

NOTITIAE

UNIONIS APOSTOLICAE CLERI



January - April 2010

N° 119



THE PRIESTLY YEAR

LET US RECEIVE THE GOOD SEED



From the Pastoral Seminar of the clergy of Caracas-Venezuela



Meeting of priestly of Guatemala, November 2009



Bishop and Trainers visit Ecuador 2009

NOTITIAE

Unionis Apostolicae Cleri

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On front cover: photo of Rusiecki Tomasz - Poland

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*Mons. Julio Botia for Spanish; Mons. Albino Sanna for Italian; P.
Joseph de Metz Noblat for French; Fr. Biju Mathew Kalezhath for
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Editorial



MANY AND BETTER FRUITS

In the dioceses, thank God, we are making good initiatives during this year of priesthood. It is moving the hearts and lives of a good number of priests. We may know it in our Presbyterate. To other brothers, this time of grace fail to touch the heart; however, we participate or are invited to the same activity: spiritual exercises, retreats, monthly meetings, meetings of the deaneries, spiritual encounter of priests and other activities. In reality, the result depends not so much on external activities. Much depends on the grace of God and the response of our heart.

This year of priesthood is sowing in us good seeds that we must cultivate and help to grow in the coming years. Its fruit will continue depending on how much we fall on our knees before God; and if we open our hearts and love him all the more. On this basis we will improve our personal prayer and shall nourish ourselves with his life and his love. Furthermore, with Him, like Him and for Him, we shall succeed in renewing our

lives, our fraternal fellowship and our pastoral ministry; we shall obtain many and better fruits.

To obtain the above results let us join with two or three friendly priests with whom we shall help ourselves to live our own spirituality and improve the pace in this journey of personal and communitarian holiness. We shall grow in our fraternal communion with our Bishop and with all in the diocesan presbyterium. Let us animate our brothers of the Community to pray for priests and take other initiatives that help us to strengthen our priestly commitment. We shall hope with satisfaction that this year of priests is the best, or one of the best in our lives.

This is the stage in which, in the spirit of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC), many are engaged in renewing their lives and ministry. For this, we shall use the directions for our meetings as clergy, published in many nations under the title “Discepoli Pastori.” For the good of all, let us

share it in our meetings with other brothers.

To support our steps on this journey, this Bulletin of AUC in this issue offers a wonderful reflection on the exercise of our ministry as a place and means of sanctification and presents other teachings and testimonies that bring us light and animation to live

intensely. Besides, we shall present several other proposals, among which we shall emphasize our AUC International meeting in Rome on 8th June 2010.

To get many more and better fruits, we shall promote communion and fraternal help among the diocesan priests, "The family of Pastors."

Julio A. Botia

AUC APPOINTMENTS

FOR FRANCE

Rev. Père **Joseph de Metz-Noblat**, National Chairman and first International Councilor of AUC

27 Rue Drouin, F-54000 NANCY FRANCE

T. 0033 383329930, Fax 0033 383311340

E-mail joseph.de-metz-Noblat @ wanadoo.fr

Reconfirmed on December 1, 2009.

NEW CONTACT PERSONS

FOR EL SALVADOR

Rev. Father Norberto Renderos Marroquin, Referent National UAC
Calle I, 4 Poligono C # 42, Colonia Jardines de Cuscatlan, Merliot, La Libertad EL SALVADOR

omp@elsalvadormisionero.org - T. 2278-3936

Appointed November 18, 2009.

FOR GUATEMALA

Rev. Father Leonardo Najera, contact Nacional UAC, Mataquesuintla Jalapa GUATEMALA

T. 79242058 mob. 51924638 - p-santiagoapostol@hotmail.com

Appointed on November 27, 2009.

The international Direction of AUC, also on behalf of all its members, expresses its gratitude for the noble and competent work done by all the Presidents and Councilors.

I wish a good job to the National President in France, who is reconfirmed and to the new national Councilors of El Salvador and Guatemala.

Let us reflect



THE EXERCISE OF THE *TRIA MUNERA* (THREE OFFICES) AS LOCATION AND MEANS OF PRIESTLY SANCTIFICATION

Let us reflect about the *Blue* of Priests

Marcello Semeraro

Although it was only a coincidence of time, it is not without significance that Benedict XVI has chosen to break the news of a year of priest to be celebrated throughout the Catholic Church from 19 June 2009 to June 19, 2010, in the context of a speech given on 16 March 2009 at the plenary session of the Congregation for the Clergy, which was convened to reflect on the theme: “The missionary identity of the presbyterate in the Church, as an intrinsic dimension of the exercise of the *tria munera*. 1

The argument, as it is easy to recognize, touches the focal points in ecclesiology and the Catholic doctrine on the priesthood and this for several reasons. The fact, above all, that the mission belongs to the very nature of the Church, as already appears in the conciliar decree *Ad Gentes*, where we read, “the Church during its pilgrimage on earth is by its very nature missionary” (no. 2). The mission, therefore, belongs not primarily to the “actions” of the Church, but to her essential nature, or, to put it another way, not what the Church does, but what the Church is (2). Even the sacrament of orders belongs to the very structure of the Church. If, on the one hand, it is constitutive of the sacred ministry of *being-for* the Church, in another way it is true that the Church cannot do without that same ministry and without it, it would not be what Jesus wanted it to be(3).

