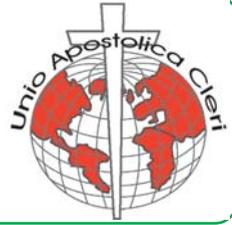


NOTITIAE

UNIONIS APOSTOLICAE CLERI



September - December 2009

N° 118



***TO RENEW ONESELF
IN MINISTRY***



*The meeting of the priests
at San Salvador November
2009*



*The meeting of the priests
in Perú
Dicember 2009*



*The meeting of the priests
in Guatemala November 2009*



*The meeting of the priests
in Ecuador Dicember 2009*

NOTITIAE

Unionis Apostolicae Cleri

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Direttore

Julio Daniel Botia Aponte

Direttore Responsabile

Albino Sanna

Procuratore speciale

Vittorio Peri

Redazione

Julio Daniel Botia Aponte,
Albino Sanna,
Joseph de Metz-Noblat,
Méthode Gahungu

Progetto grafico e Realizzazione

Eugenio Pepe, Gabriella Villani

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STAMPATO IN PROPRIO

In this edition no. 118

Editorial	4
<i>A walk for many years</i>	
Let us Reflect	6
<i>To renew oneself in his ministry</i>	
The AUC Family	9
- <i>International Board Meeting</i>	
- <i>Appointments/Nominations</i>	
- <i>Zonal Meetings</i>	
- <i>The AUC in the countries</i>	
Testimonies	15
1. <i>The AUC in the diocese of Rosary, Argentine</i>	
2. <i>"Pas-vers-plus-et-mieux" - AUC Togo</i>	
3. <i>Activity of AUC in Lebanon and Hungary</i>	
Seeds of life	18
1. <i>A Letter of Pope Benedict XVI</i>	
2. <i>International Meeting of Priests</i>	
3. <i>International Day of the Apostolic Union of Clergy (AUC)</i>	
The Diaconate today	21
<i>The Deacon: Instrument and Sign of Communion</i>	
Are you our friends?	22
Direct Line	23

RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSLATING

Mons. Julio Botia for Spanish; Mons. Sanna Albino for Italian;
Fr. Joseph de Metz Noblat for French; Sr. Mary Loegering, SFm
for English; Fr. Filemao Chauque for Portuguese.

We invite the readers of our Bulletin to visit the SITE www.unioapostolicacleri.org and to let us know your opinion and evaluation so that we may adjust it and render it more useful to the priests of the world. You may find here many useful information about AUC International.

The E-mail of AUC International is:

unioapostolica@unioapostolicacleri.org



A WALK FOR MANY YEARS

*Hello, how are you? How is it going in the **Year of the Priests**? These are the questions that are being asked us with frequency. The answers are several. The Year of the Priests in the Diocese? Yes, in the dioceses certainly some special activities are being undertaken. And, for me, for you and for every one of us, what are we aiming to achieve as the Sacerdotal Year continues? What are you proposing to achieve personally in this Year of the Priest?*

Within the many personal activities and worries, it is not easy. There is need for a great effort, a great generosity, in order to take seriously and to use this time of grace well. Otherwise, the Sacerdotal Year can pass without doing anything, with neither pain nor gain, without the awareness of anything new, like in other years.

Many months have passed since the Year of the Priests was announced. But never mind. But this year is one which gives a direction to our journey in the coming years. It is a year that fills us with the grace of the Good

Shepherd, to strengthen our commitment to him, to fly high in order to give a rhythm to our life in order to get many fruits, to reorganize our life for a more fecund ministry.

This can be the year of our decisive renewal and progress. An effective time for the realization of the values and the overcoming of the limits and difficulties in our life and ministry. Do we wish to live in this way and to obtain many fruits?

Among the many means available there are three which can help us in a special way in this:

1. To unite us with Jesus ever more, like a true friend, every day and always: “remain in my love” (Jn.15, 9). For this, we shall give more time and more of our hearts to a personal, living encounter with Jesus in prayer, especially with regard to the Word of God and the Eucharist.

2. To join with some of our friends and brothers in the presbyterate, and to form with them a small fraternity meeting one another more frequently in order to help us to progress in all the aspects. Jesus our Friend will accompany us:

“Love one another... so that the world will believe” (cf. Jn.17.21).

3. To elaborate and to make more perfect our personal plan of life, in which we will specify the values, the requirements that we need to resolve and which God is asking us to fulfill: to construct our house on the rock, like the wise man (cf. Mt.21-25). As a base for this, we can determine the goals (which we propose to ourselves to obtain in this year, with the help of the Lord) and the steps and the resources with which to achieve them.

Let us collaborate actively and generously with the various initiatives that the Diocesan Presbyterate is proposing in this Sacerdotal Year. We will share with other brothers the experiences that we have obtained in this field. We also wish to receive and use the experiences that you can share with us through our website unioapostolica@unioapostolicacleri.org

Animated by such a spirit in this

Year of the Priest, many groups of the **Apostolic union of Clergy (AUC)** who have completed the first stage suggested in the book “**Brothers and Servers**”, have begun with great enthusiasm the next interesting stage in order to renew our life and ministry. In this, we will use the booklet “**Disciples Shepherds**” (Material for clergy encounters), as it was reflected on in the ‘reflections’ of our Bulletin. We are always ready to help with materials and to accompany other groups that wish to begin the way of the AUC, or who may need our help and services.

