectives of the Priesthood before Vatican II - Speaker: Rev. OSB Abbot Lambert**
- 3. The Spiritual Life of Priests – Speaker: Rev. Fr. Malunda**
- 4. The History and Life of St. John Maria Vianney – Speaker: Rev. Fr. Kapinga**
- 5. Ecumenism - Speaker: Rev. Fr**

Trudi Chuma

**6.** The daily Liturgy of the Priest – Speaker: Rev. Fr. Paul Chiwangu

**7.** Pro-Life – Speaker: Mr. Emily Hegamu

**8.** The Priests and the Challenges in the field of Economy – Speaker: Archbishop Alfred Grace Malum

**9.** The Priests and the Responsibilities in Pastoral Services – Speaker: Archbishop Evaristo Chengula.

We made use of this meeting to share with other priests in AUC. In June, His Excellency Bishop Evaristo Chengula, responsible for all priests of Tanzania and also our in-charge, was able to meet some members of AUC of the Diocese of Songea (as shown in photo) after the celebration of the Holy Mass. We also took this

opportunity to inform him of our intention to introduce AUC in other dioceses.

June 11 was celebrated as the conclusion of the priestly year in the metropolitan level. All priests were gathered in the Cathedral of Songea. We ended the celebration with the Holy Mass in the cathedral. The Mass was presided by His Excellency Bishop Norbert W. Mtega, Archbishop of Songea.

ishop Evaristo Chengula also participated in this celebration who invited the delegates of the priests of this city for the pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine at Dar es Salaam to be held this year.

*Fr . Elias Chale  
Secretary of AUC, Diocese of Songea*



*Tanzania: June 11, 2010 – AUC Meeting of the Diocese of Songea, in which His Excellency Bishop Evaristo Chengula was present.*

## ***IN AMERICA***

### **ZONAL MEETING OF THE BOLIVARIAN COUNTRIES AND THE CARIBBEAN**

In Bogotá, from 6 - 9 April 2010, there was a zonal meeting of the Bolivarian and the Caribbean nations, in which there were also delegates from Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Porto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The meeting was coordinated by the International Councilor and the Animator, Monsignor Juan de Dios Rojas and the International President. The representatives of other countries and other guests have apologized for their absence due to various difficulties.

There were three days of spiritual renewal, full fraternity, profound discernment and enthusiastic commitment. The themes were:

1. The values and the necessity of the clergy and the AUC in one's own nation
2. Our diocesan priestly spirituality
3. The Apostolic Union of the Clergy: life, organization and services - The diocesan Union
4. The pastoral care of the clergy in the particular Church
5. The formation of the ministers of AUC
6. The national and international organizations of AUC
7. The services of the AUC to the clergy at the diocesan, national and international levels



*Zonal meeting, Bogotá - 2010*

8. The ways and means to promote and animate AUC in our Dioceses
9. Conclusions and the common commitments in AUC

In this meeting the participants gain different outcomes:

1. Knowing and appreciating the AUC experience of dioceses and nations represented
2. Having a better understanding of the life, services and organization of AUC especially in the diocese
3. Strengthening the personal commitment in AUC and prepare themselves to collaborate in the formation of the diocesan directors and in the formation of the other servants of AUC in our nations
4. Developing and adopting a special plan for the promotion and animation of AUC in their dioceses and in their area, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of AUC.
5. Taking up commitments of service to the clergy of one's own diocese and of nation
6. Strengthening AUC in nations where it is already organized and go to three new nations who begin their AUC journey

Let us thank God for these blessings received from his hand and pray that they may bear much fruit in the diocesan unions. Let us also pray for the next zonal meeting which will occur at Rosario, Argentina, from June 28.

A big embrace to everyone!