Benedict XVI, in any event, while addressing the ‘session’ of the Congregation for the Clergy had at heart to remind that not only the Church but also the priestly ministry as it is structurally linked to it, is and must be missionary. It is a mission that takes place in “the Church”, says the Pope, so

that the ecclesial, communal, hierarchical and doctrinal “dimensions of the mission of the presbyterium is “absolutely essential and indispensable in any true mission and besides, it guarantees its spiritual efficacy.”

Having said this with immediate reference to the theme of ‘session,’ Benedict XVI extended the discussion by adding a further reminder of the doctrine, this time, regarding the ontological distinction not only in grade, (*non tanto gradu*), existing between the ministerial priesthood and the common baptismal priesthood(4) as taught by *Lumen Gentium* (n.10). Hence there is the need to identify the “principle of mission,” specific for the ministerial priesthood and this is not other than the apostolic mandate of Mk 16: 15: “Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

A fourth point, the Pope affirmed “the missionary dimension of the priest comes from his sacramental configuration to Christ the Head.” It is like saying that the consecration and mission are inextricably joined to the extent that it has indubitable consequences on the spiritual life of every priest, and that is what Benedict XVI intends directly when he explains that the configuration with Christ must derive a spirituality, or, more specifically, a “participation in a “new life” that is spiritually intense which adheres to a “new style of life, “inaugurated by the Lord Jesus,” and is appropriated in an apostolic form of life (*apostolica vivendi forma*).5

In the same perspective of participation in the life of Christ the exercise of the *tria munera* should be understood, namely the ministry of the Word,(preach and teach, *docere*), sanctification (*sanctificare*) and the guidance of the community (*regere*). More than as an “office” and a *potestas*, the Pope specifies, such exercise must be considered as a gift that which is demanded of every priest which is an “urge toward moral perfection.” This last statement immediately preceded the announcement of the *priestly year* and it offers us



an important logical key to enter into the profound intention of Benedict XVI.

The Pope, in fact, through this priestly year does not seem to be launching a series of initiatives that pace with more or less tightly organized or more or less appropriate assemblies of the priests in conventions, conferences and similar events. A year of priests simply translated into ‘initiatives’ cannot be (without claiming to interpret it) in line with the real intention of the Pope. Neither do I believe that, Benedict XVI has immediately in his heart a deepening systematic theology of ordained ministry. The purpose is insisted upon also in the successive interventions in the months of June-August 2009 referring to the figure of St. John Vianney and the intention to proclaim the Holy Curé of Ars, patron of all priests which also makes all priests understand that by an year of priests the pope does not intend an immediate doctrinal deepening, but rather an increase of “urge in the priests towards spiritual perfection.”

This, in fact, Benedict XVI has declared explicitly during the General Audience of Wednesday, August 5, 2009, explaining to the faithful the figure of St. John Vianney, and the Pope willingly admitted that the pastoral methods of St. John Maria Vianney might seem little suited to current social and cultural conditions. But he was explaining, in fact, that it would be really easy for a priest to imitate him today, in a world so changed. Immediately he added, however, that even if the times are changing and many gifts are unique, because of the typical person, “but there is a way of life and a yearning from the bottom which we are all called to cultivate.”⁶ Turn to the theme of “striving for spiritual perfection.”

* *Bishop of Albano (Italy)*

NB. The full text of of reflection by Bishop Marcello Semeraro is to be found in the AUC International website www.unioapostolicacleri.org

Notes

¹ Cf text: documents http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2009/march/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20090313_plenaria-ccdds_it.html.

² See G. COLZANI, *Theology of mission*, Messaggero, Padova 1996, S. Dianich, *Church on mission. Ecclesiology for a dynamic*, Pauline, Cinisello Balsamo (Mi) 1985, J. Esquerda Bifet, *Teologia de la Evagelizacion. Curso de Misionologia*, BAC, Madrid 1995, S. Bouquet, *The Church is essentially missionary*, Editrice PUG, Rome

1999 (Analecta Gregoriana, 276); PRED, *Theology of Mission*, in AA.VV. "Mysterium Salutis, VII Queriniana, Brescia 1972, 605-635.