Let us use the pages following in this our Bulletin NOTITIAE AUC, the precious experiences, reflections, proposals and news which can help us in the renewal of our life, than they can help us in the renewal of our life and our pastoral ministry. Let us help ourselves to do everything and always with **Jesus, like Him and for Him**.
Julio

AN OCCASSION NOT TO BE LOST

The **Statutes of AUC**, updated at the International Assembly in 2007 are available and also the booklet “**Brothers and Servants**”(to strengthen our life and service in the AUC). *The Dioceses and Countries could make a request indicating their address and the number of copies they would need, if they want copies already printed or they could indicated the modality for sending through Internet, with the possibility of printing them on their own. It is appropriated that every institution has the Statutes in their headquarters and that they are diffused among the companions of the AUC.*

Let us reflect



TO RENEW ONESELF IN ONE'S SPECIFIC MINISTRY

by Fr. Méthode Gaungu

In the Church, the ordained ministers, in particular the bishop and the presbyterate, exercise a ministry of Presidency, as a sacramental representation of Christ, Master and Prophet, Priest and King (cf. **Presbyterorum ordinis**, 1). It is a ministry that is expressed in the triple function of the minister of the Word, of the liturgy and of Charity.

The ministry of **Word** occupies the first place in the life of Jesus: his public ministry is that of a prophet of the Word. After the resurrection, he sends his disciples with the mission of teaching all the peoples in order to baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (cf. Mt.28, 9-20). The faith is born from the Word of God and the preaching is an indispensable instrument in order to render the message comprehensible (cf. Rom 10, 14, 15).

In the Eucharistic Liturgy, above all, God speaks to his people, and the ordained ministers have the mission to explain and to make the Word of God really present (cf. *Dei Verbum*, 24). The ministry of the Word belongs therefore, primarily, to the ordained ministers and has precedence over all other ministries (cf. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, nn 25-26). *Pastores dabo vobis* declares that “the priest is, first of all, the Minister of the Word of God” (PDV, n 26; cf. PO nn 4-6 and n13).

To grow in the ministry of the Word, a scientific study is surely necessary but it is more than that. A true disciple feels the need to speak often with the master in a relationship of deep listening and friendship (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, n.13); to be a servant of the Word one needs to be fed by the Word (cf. *Nuovo Millennio Ineunte*, n 40), “to be the first believer in the Word” (PDV 26; cf. Acts 4,20; 22,14-15).

The Word of God is the foundation of our life and of the ministry of the ordained ministers. Called to evangelize the world with the Word of Salvation, they should feel the need to be evangelized themselves: “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask what you want and it will be given to you (Jn. 15,7). A familiarity with the Word of God helps in the conversion of our hearts and it nurtures the faith (cf. PDV, n 47). It frees one from every type of conditioning which is contrary to the Gospel. This is why Vatican II declares that it is “necessary that every cleric, in the first place the priests of Christ....be very closely bound to the scriptures” (*Dei Verbum*, n 25). St. Jerome suggests that the “ignorance of the scriptures is the ignorance of Christ” (PL 24, 17). The Word of God is the basis of the prayer of a priest.

To grow in this ministry, therefore, one must:

* be prepared scientifically for the comprehension of the Word of God, by frequenting some classes (cf. *Optatam totius*, 12; *Dei Verbum*, 24), because the Word preached is received from God (*Jn* 7:16; *1 Cor* 11:23); it is also recommended to begin diocesan or personal libraries that favors the study of the Word of God (cf. *Presbyterorum ordinis*, 19; *Inter ea*, 22);

- * Read comments on the Word: the preparation of homilies is the perfect occasion to do so in the light of recent exegetical studies; encourage a confrontation with some other brethren in this circumstance; some useful websites are: incontra.com; clerus.com; Vatican.com; zenith.com; celam.org;
- * meditate every day on the Word with the *lectio divina* (cfr. Jn 15:7) if possible with others; celebrate the word during communitarian *Liturgy of the Hours*;
- * learn the language of the environment where one lives, communicating with the cultures, as Jesus did in Nazareth (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 20);
- * Use the press and modern means of communication (radio, television, internet);
- * study well the catechism as a journey of faith or adhesion to Christ (cfr. *The Directory for the minister and the life of presbyters*, 47);
- * organize the *spiritual exercises* and *retreats* on biblical themes, with time for meditation.

AUC invites all ordained ministers to allow themselves to be formed by the Word of God, to celebrate it in the liturgy of the Hours and in the Eucharist, to transmit it in its integrity and richness, without giving in to deformations, and especially to live it (cfr. Statutes 11).

The **liturgy** occupies the first place in the action of the Church. The Vatican II declares that this is «the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her virtues flow.» (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, 10). It is an event: it is the celebration of the meeting-communion between God and man. The liturgical prayer attracts God in the midst of mankind. The community in prayer is the place where God is manifested: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:20). Those who take part in this action are the people of God (cfr. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1069). At the heart of the liturgy is the *Eucharist*, which is the summit of the whole Christian life, center and root of unity and of fraternity, source and vertex of evangelization (cfr. *Presbyterorum ordinis*, 5).

Ordained ministers are ministers of the celebration of the mystery of God and of Christ. They are called to serve the people of God. According to their role, they exercise the ministry of sanctification and of communion, especially in the Eucharist which is the summit of Christian life. (cf. *Pastores dabo vobis*, 48).