*Msgr. Julio Botia*

### ***MEETING ON SPIRITUALITY OF THE DIOCESAN CLERGY IN MEXICO***

*In Toluca, Mexico, from 19 - 22 April 2010, with 110 priests, we had an extraordinary experience. We had a meeting on the Spirituality of the Diocesan Clergy, with the support and enthusiastic participation of Monsignor Chavolla and a good number of priests from various dioceses.*

*We reflected on how to sanctify ourselves in evangelical following of Jesus the Shepherd, head and spouse, in the form of living the fraternal communion as a way and means of sanctification, and especially in the form of realizing our pastoral ministry as it sanctifies us and make us sanctifiers of the community (in the form of apostolic life). We reflected on the diocesan spirituality and the corresponding ways and means of sanctification in daily life and in the service of our brethren in the Presbyterate.*

*Thank God, we have understood better our own path and means proper for our sanctification, living a deep experience of priestly fraternity, giving*

*good steps in our spiritual renewal and designing important services to our brethren of our Diocesan Presbyterate. The meeting has brought many fruits. It planned another meeting in the same place, open to the priests of various dioceses, from 25 - 28 October 2010.*



*Spiritual encounter, Toluca - Mexico – 2010*

## **SPIRITUAL EXERCISES WITH PRIESTS IN GUATEMALA**

As per the special request by several bishops, from 24 May to 4 June 2010, we conducted Spiritual Exercises for two weeks in Guatemala with four neighboring dioceses, particularly those who are engaged in the Continental Mission.

The best part of it was the active, generous and delicate participation of the priests with their own bishops. The priests of two dioceses have been particularly generous in the second week, who during the volcanic eruption and the tropical storm, organized for emergency services in their parishes and were doing their exercises. A fifth diocese remained without communications. Due to the destruction of roads they could not come.

The priests were doing “exercises”, and this demands even more profound listening. Within the dynamics of mercy - conversion - grace, we have developed and applied to our life the elements of our own spirituality. We gave

space to discipleship with the Word, personal prayer, along with meditations and other activities which reinforced our fraternity and revived our priestly vocation. We have elaborated our personal life projects, projects with the particular bishop and a few steps to continue to strengthen the spirituality in each presbyterate.

We extend to all a strong embrace and a wish that we can achieve special fruits that God has sown in each one and in each presbyterate.



*Spiritual Exercises in Guatemala – 2010*

## **AUC MEETING IN CHILE** *Santiago, Chile, 19-21 April 2010*

### **1. The atmosphere of the meeting**

The Lord has been great with us and we are happy, as the Psalmist says, and this saying is carried out fully in the meeting which I consider as a great gift of the Holy Spirit. I wish to highlight the excellent atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood. We were like brothers who shared in a unique feeling and this inspired us to continue united in the journey.

### **2. Notes of the meeting**

The possibility of sharing the experience of prayer, reflection and common life, I think, is a special note of the meeting. One felt a new air as spiritual

oxygenation was offered to all the participants, in the consideration that a priest or a deacon is never alone; to participate in AUC is a gift from God that helps us to grow in fellowship. And this is served as a starting point in the vocation of each one.

### **3. Fruits**

We thank AUC for being the instrument of inner support and the spiritual resource to go forward in the priestly ideal. At the communitarian level, it was highlighted that the creation of AUC will serve as a meeting place for reflection and search for new paths. It is enhanced by the action of the Spirit that inspires new squares and Forum for his priests. The concern of the Holy Father and of the whole Church to assess, support and strengthen the identity of priests was endorsed. I think everybody felt that this meeting has served not only spiritually but also for human formation, because we talked about the concrete material needs of the priest and have glimpsed approaches to the solutions. All these could be defined as a personal and communitarian spring.

### **4. Follow Up**

The first step identified is the involvement of the interested brethren in the animation of AUC in their dioceses. Now we still maintain a fluid communication for the interchange of news, materials for theological and spiritual growth, in the hope of another meeting and the contribution of suggestions. The importance of presenting AUC as a useful tool for clergy to the Bishops was recognized. In this regard we have received beautiful demonstrations of affection and animation to continue in the steps already identified in the meeting, from the new Bishop of Illapel, His Excellency Bishop Jorge Vega Velasco, SVD, who presided over the Eucharist and spent moments of fraternity and friendship with us.