In order to renew oneself in this very important ministry, one should:

- * prepare, with studies, for the comprehension of the liturgy. So that it is not separated from the paschal mystery that is celebrated, especially in the sacraments and so that the interpretation keeps in mind the culture of those who participate; classes can be organized to study the celebration of the sacraments and catechesis (cfr. *The Directory for the minister and the life of presbyters*, 76 and 82);
- * prepare oneself spiritually in order to overcome the risk of giving importance only to the formal perfection of the rite, of the



choreography, of fasting before the ceremonies;

- * learn how to use well the liturgical books in order to enhance the possibilities that are offered and to render the Eucharist a focal point of the ecclesial community;

- * nurture always a living faith in the Eucharist, by theological studies on the nature of the Eucharistic mystery and by daily participation at the Mass (cf. *Pastores dabo vobis*, 47);

- * prepare oneself to accompany, with a solid catechesis enriched by witnesses, the faithful until they fully mature and prepare them to receive the sacraments.

- * form a liturgical group in the diocese and in the parishes so that they may program the various celebrations according to the liturgical moment, the special moments of the life of the community, and to meet the various needs of those who participate; talk with other brethren about ways to render more expressive the celebrations of the liturgical year. Look on internet, those who have experience or a useful expert.

Charity is the love of God manifested in Jesus Christ and it moves us (cfr. 2 Cor 5:14). It is not a simple human feeling of philanthropy: it is a gift that comes from God (Rm 5:5; 1 Jn 4:10). The Apostle Paul places it above all other Christian virtues (cfr 1 Cor 13:13). It is not just the activities of assisting others or of almsgiving; “If I give away everything I own... but do not have love, I gain nothing”, says St. Paul (1 Cor 13:3 quoted by Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, 34). Charity is serving Christ, present in the hungry, naked, sick, those in jail, etc (cfr. Mt 25:31-46).

In the ministry of Jesus Christ, charity is manifested as solidarity, as service, as liberation and human promotion. Jesus assumes our human condition and is *one* with us, except for sin, in order to save us. In Him, charity is also *service*, altruism, giving attention to others especially the poor (cfr Jn 13:12-15; Phil 2:7-8). The charity of Jesus Christ is also *liberation* from the slavery of egoism and from sin, and *human promotion* (Lk 4: 18-19).

Applying this to ordained ministers, the concept of “charity” evokes another that characterizes their whole ministry and life. It is the “pastoral charity”, the virtue by which they imitate Christ in their giving of self and in service (cfr. *Pastores dabo vobis*, 23).

To grow in this ministry of charity, one must:

- * habitually deepen their understanding of the mystery of Christ, to admire his heart full of compassion and his style (*Deus caritas est*, 31a); discover the sacrificial significance of the Eucharist, sacrament of the complete donation of self for the salvation of mankind;

- * deepen through studies and put into practice the notion of “pastoral charity”, as configuration to Christ in being and acting (cf. *Pastores dabo vobis*, 23);

- * deepen the social Doctrine of the Church in order to give reasons in the light of what corresponds to the nature of every human being (cf. *Deus caritas est*, 28);

- * educate oneself to evangelical poverty: be poor in order to give, like Christ.

- * form in ourselves an attentive heart like the good Samaritan, so we see the necessities (cf. Lk 10: 33, *Deus caritas est*, 31); give of one’s own money, time, patience and competence (Lk 10: 34-35); involve the institutions and organizations of charity (cfr. Lk 10:34);

- * form charitable services in the diocese and parish (Charitas, volunteers, ...);

- * schedule intercultural meetings and structures that welcome foreigners (immigrants, those who are poor, etc.);

- * create structures that welcome ordained ministers (cfr. *Directory*, 96) and *priestly associations* that answer the needs of solidarity (cfr. *Pastores dabo vobis*, 81).



MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

*International
Headquarters AUC*

*The International
Council
held its meeting
in Rome
from 9-13
November 2009*



The International AUC Council held its ordinary session from November 9th -13th, 2009 in Rome. Having examined the present situation of the international AUC they underlined the good progress, in the animation with the nations (AUC international has contacts with around 70 nations even if on different levels), in the work of the secretary, of the Bulletin, of the Website www.unioapostolicacleri.org, and in that which regards the initiatives of collaboration for the good outcome of the Year for Priests.

The Council nominated the new Treasurer Fr. Anthony Thuruthiyil and the international Councilor for America Msgr. Juan de Dios Rojas from Peru. They also nominated for one year, while waiting to find an international Councilor from the area, international Councilor for Oceania Fr. Donald de

Souza.

The Council highly recommends the continuation of visits to the local realities for vitality and growth in quality and quantity of the Association and for the actuation of the five year program towards the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the foundation and of the international Assembly, that will be held in Rome from October 22-26, 2012. Regarding the Year for Priests, besides the presence and the collaboration of AUC in the initiatives of the single dioceses and of the Congregation for Clergy, the international Council is organizing a AUC Meeting in Rome, 8 June 2010 (See program further on in this Bulletin).

The international Council lastly, has scheduled the AUC zone meetings that should be held in the various Continents before 2012.

NOMINATIONS 2009

New International Treasurer:



Father Antony **THURUTHIYIL** from the diocese of Jalandhar - India, has accepted to collaborate as treasurer *part-time* for one year.

The international Council thanks Fr. Antony for his availability and wishes him all the best in this delicate and important Office. At the same time they thank Fr. Theodore Terres from Luxembourg for the many years that he dedicated his service to AUC as Treasurer; Fr. Franco Mulakkal who was Treasurer from the 2007 Assembly until February 2009 and Fr. Joseph de Metz-Noblat who was Treasurer ad interim after Fr. Franco Mulakkal. Lastly they thank also Msgr. Julio Botia who was Treasurer ad interim after Fr. Terres and also assisted both Fr. Franco Mulakkal and Fr. Joseph de Metz-Noblat.