### **5. Final Message**

My final word is that of thanks to all diocesan brothers. May all of us be moved by the breath of the Spirit day after day to be united with the family AUC. My wish is that may many more join this “family of pastors”. My commitment is to continue to animate the diocesan clergy in the priesthood of Christ that it reaches its fullness in each one of them who called to the sacred ministry. In this year of priests let us recommend ourselves to the Queen of priests and our Mother, who sustain us as disciples pastors in announcing and following of his Son Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

*Juan de Dios ROJAS  
AUC International Councilor for America*

## **IN EUROPE**

### **THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF AUC IN ITALY**

*The Federation of AUC in Italy gathered in the **General Assembly** from 14 - 17 June 2010 in the town of Assisi. 80 members participated in the assembly. They had a profound spiritual experience in the hometown of St. Francis and St. Clare through the visits to the places of these saints.*

*The National President Monsignor Vittorio Peri presented his report of the past three years by the reflection on the theme “**Service** to the People of God, **Brotherhood** among Ordained Ministers, **Communion** with the Bishop,” the approval of the new **National Directory**, the intensity of the visits to the local realities and the publication of the series “**Quaderni** of spirituality.”*

*For the next three years it is agreed to reflect on the “**Mystery of the Trinity, Ecclesial Communion and the Mission**”, meditating on the word of Jesus: “As you, Father, are in me and I in you, may they be one, that the world may believe. “*

*Another commitment for the next three years will be to hold a second seminar on the diocesan spirituality.*

*The Assembly then proceeded to the **election**. It re-elected the National President in the person of Monsignor Vittorio Peri and elected the new National Council.*

*The hope for the future was expressed by the National President: “The association does not wish to walk with the feet of a few, but with those of all its members, aware that a small step taken together is much more worth than many steps taken by a single person.”*



*Italian National Assembly of the UAC 14-17 June 2010*

***IN ROME***  
**AUC INTERNATIONAL DAY**  
*Rome, 8 June 2010*

The bright and sunny day of June 8, 2010 will go down in the annals of the Apostolic Union of Clergy (AUC) as a memorable day! Using the occasion of the International Year of Priests, announced a year ago by Pope Benedict XVI which closed on June 11, 2010, the AUC organized an **International AUC Day** on June 8, 2010 in Rome! More than 100 priests from all over the world, who were coming to Rome for the three-day meeting with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI and who are also members of the AUC announced their intention to participate in the International AUC Day on June 8, 2010. Due to several factors, among others also the traffic in Rome and the exact location of Collegio Urbano for many who had come to Rome for the first time, some of those who had enlisted to participate could not turn up on time for the event. But for those who turned up it was a fellowship gathering of brotherhood, discipleship and priestly joy and unity.

Much preparation had gone into the organizing of the AUC DAY. At the annual International Councilors' meeting of November 2009, it was decided unanimously by all Councilors to have a DAY OF AUC in Rome in the Year of Priests. Fr. Donald De Souza, the International Councilor for Asia and the National President of the AUC in India was the chief co-coordinator of this



*Some of the participants of the AUC Meeting on the occasion  
of the conclusion of the Priestly Year- 8 June, 2010*

International AUC Day. It was then decided to invite all the AUC members from all over the world who might be coming for the meeting with the Holy Father. It was held at the Collegio Urbano, the residential house of seminarians studying at the Pontifical Urban University in Rome.

The AUC DAY on June 8, 2010 was spent primarily on re-visiting the AUC life and vision and spending a day together in priestly solidarity. A Power Point presentation, National and Regional Reports on AUC as well as open sharing by the members were the highlights of the Day. The two Bishops present, Auxiliary Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Delhi and Bishop Marc Stenger of France brought in added fraternity to the AUC Day. The Day ended with a fraternal agape and a brotherly farewell embrace by all the participants.

*Fr. Donald H. R. De Souza*

On the occasion of the international meeting of AUC on June 8, 2010, the national presidents presented their testimonies. We present you a summary of them.

- **Tomasz Rusiecki - Poland:** *Poland has around 900 AUC members. They meet every year at Jansa Gòra. Every diocese has a monthly meeting with prayer, reflection, dialogue and meals.*
- **Joseph de Metz-Noblat - France:** *France has around 200 members in 40 dioceses. The national direction convenes a national meeting and a meeting based on a theological or pastoral theme, open not only to AUC members, but all priests since this is for all the clergy. The number is decreasing. This year a spiritual retreat for the young priests was organized.*
- **Donald D'Souza - India:** *India has 2000 members out of 15, 000 diocesan priests. The AUC is present in 110 dioceses in India. All are committed to personal prayer. There is a commitment to inspire the young priests for AUC.*
- **Julio Botia - Latin America:** *In South America and the Caribeen, all the nations are in growth for the AUC both in quality and quantity. The Episcopal Conferences ask for services because they have a good opinion about AUC. Consequently there is a great hope. In North*

*America we do not have AUC. Let us hope in the new International Animator of AUC.*

- **Juan Esquerda Bifet - Spain:** *Mons. Juan Esquerda Bifet presented the situation of Catalogna where AUC is present in 10 dioceses. In the month of July there is a retreat for 40 members. There is a possibility of having 100 participants. The meeting of July takes place in four days with the theme on the Word of God and the Spiritual Direction.*
- **Mons. Franco Mulakkal:** *He shared his presence in Rome as the International Treasurer. In this period he visited Poland and Indonesia. In these experiences he has learned a lot. He also animated the colleges of Rome, studying the situations, as he has already seen the lack of participation due to lack of time when he was here for studies. For participation we want something that attracts the student priests. How to create interest in the student priests? The interesting suggestion was to speak about the Diocesan Spirituality. He then went to the colleges to talk and invited the interested ones to participate in the meetings and several priests have joined as they were interested in AUC. He has seen that when there is interest on an idea the student priests participate. There was a programme for the monthly meetings and therefore at least once in a year there would be a general meeting.*

## **AUC APPOINTMENTS**

### **FOR BURUNDI**

The Secretary of AUC in Burundi has communicated that Fr. Joseph Ntawuyankira is elected as the new president on 27 February 2010 for the next three years.

### **FOR ITALY**

The National Assembly of AUC in Italy, gathered in Assisi from 14 to 17 June, 2010, has re-elected Msgr. Vittorio Peri as the National President for the next three years.

*The International Direction, on behalf of all its members, expresses gratitude for the generous and competent services done by all the presidents and wishes all the best to the national presidents of Italy and Burundi.*

## Seeds of Life



### THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

«Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priest»

by H.E.R. Mons. Mauro Piacenza\*

The **theological conference**, held during the celebrations of the priestly year on 11 and 12 March, 2010, I believe, has enabled everyone to be continuing and ever new shoots of Truth with the unique light which is characteristic of divine realities. In fact, there are many reasons for gratitude: first, we would never have predicted such a generous participation, for which we thank each and every one. Secondly we have listened to the truth which is most precious to a priest, the Gift and Mystery, which he received on the day of his ordination. It cannot but play in the heart with reflections always new because this is a gift. Finally, we had a special audience with the Holy Father who has authoritatively indicated the way to proceed reminding the urgent need for an authentic “hermeneutic of priestly continuity” which the priesthood has written in the world which, from Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord and Christ, and passing through two thousand years of history of greatness and holiness, culture and piety, reaches to the present day, and has renewed the awareness of the



*Msgr. Mauro Piacenza*

mission that Christ himself has entrusted to us.

In the first session we have reflected, rediscovering the theological foundations of priestly identity, the relationship between Christology and priestly identity, showing how it is constitutive of the same being of the Priest and nourish their prophetic act in the world. The deepening of **priestly identity**, cannot ever fail, as the conference has shown, from the serious, honest, free and brave comparison with the contemporary

culture, pursuing that rare but essential balance between the undoubted loyalty to Christ.

Contemporary culture is shown, unfortunately, far from the categories of the sacred, mediation, and the sacramental presidency typical of this identity by showing, at the same time, a particular sensitivity to everything that is proper and immediately “human” and, consequently, more easily recognizable and “categorizable.” The effectiveness of the **mission**, even in places and in the realities that are socio-cultural seemingly unthinkable, is linked clearly and directly dependent on priestly identity christologically founded.

It was emerged in the second session, to ensure the clarity on the sacerdotal identity and of the effectiveness of the mission, the urgency and necessary **to live the Ministry** in a radical continuity of theological, spiritual, legal, pastoral and existential spheres. This is according to that hermeneutic of the continuity that, as pointed out in the beginning of these conclusions which the same Holy Father has again declined to the priests, after having shown since 2005 as a category for the only correct interpretation of the texts of Vatican II.

**The hermeneutic of priestly continuity** presupposes the consciousness of belonging to the one priesthood of Christ from which every possible ministerial effectiveness is derived and in which

the same spirituality of the Ministry is rooted. The balance, so difficult to obtain, between the different spheres of the life of a priest, from the liturgy to the teaching, from the relationship with the laity, with his fair promotion, in relation with the world and with the dominant culture, is guaranteed, sponsored, guarded, guided and maintained by the hermeneutic of continuity.