New International Councilors

Msgr. Juan de Dios Rojas from Peru was nominated by the international Council AUC, according to the Statutes norm art. 64 bis, as the new Council member for America following the resignation of Fr. Ramon Carrizo from Argentina and of Fr. Roy Solano from Costa Rica.



Fr. Donald De Souza from India was nominated by the international Council AUC as the new international Councilor for Oceania for one year, while maintaining his duty as International Councilor for Asia.



The International Council AUC thanks Msgr. Juan De Dios Rojas and Fr. Donald D'Souza for their availability and generosity in accepting this prestigious and important role, we wish them all the best in their work. We also thank Fr. Ramon Carrizo and Fr. Roy Solano for all that they were able to accomplish for AUC International in America.

New National Presidents and Referents 2009

LEBANON

Mgr Michel AOUN: Président Amicale Du Clergé, Rue Du Patriarcat Arménien. Imm. Mansour Zakhour No. 59 – ANTELIAS, LIBANO - E-mail adclerge@cyberia.net.lb

GABON

Fr. Bruno ONDO MINTSA: Président de la Fraternité Sacerdotale du Gabon S/C Conférence Episcopale du Gabon B.P 2146 Libreville E-mail ondomib@yahoo.fr; mapstane@yahoo.fr

GERMANY

Pfr. Peter LEICK: Nationalleiter der Unio, Kunohof 25, D – 54439 SAARBURG, DEUTSCHLAND - Email: kath-kirche-saarburg@t-online.de

MADAGASCAR

Fr. Pierre Bruno EFADAHY: Président National UAC, Mission Catholique Eveché Saint Josphe B.P. 698 501 TOAMASINA

HUNGARY

Msgr. János SZEKELY: Auxiliary Bishop of Esztergom-Budapest; National President UAC

2500 ESZTERGOM, SZENT ISTVAN - UNGHERIA E-mail foiskola@eszfh.hu

SRILANKA

Fr. Alex DASSAYANAKE: National Referent AUC, Priests' Cottage, St. Joseph's Home for the Elders, Lansigama, KATUNERIYA, SRI LANKA - Email: alexidassa@yahoo.com alexidassa@sltnet.lk

The International AUC Direction, in the name of all the adherents, extends a heartfelt thank you for the generous and competent work done by the outgoing Presidents of Lebanon Msgr Youssef Soueif who became the Maronite Archbishop of Cipro, Fr. Florent Mbumba Rrwasa of Gabon, Msgr. Martin Ehling of Germany, Fr. Marc Ravelonantoandro of Madagascar, Fr. Ferenc Beran of Hungary and WISHES all the best to the new national Presidents and Referents in their work.

AUC “ZONE” MEETINGS

General plan for each meeting

General Objective:

To strengthen the life and service of AUC on the diocesan and National levels in our zone.

Specific objectives:

1. To know and valorize the AUC experience of the dioceses and Nations represented.
2. Deepening of the life, organization and services of AUC in the dioceses.
3. Strengthen our personal engagement in AUC and prepare ourselves to collaborate in the formation of diocesan Directors and others who help with AUC in our Nations.
4. To elaborate and assume a special plan to promote and animate AUC in our dioceses and throughout our zone, towards the occasion of the 150th anniversary of AUC.
5. To assume responsibilities of service to the clergy of our dioceses and of our Nation.

Contents and activities:

1. Introduction.
2. Values and necessities of the clergy and of AUC in our Nations.
3. Our diocesan spirituality.
4. The diocesan Union: life, organization and services.
5. The formation and organization of those who serve AUC.
6. Services of AUC for the clergy in our dioceses and in our Nations.
7. Ways and resources to promote and animate AUC in our dioceses and in our zone.
8. Conclusions and common responsibilities AUC for our zone.

Addressed to:

National AUC Servants, AUC Formators, some diocesan Directors AUC.

Dates: The International Councilors propose these dates:

- * For French speaking Africa 30 August -2 September 2010; and English speaking Africa 8 -12 November 2010; for Africa lusofone, 7-12 February 2011.
- * For the Bolivian Countries - Carribeans (Bogota, 13-15 April 2010; for the South Cone 29 June - 2 July 2010; For Central America 25-28 July 2010.)
- * For South Asia 26-30 April 2010; for South-East Asia 23-27 August 2010; For Middle East, 27-30 September 2010.

Place: that it be central for those who come from other countries.

Those in Charge of the Meeting:

- The International Councilor of the Continent, who can seek the collaboration of some local AUC Animators.
- The International Direction AUC is called to be present and to collaborate in every zone meeting.