We have seen the last session considering two issues particularly “visible” of the Ministry of priests: the first was the *munus sanctificandi* and the public **liturgy** of the Church, and the second relating to the precious issue of the sacred celibacy, with its theological and historical background and the psycho-existential consequences.

The experience of the public worship of the Church shows, the real “theocentrism” of the priest, who, avoiding any unnecessary and harmful creatures, is called to be a man of God, is able to show God to the world, to pray to God for the world by being the first interlocutor of his Lord.

**Celibacy**, finally, as it has been well shown, despite the inevitable personal limitations of some, and their often artificial and well-planned media amplification, resplendent in all its prophetic value, as the Holy Father stressed, “to understand and reaffirm, in our day, the value of celibacy, in the Latin Church is a charism required for Holy Orders (cfr **Presbyterorum**

**Ordinis**, 16) and is held in high esteem in the Eastern Churches (cf. CCEO, can. 373).

Celibacy is not only justified theologically and historically, but

becomes real “mission,” thanks to the prophetic power that is its own, which needs continuing education, and which cannot be waived.

*\*Secretary, the Congregation  
for the Clergy*

## **INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF PRIESTS 9 – 11 June 2010**



*15, 000 priests around Pope Benedict XVI at the conclusion of the Priestly Year on June 11, 2010- A view from the dome of St. Petrus' Basilica*

*Approximately fifteen thousand participants were there in the International Meeting of Priests, which took place in Rome from 9 - 11 June at the concluding celebrations of the Priestly Year, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the “dies natalis” of John Mary*

*Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests in the world, who, on this occasion, was proclaimed “patron of all priests of the world” by the Holy Father.*

*The event, sponsored by the Congregation for the Clergy was placed in continuity with the previous International Meetings of*

*the clergy which, between 1996 and 2004, were held at Fatima (Portugal), Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast), Guadalupe ( Mexico), Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem (Holy Land), Rome (during the Great Jubilee of 2000) and, finally, at Malta in 2007.*

*The International Meeting of Priests was held in Rome, the heart of Christianity, with the theme “Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priest” and was the largest gathering of priests that was ever realized, and the most crowded ecclesial event of the year.*

*The Fifteen thousand priests coming from 91 countries had a unique and rich experience of the events. The opening of this sacerdotal “three days”, given the large number of participants, was held on June 9, in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls for the Italian, English and German speaking priests, and in the Basilica of St. John Lateran for French, Spanish and Portuguese speaking priests.*

*In these two places the priests have heard the meditations of His Eminence Cardinal Joachim Meisner, Archbishop of Cologne on the topic: Conversion and mission and His Eminence Cardinal Marc Ouellet, PSS, Archbishop of Quebec on the topic: Last Supper: invocation of the Spirit with Holy Mary, in fraternal communion; which was followed by an hour of worship, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Mass, presided by Cardinal Bertone and Cardinal Hummes. All the priests have experienced the vigil in St.*

*Peter’s square with the presence of the Holy Father in the evening of 10 June at 20:30. On June 11, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at 9:30 am, in St. Peter’s square, the Holy Father presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration which concluded the “three-day” celebration of the conclusion of the priestly year.*

*The International Meeting of Priests, which was open not only to the religious, but also to the seminarians, the permanent deacons, women religious and lay people who are committed to support the priests in their parishes, was also an opportunity for all citizens to be involved in the two moments in St. Peter’s Square with the Pope, respectively, the vigil of June 10 and the Holy Mass of June 11.*

*In these days initiatives proposed by other movements and ecclesial bodies were also promoted. On Tuesday, June 8 in St. John Lateran Basilica a retreat was organized by the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal. On the same day a conference was organized at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum on “A Picture of Good Shepherd. The figure of the priest in the Twenty First Century “, proposed by the Institute for Priests of the University. On June 9 there was an afternoon event in the Paul VI Hall carried out by the Focolare Movement of Schoenstatt.*

*Our Association of AUC has promoted on the evening of 8 June, a fraternal meeting between its members of which a report is given in the other pages of this Bulletin.*

## ***REV. FR. LIONEL MASCARENHAS, A GREAT ANIMATOR OF AUC, PASSES AWAY***

Fr. Lionel Mascarenhas SJ, one of the greatest promoters of AUC, has left us for his heavenly abode on 28<sup>th</sup> December, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. For many years he was the National Director of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC) in India and was also the editor of *AUC*, the magazine of this Union. He kept in touch with scores of priests through correspondence, remembered all their names and took a keen interest in them.



*P. Lionel Mascarenhas*

He was the rector of Papal Seminary, De Nobili College, and Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth. He was also the Dean of Theology, Superior of the Theologians in De Nobili College, and Vice-Rector, Spiritual Director and animator of various formation groups in Papal Seminary. His work, however, was not confined to the campus. Since he taught the course on the Local Church, he practiced what he preached by involving himself in the local church, the Diocese of Poona. He celebrated Masses, participated in prayer groups and gave retreats, including 30-day retreats. He was also spiritual director and confessor to many priests, brothers and sisters.

But more than all these amazing achievements, what makes us edified and filled with admiration is the beautiful example of the generous, humble and saintly life of Fr. Lionel. He was a man of deep faith and solid prayer. He was known for his infinite patience, his ready availability, his deep humility, his devotion to duty and his outstanding spirit of service. Fr. Lionel was so gentle: he wouldn't even hurt a fly. He was very sensitive to people's needs, ever ready to serve others. Particularly noteworthy was Fr. Lionel's compassionate love for the poor, the sick and the dying. And he did all this and more quietly and silently, without blowing his trumpet. In a nutshell Fr. Lionel was a perfect gentleman, gifted writer, lively humorist, accomplished musician, able administrator, inspiring teacher, compassionate counselor, caring superior, committed Jesuit and a holy priest.

As Fr. Lionel joins the heavenly chorus, we too lift up our voices and join him with grateful hearts, singing an Alleluia of praise and thanksgiving for the wonderful witness of his cheerful and saintly life. But generations of priests, Jesuits and other men religious, sisters, seminarians and lay people, all who have had the happiness of coming in contact with him, will sorely miss him. He will continue to live on in our hearts and memories and be a lasting source of inspiration to us. May Fr. Lionel rest in God's peace and in our love!

*Fr. Biju Mathew*

## HEARTY WELCOME TO FR. BIJU MATHEW MERRYVILLA

*Fr. Biju Mathew Merryvilla from the Diocese of Jagdalpur (India) arrived at our International Headquarters On June 24, 2010 and was welcomed with much gratitude. Fr Biju is appointed as the international animator, especially for the English-speaking nations.*

*We wish Fr Biju all the best and assure him our prayers that may the Lord sustain him to perform his task in a spirit of generous service to the benefit of AUC International.*



*Fr. Biju Mathew (third from the right in the first row) and Monsignor Remigiose (third from the left in the second row) the new Bishop of Thamarassery during the National Meeting of AUC in India.*

## THE DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF AUC OF THAMARASSERY (INDIA) IS APPOINTED BISHOP

The Diocesan Director of AUC of Thamarassery, India, Mons. **Remigiose Inchananiyil** of the Syro-Malabar rite is appointed Bishop of his Diocese. We are very glad and we pray for him that he may receive abundant blessings from God and at the same time let us express our cordial congratulations to Monsignor Remigiose, our brother in the AUC.

**IN MEMORY  
OF DR. DANTE  
TOFFANO**

**SINCERE AND  
HEARTFELT THANKS**

With great sorrow we have received the sad news of the demise of Cav. Dr. Dante Toffano, a great benefactor of the AUC International. He was called to eternal rest on June 22, 2010. We join in prayer for the repose of the generous soul of Dr. Dante with Ms Teresa and the children and renew our gratitude for all that he, along with his family, has done for the benefit of AUC with a great sense of charity and Christian witness. We want to remember a phrase that was told by Dr. Dante in a celebration with his friends: *“The best work I have ever done is to help to buy the International Headquarters of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy.”*

We are so grateful to him and the whole Toffano family for their generosity to the clergy throughout the world. Every week we celebrate a Mass according to their intentions, praying to the Lord to reward Dr. Dante and to bless his family abundantly.

Thanks again with all our heart.