Financing:

1. Contributions of the participants.
3. Other sources of financing to be sought for each Meeting.

AUC IN THE NATIONS

ANIMATION IN MADAGASCAR

by Joseph de Metz-Noblat

Father Joseph de Metz-Noblat, first international Councilor, taking advantage of the national AUC Assembly in Madagascar, made a visit to this nation. Thirty priests were reunited from 8-13 September 2009 in Mahajanga, under the guidance of Fr. Bruno Efadahy, national president elected during the Assembly of 2008, and with the collaboration of Fr. Jean-Louis de Kergommeaux, a fidei donum priest in this city on the Northwest coast of the Great Island. Some of them did not hesitate to travel the two days by taxi, after the local GMG that were organized in Tuléar in the southern part of the country. Honored by the presence of two Bishops, Msgr. Roger-Victor of Mahajanga and Msgr. Georges of Port Bergé, who shared about the relationship

between AUC and the diocese and the work for the well-being of the diocesan clergy. Starting from a folder of Material for the Meetings of the Clergy (MMC), they began with the consideration of their presbiteral ministry at the service of the People of God. Then, before confronting the main theme, Father Joseph, taking from the Decree of the Council Presbyterorum Ordinis, reminded about what the Church expects from her presbyters. The beginning of the Year for Priests then, was the occasion to read the letter of Pope Benedict XVI to priests and to present the figure of the Holy Curate of Ars, patron of all priests throughout the world. The two Bishops who participated at the meeting were able, each in their own way, to express their preoccupation

for the presbiteral fraternity and the holiness of the shepherds. Among the priests who attended the meeting, there were some who did not know about AUC. New groups should

be able, therefore, to begin, above all thanks to the work of «silent publicity» of Father Bruno. Hence there is no doubt that this national Assembly will bear many fruits in the Spirit.

ANIMATION IN AMERICA

Sharing in various ways

by Julio Botia

Of the AUC activities done recently, we want to share with you various types of service that were very useful.

1. Meeting on our spirituality of diocesan clergy, like that which was shared in Mexico (Saltillo, 13-15 July 2009) and in Peru, for two days. Priests interested in the theme participated. With a completely dynamic participation, we reflected on the principle elements of our own Christian spirituality as ecclesial, priestly and diocesan. Especially, we meditated profoundly on ways and means for:

- Following with evangelical generosity Christ the Shepherd, Head and Spouse.
- To live the sacramental fraternity in the diocesan presbyterate.
- To sanctify ourselves for the well being of our own pastoral ministry.

We also analyzed the Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC) and we valued the services that this offers to our presbyters in order to live the spirituality of the diocesan clergy.

In a special climate of fraternity, we prayed the liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist. We worked in groups and in assembly in order to elaborate the applications in our life and in our service to the clergy in our dioceses. Lastly, we assumed some general duties, that favor the exchange of experiences and brotherly help among the participants.

This way, in every meeting we obtain:

- An understanding of the fundamental elements of our spirituality of the diocesan clergy and the contributions that AUC offers us for this.
- A profound experience of priestly fraternity that renews us spiritually.
- Assumption of personal engagements and also towards the service of our brethren in the diocesan presbyterate.

2. The Seminar on the Pastoral of the Clergy, like that in Venezuela (Barquisimeto, 30 August 14 September 2009) and those held in various nations in these years. Participants with a lot of interest were: Bishops, Vicar Generals and of the pastoral, diocesan Delegates and members of the diocesan Commissions for clergy, AUC animators, and others. Generally, they are organized upon the request of the Episcopal Conferences and with their accompaniment.

It is an experience which the participants leave recognizing the benefits for their personal renewal, the understanding of the steps and means for the Pastoral of Clergy and in the preparation of their own project of service towards the clergy. With a seminar of four entire days, they begin well rooted the program of study, experience and service that they will continue in their own personal formation during the year, upon the termination they will meet again to share and deepen the journey.

ANIMATION IN SRI LANKA AND INDE

4 - 5 November 2009 National Assembly AUC India

From October 26-30, 2009, the international President made an animation visit to **Sri Lanka**. He was welcomed and had a fraternal and generous support from the Archbishop of Colombo, a long conversation with the President of the Episcopal Commission for Clergy and another with the Bishop of Kurunegade. Also, there was a very important meeting with the Formators of the national Seminary of Kandy and an encounter with the major seminarians. Through the collaboration of Fr. Alex Dassanayake and Fr. Raymond there will soon be a Meeting to strengthen the promotion and animation of AUC in the dioceses. AUC in Sri Lanka is reviving and we hope that it produces many fruits in favor of the clergy.

In Bangalore, **India**, the national AUC

Assembly was held from November 4-5, 2009. Delegates from 23 dioceses participated as well as two Bishops, the national Servers and the international President AUC.

Many reflections, experiences, prayers and services were shared in a climate of great fraternity and joy.

The reflections were centered upon AUC with the emphasis on the actual situation of the clergy in India.

This work brought to the election of national Servers and to make some important engagements for the promotion and animation of AUC in the dioceses and on the national level. The visits that will be made to the dioceses and the regional encounters with the diocesan Directors AUC will offer a good perspective of the results. With this national assembly, AUC in India made a big step in its life, service and organization. Praise be to God!

4 - 5 november 2009

*National Assembly
AUC Inde*



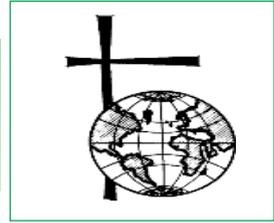
VISIT TO THE DIRECTION IN SPAIN

The international Secretary Msgr. Albino Sanna, with the mandate of the international Councilor for Europe Fr. Joseph de Metz-Noblat, visited the AUC Direction in Spain. He met with the national President Fr. Rafael Guinart and some members of the Direction, of the

Group in Valencia and the Responsible Director Cresol, Fr. Jesus Belda.

The meeting was very cordial and strengthened the bonds of friendship and reciprocal collaboration between Spain and the international Headquarters of AUC.

Testimonies



1. THE AUC IN THE DIOCESE OF ROSARIO - ARGENTINA **A great gift of God for us**

The AUC signifies for me a stimulus towards sanctity, communion in the sacrament of Orders, the greatness of exercising the ministry and in the unconditional service towards my brother priests. I maintain that this association is a necessity for the clergy. For this reason besides the permanent prayer for AUC, I engage my life and every effort so that we may grow in quantity and quality, for the glory of God and the good of the Holy Church.

I will share with you now about AUC in the diocese of Rosario, Argentina. It is flourishing slowly but steadily. In just a short time, it doubled in number, we were 8 and now we are 16. We gather once a month. Usually we begin with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mid-Morning prayer. Then we share some theme of spirituality, of pastoral or of permanent formation. We distribute among ourselves our brother priests who have some health problems, or some sort of difficulty, and we go to visit them or help them economically. We keep a common fund for this. We try to spread this spirit among the priests, in the encounters and in various groups. This witness is what we need. It was through a member of AUC that we began to recognize the importance of experiencing priestly fraternity. The idea of holding periodically meetings in



AUC Group Diocese of Rosario - Argentina with the National President Ramon Carrizo (3rd from the left)

which we celebrate the Mass together, and spend the day together sharing the spirituality and the joy of being together. A very similar occasion was organized by AUC in the Archdiocese of Rosario. It was a day of fraternity, recreation, open to all priests. The proposal is to continue with this activity, which is a great way to cultivate reciprocal knowledge and friendship. The priests who belong to our group are all in accord of the great benefit they have received in becoming part of AUC. We also have bonds with the laity and cloistered religious, who are also interested in AUC. They intercede for us and some collaborate economically so that we are able to assist the priests in necessity. We are preparing for the meeting of Cono Sur, which we hope to have during the first week of July of next year, God willing.

The celebration of the Year for Priests is a great opportunity to intensify the fulfillment of the objectives of AUC. To our Mother in Heaven we recommend

the progress of this fraternal life of priests in our Church.

*Fr. Ramon Carrizo
President of AUC Argentina*

2. “PAS-VERS-PLUS-ET-MIEUX” - TOGO

With great joy and humility I will share in the name of AUC in Togo, still known as “Pas-vers-plus-et-mieux” (*Steps towards more and better*) AUC - Togo. This is for us, the first occasion to receive the well wishing attention of our father Bishops and of the whole diocesan clergy of Togo towards AUC. In this regards, allow me to say thank you to the Bishop in charge of the Clergy, Msgr Benoît Alowonou, without forgetting as well the national Secretary of the Fraternity of diocesan priests of Togo (F.P.D.T.), the dear Father Pierre Chanel Affognon.

After the marvelous meeting of AUC in Rome in November 2007, we can assure that the AUC of Togo is proud to be able to drink at the pure source of AUC, looking at all of the necessary and useful information for the life of a diocesan priest in today’s world.

The situation of AUC in Togo can be said in one word: sensitization.

All of the AUC documents (Bulletin Notitiae, the Statutes, the document entitled “Brothers and Servers” and other documents) are greatly appreciated by the priests in Togo.

As for the services offered to our brethren, our monthly Bulletin “Pas-vers-plus-et-Mieux-AUC-Togo” can be shared with joy.

We await with patience and fervor the upcoming visit of Msgr. Julio Botia Aponte, planned for January 2011, with the grace of God. This visit, we hope, will give AUC in Togo its strength and objectives.

To the brothers of the whole world we can say that the Year for Priests is a strong message that the Divine Providence invites us to welcome and to live in profundity. May the prayer of the Holy Curate of Ars Jean-Marie Vianney accompany us for the sanctification of all.

Fr. Jean Claude Kombede



AUC Group in Togo with the national Referent Fr. Jean Claude Kombede (3rd from the left at the bottom)

3. ACTIVITIES OF AUC IN LEBANON

Msgr Mounir KHAIRALLAH, former national president, came by the international headquarters towards the end of October and gave us the latest news of AUC in Lebanon.

Especially he referred the elections, at the beginning of 2009, of the new national president, Msgr. Michel AOUN, Episcopal Vicar of the diocese of Beirut, in the place of Msgr. Youssef Soueif who became the Maronite Archbishop of Cipro. Msgr. Michel began immediately his mission continuing to reunite AUC members from all of the dioceses of Lebanon and

of the patriarchal territory of Antioch. He then prepared with his national direction a program for the Year for Priests announced by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI last June.

They are also preparing another schedule for the jubilee year of Saint Marone, Father of the Maronite Church, that will be soon announced by the Patriarch Cardinal Sfeir for the occasion of the 1600 years from his death (410-2010).

We count on your prayers so that we may live our Christian mission at the service of mankind in our middle east society.

4. ACTIVITIES OF AUC IN HUNGARY



Msgr. János Székely, Auxiliary Bishop of Esztergom-Budapest, is the new national President of AUC in Hungary. We greet and congratulate

Msgr. János wishing him all the best in the continuation and strengthening of

the animation work done by his predecessor Msgr. Ferenc Berán. While we also thank him, together with AUC in Hungary and AUC of the whole world, for his generous, competent and efficacious service that he shared during the many years as national President.

Msgr. János sent us a message on the situation of AUC in Hungary which we share here:

We encourage the work of animation in Hungary and we are certain that there will be growth in the participation of the Ordained Ministers.

“In this Year for Priests, we want to pray, with perseverance and much love with the Priests and for Priests”.