Dr. Dante Toffano (at the centre of the photo) together with Ms. Teresa and Don Magrin on the occasion of the inauguration of the international headquarters on 12.04.2002



**A Poem by Fr. Joseph Magrin**

The Life is a score without notes;  
of which you write some, and you find  
yourselves already at the end  
breathless  
to try again the song  
without more heard  
to taste the echo.  
Life down here  
still remains an unfinished work  
a hymn unseen  
or limp  
a hymn depleted from sin ...  
and only one day in the symphony  
of being it will transcend its limits  
in resonance and tonality  
still inconceivable to man.  
That God who regenerates you every day  
will fill all of its notes  
the gaps you left in the path ...  
You will find there  
your score  
sung by the whole humanity ...  
Then finally will explode  
in the harmony of the infinite agape  
the chorus of fragments reassembled  
and you will recognize that you too  
have been on earth for some  
the unmistakable voice of a song  
rewritten by his mercy ...  
That song seems pale until you are alive  
it will resound more alive when you die ...

## ***A WORD FROM THE TREASURER***



Dear Friends and Well wishers of AUC,

Greetings and many wishes of God's blessing on each one of you. First of all we thank all of you for the support and encouragements you have been rendering to the Apostolic Union of Clergy. As you have seen from the reports, we have been occupied in conducting animation and formation programme for the Clergy in different parts of the world. Many new fraternities have been formed in various Dioceses and Countries. Thanks to the enthusiastic hard works of our President, Councilors and the National Animators which have brought great progress and a new energy to the AUC international. All these have been possible only with your prayers and the generous contributions. There is still much more to be done.

AUC functions solely with the contributions of its members and benefactors. It is very comforting to say that many countries have generously given the quota associative of its members. But there are also a few still to give the quota associative even of the previous years. In order to find economic stability we have also initiated various other means like "For our priests" (*Campaign for our Priests*) assistance for special services for the clergy of the whole world, and commercial activities for the sale of religious articles etc... To make it easy the mode of reaching your contributions to the head office we have also facilitated the PayPal. I request all of you to contribute generously and to invite your friends and benefactors to do the same for the Apostolic Union of Clergy.

Heartfelt thanks for your fraternal and generous offerings of prayers, services and economic contributions for supporting the services of AUC to the clergy of the whole world. We assure you a special remembrance in the Holy Eucharist of every Thursday. May God bless each and every one of you!

*Fr. Antony Thuruthiyil*

### **How to contribute** an economical offering:

- **You may consign it to the National President AUC. In [www.unioapostolicacleri.org](http://www.unioapostolicacleri.org) you will find the necessary information.**
- You may also, through our site [www.unioapostolicacleri.org](http://www.unioapostolicacleri.org) , or that of [www.clerusmundi.com](http://www.clerusmundi.com), by clicking on PayPal.
- If you prefer, you may send a check made out to Confederazione Unione Apostolica del Clero, Via Alberico II, 4, IV 00193 Roma, Italia.
- Or if you want, from any Bank you may transfer it directly to

Confederazione Unione Apostolica del Clero, **Banca Intesa Bci** filiale  
N° 2767 RM Borgo Pio I-00103 ROMA.  
**IBAN:** IT72 A030 6905 0691 0000 0003 474.

Kindly inform us, **please, of your offering (and the method used, amount, finality, etc) at [unioapostolica@gmail.com](mailto:unioapostolica@gmail.com), or by calling Tel. 0039 0668806737, Fax 0039 0668803183. Or by ordinary mail to the Apostolic Union of Clergy, Via Alberico II, 4, IV 00193 Roma, Italia. We will inform you promptly upon the usage of your offering. Also, when you have the possibility we await a visit from you in our International Headquarters with great joy.**

*A profound thank you for your fraternal and generous offering of prayers, service and economical means for supporting the service of the Shepherds (Bishops, Priests and Deacons) of the whole world! Until now, **in the Eucharist of every Thursday**, we invoke many blessings for you and for all of the other AUC benefactors.*

*Mons. Julio Daniel Botía A.*  
International President AUC

*P. Antony Thuruthiyil*  
International Treasurer AUC

**We also thank you, if you wish, for a suggestion of one of your friends to whom we can mail this same proposal:**

Name and Last name: .....

Mailing Address: .....

E-Mail: ..... Tel: .....

***Thank you very much  
for your generous  
participation!!***





***“The priesthood, then, is not simply “office” but sacrament: God makes use of us poor men in order to be, through us, present to all men and women, and to act on their behalf”.***

From the homily of Benedict XVI at the conclusion of the Year of Priests

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