Cardinal Cláudio Hummes



1. A LETTER FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI

Comment by Joseph de Metz-Noblat, 1° Councilor

On June 18, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI addressed a letter to all priests of the whole world. Have you already received it? Have you read it? It would be interesting, halfway through this year for priests, to return to this document in order to understand better what the Holy Father wanted to communicate and to interiorize it. You know without a doubt that the Holy Father was very inspired by the figure of Saint John Mary Vianney, the curate of the small French village of Ars, near Leon. He was also declared «patron of all **priests of the world**», and therefore also our model, our protector and our intercessor.

The curate of Ars is a model in his way of considering the priestly ministry. He said: *«the Priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus»*. Before evoking the duties to accomplish, one must enter into the radicality of the priesthood, with simple words yet rich in their significance: *«Without the Sacrament of Holy Orders, we would not have the Lord. [...] After God, the priest is everything»*. The Pope notes that there is some excessiveness in the formula that he used, but that, coming forth from the priestly heart of the holy curate, it reveals the great consideration that he had of

the priesthood.

How do we consider this ministry that has been entrusted to us? Do we truly esteem it? It is true, that we cannot measure all that this consecration signifies, in which we entered on the day of our ordination. *«The priest will not understand fully himself until in heaven. If he would understand fully on earth, he would die, not of fear but of love»*. I find, myself, that this reflection matches that of the Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar: *«A priest is a man who has renounced to understand himself»*. Because through us it is God who acts: *«Everything in God's sight, everything with God, everything to please God... How beautiful it is!»*

The curate of Ars is also a model in his way of living the priesthood. He insists, with his whole life, on a ministry of mercy that is entrusted to the priest, witness of the divine Mercy incarnated in Jesus Christ. We know how much time he passed in the confessional, calling sinners to conversion. But he imposed on himself the rigor: *«I will tell you my recipe: I give sinners a small penance and the rest I do in their place»*. The Pope insists, in his letter, on the actual way that St. John Mary Vianney lived the

three evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience: «*My secret is simple: give everything away; hold nothing back*».

Even in the struggles against the devil (that he nicknames «il grappino»), it is in the intimacy with Christ that he receives strength to live these counsels, intimacy that is rooted in prayer and in the sacrament of the Eucharist. The Pope adds, then, the taste of the Word of God, inviting us to make it our nourishment. For us priests, how is our life and our ministry imbued truly of mercy? How are they imbued with the charity of Christ? Charity that urged the curate of Ars to occupy himself of the poor, especially in the foundation of an institute for young

orphans.

The curate of Ars is an example of ecclesial life. It is for this reason that Pope Benedict XVI invites us, in his letter, to be men of communion, both in our collaboration with the bishops, priests and other ordained ministers, and in the promotion of the dignity of the laity and recognizing their share and dignity. At what point are we?

«Dear priests, Christ is counting on you. In the footsteps of the Curate of Ars, let yourselves be enthralled by Him. In this way you too will be, for the world in our time, heralds of hope, reconciliation and peace!»

With the generous favor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

2. INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF PRIESTS

9 – 11 June 2010

At the conclusion of the Year for Priests all priests of the whole world are invited to participate at the International Meeting of priests that will be held in Rome from June 9th-11th, 2010, together with the Holy Father Benedict XVI.

The meeting, promoted by the Congregation of Clergy and entrusted for the organization technical-logistic to the “Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi”, is in continuity with the previous International Meetings of Clergy that, between 1996 and 2004, were held in Fatima (Portugal), Yamoussoukro (Ivory Coast), Guadalupe (Mexico), Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem (Holy Land), Rome (for the occasion of the Great Jubilee 2000) and lastly in Malta.

AUC international exhorts all of its members and sympathizers to organize themselves in order to be present at this important Meeting as it will offer an occasion of fraternity, in friendship with all the priests of the world, of sharing experiences, of widening horizons of dialogue and knowledge, but above all it will be strong and incisive as an occasion to pray together and witness the common engagement of our life consecrated to Christ the Priest.

To enroll at the Meeting consult the site of the organizing secretary of the “Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi” in Piazza Pio XII n. 9 Roma (Tel. #39.06.69896.393 / Fax #39.06.6988.5673 / E-mail: a.sacerdotalis@orpnnet.org).

3. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE APOSTOLIC UNION OF CLERGY (AUC)

8 June 2010

by Julio Botia

*Surely some of you will come to Rome, in order to participate at the international Meeting of Priests, 9-12 June 2010, for the conclusion of the Year for Priests. On this occasion, AUC wants to offer a space of fraternal meeting among the Bishops, Priests and Deacons, Members and Friends of AUC, who will be in Rome. We are organizing, with the consent of the Congregation of Clergy, an **International Day of the Apostolic Union of Clergy (AUC), on June 8, 2010.***

In the spirit of the Year for Priests, this day will be useful for:

- 1. Strengthening our International fraternity.*
- 2. Strengthening our motivation and engagement in promoting and animating AUC in our diocese and beyond.*
- 3. To gather information, suggestions and requests for AUC services.*

We will meet at the Pontifical Urban College (Via Urbano VIII, 16 – Rome), from 14:00 until 21:00. At the end, after the Eucharist, we will order some pizzas.

To enroll, send us your name – diocese – e-mail to unioapostolica@unioapostolicacleri.org.

Everyone is welcome!!



Diaconate today



THE DEACON: INSTRUMENT AND SIGN OF COMMUNION

Sometimes we take everything for granted when we speak of certain aspects of our life's experience, for example how "to make communion" or better yet "to be communion", immediately we say: ... putting Jesus Christ at the center is the guaranty of communion, and it is true, nothing to contest. But what should make us reflect is the modality, the experience of coming to live Jesus Christ in our life and therefore to be ourselves communion with Him and with the others.

After the last spiritual exercises of our diaconal community of Albano, this great necessity emerged, that I would say is vital for the community and for each one of us. We want to recreate communion among us, by sharing our experiences, those of our families, the difficulties that we encounter, and for this reason we decided to meet in small groups. This will allow us to rediscover that to live Jesus Christ passes first and foremost through the relationships among us, to reconstruct the relationships taken for granted often times, or worse yet, buried by our numerous "duties", our "doing too much" that suffocates the spark of spirituality and covers with a veil that Light that we say we see but in reality

we do not live.

The "no – communion" leads us to enlarge our problems, we feel persecuted, we cry on ourselves, we talk behind backs, we judge, sometimes maybe we say bad things, and we don't understand that the other is also we ourselves. To live in communion is not this, it is the exact contrary, Jesus teaches us to bless those who persecute us, to rejoice with those who are rejoicing, to cry with those who cry, to have the same sentiments one towards the others, to be humble. (cfr. Rm 12:14-16).

Married deacons have a step ahead in living communion, and exactly for this they should be "teachers" of communion. Why? Because first of all they live it in their family, which is a school of communion with their wife and children.

How can a deacon be a sign of communion for others if he does not live it first in his family? Communion needs a physical presence, a continuous relationship, and consequently mutual knowledge grows, isn't it like this? When we were engaged we continuously tried to see the fiancée; it wasn't enough to talk on the telephone, we wanted to see her... maybe we should

live still as engaged!

So the “true” communion springs forth from the relationship that each one of us has with the Lord Jesus and among us married deacons it is actuated in the continuous renewal of the promises that we exchanged on the day of our marriage: “ I take you as my wife and I promise to be faithful, in good times and in bad, in health and in sickness and to love and honor you all the days of my life until death do we part”; and as deacons, to renew every day the promises of our ordination, which I list here in the following points:

- To exercise the ministry of the diaconate with humility and charity assisting the presbyters, in the service of the Christian faithful.
- To protect in a pure conscience the

mystery of faith, in order to announce it with words and with actions, according to the Gospel and the tradition of the Church.

- To protect and aliment in our way of life the spirit of oration and to faithfully fulfill the duty of the Liturgy of the Hours, according to our condition, together with the people of God for the Church and the whole world.

- We who on the altar are placed in contact with the body and blood of Christ, we want our whole lives to be conformed to Him.

- We promised the Bishop our filial respect and obedience.

Let us strive to live in this dimension and communion will grow.

*Elmerindo Pietrosanti
deacon*

S.O.S. !

Are you our friends?

In the Gospel, Jesus said to his disciples: «I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.» (Lk 16: 9). Yet again we solicit your financial participation in the life of AUC international. For this reason I permit myself to call to your attention this phrase of the Gospel in order to stimulate your generosity. I would like to add the words of the Apostle: «Now as you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also.» (2 Cor 8:7). And that which we read in the Gospel of Luke: «I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.» (Lk 11:8) So, you are truly our friends paying your membership fee, without which we cannot undertake anything. Once again thank you to those who already did so!

Fr. Joseph de Metz-Noblat

Direct line



The International Direction AUC was very happy with all of the visits or for the hospitality that was offered to Bishops and presbyters of AUC in these last few months of June-October 2009. I thank everyone for the greetings and all those who wrote manifesting their presence and prayer whether by letter, e-mail or telephone. Also thank you for all who showed their appreciation for our Bulletin “Notitiae” and asked for copies and for all who follow our site of the international AUC: www.unioapostolicacleri.org

Thank you!

ENRICH AND SPREAD OUR BULLETIN

We request the presidents and contact persons and also the diocesan directors to send us official reports of their meetings, assemblies or other important activities with photos.

We invite and exhort the readers and all the adherents of AUC to diffuse our Bulletin “Notitiae Unionis Apostolicae Cleri” and in particular to make it interesting to Bishop and priests and deacons to contribute to the expenditure to the modality which you will find in this page. The diffusion can happen in many ways be it taking some of the text published in the bulletin and sending it for publication in major newspapers and other local publications, quoting of course the original sources.

Send us also your email addresses into which we can be able to send the bulletin AUC and to those of other brothers. Like this together we can make a great contribution and service to all.

Help us

WE INVITE TO SEND YOUR VOLUNTARY OFFERINGS

We will appreciate your “voluntary offering” for the collaboration to expenses of the AUC Bulletin

Your offerings could be handed over to the National Presidents or send it to us directly through a bank draft with the following indications.

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Help us

**AUC Members
of Archdiocese
Yangon Myanmar
in the meeting
of 24.09.2009
with Archbishop
Carles Bo (5*
from the left
standing) and the
National Referent
Fr. John Saw Yaw
Han (6* from the
left standing)**



**XXI
National
Meeting
AUC
of Italy**

**CampoSampiero
Padua
15 - 18 June
2009**

**CONFEDERATIO INTERNATIONALIS
UNIO APOSTOLICA CLERI
Via Alberico II, 4 - I - 00193 ROMA
tel.: 0039.06.6880.6737 fax 06.6880.3183
unioapostolica@unioapostolicacleri.org
unioapostolica@gmail.com
www.unioapostolicacleri.org**

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