³ See J. Ratzinger, *Elements of fundamental theology. Essays on faith and ministry*, Morcelliana, Brescia 1986, 147-219 (various essays on the ordained ministry); ID., *The Ministry and Life of Priests*, the Congregation for the Clergy, "Priesthood. A greater love. " International Symposium on the occasion of the XXX Anniversary of the promulgation of the conciliar decree "*Presbyterorum Ordinis*," San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo (Mi) 1996, 89-104.

⁴ A useful commentary is given by A. VANHOYE, *The priesthood of Christ and our priesthood* in CM MARTINI - A. VANHOYE, "Bible and calling", Morcelliana, Brescia 1982, 270-299.

⁵ The *Apostolic form of living* is a technical term often used to refer primarily to the model in Acts 2, 42, 4, 32. Throughout the centuries, referring to this archetype that inspired others to start a renovation and a "return to origins" has taken different forms: sometimes touches the life of the Church as such, sometimes the choice of some members in the Church. For Benedict XVI it is not primarily a question of some external form, but an inner attitude. He continued, indeed: "This is the participation in a" new life" spiritually understood, that "new way of life "which was opened by the Lord Jesus and has been endorsed by the Apostles."

⁶ In http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2009/documents/hf_-ben-xvi_aud_20090805_it.html



USEFUL AUC PUBLICATIONS

The International Direction of AUC has printed its statutes that was updated in AUC International Assembly 2007 and also published in several languages the book "Brothers and Servants." Many nations have asked and received these two publications. We also urge other nations to claim and make use of them in AUC groups.



1. SOWING FRATERNITY AND SERVICE

Julio Botía

In a new journey of animation program of AUC, the International President and brothers have lived many interesting experiences, with special fruits.

In El Salvador, from 18 to 22 November 2009, there were some programmes with the special collaboration of P. Marroquín and OMP. The main activities were:

1. A program on radio and TV to motivate families to support the priests
2. A meeting of the missionary families, on 21 November
3. On 20 November there was a **meeting of 24 priests** (pastors and vicars with the vicar general) from all the dioceses. We shared thoughts, prayers and experiences, our spirituality as diocesan clergy, and discussed the contributions of the Apostolic Union of Clergy and ways and means to strengthen the ministry of the clergy in our Dioceses. The priests were very interested in the topics and other shared items. Each diocesan delegation wrote and shared in the plenary on the steps that have been proposed to strengthen the pastoral care of the clergy in their dioceses.

We thank the animation team for these steps that have been made, which will also prepare other very important service agreed for the coming months.

In Guatemala, 22 to 26 November 2009:

A very important and beautiful experience was the **spiritual retreat with 50 bishops**, from the six nations in Central America. The topic was: the bishops as fathers, brothers and friends, especially among the diocesan clergy. It emphasized the teaching of Jesus concerning washing our feet and washing the feet of the brothers (Jn 13) and on living and promoting communion and fraternal assistance, taking advantage of the services of clergy and the pastoral care of the AUC. So, we found a space to talk personally with some of them and implement some services for the clergy. We have all been very blessed in this retreat. The Bishops were very thankful for the service and have expressed great interest in strengthening the Diocesan Pastoral Care of the Clergy, and in promoting the AUC in their dioceses.

On 25 November 2009, we had a **meeting with the delegates of the priests** of the Diocese of Guatemala from Izabal, Jalapa, Verapaz, Los Altos - Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, Zacapa, Santa Rosa. We shared with others the services of pastoral care that everyone is giving and we reflected on the organization of this diocesan pastoral service and how to promote and use the services of the Apostolic Union of Clergy.

Everyone is excited about taking new

steps that were evaluated as serving the clergy.

We congratulate them and renew them our willingness to continue to join them in this important service to the clergy.

In Costa Rica, November 27, 2009, we made an important step in the establishment of an animation team of AUC with Fr Víctor Jiménez (Toto), Msgr. Eliécer Figueroa and P. Jorge Araya (Cartago). We had a meeting with Fr Jiménez and Bp Eliécer, in which we have embarked on major initiatives in support of brother priests. May the Good Shepherd accompany the services of this team and the other brothers of the AUC in the various dioceses!

In Venezuela from 28 November to 7 December 2009, we had the second **seminar on the pastoral care of clergy**, with the participation of eleven dioceses. All worked out their own personal project of life and the draft of the pastoral care of clergy for their diocese. Many expressed interest in living and promoting the AUC in their dioceses. Moreover, under the coordination of the Director of the Department of the clergy, they decided some lines of action for the Pastoral Care of the clergy at the national level.

In the major seminary in El Hatillo, we have oriented all the students to AUC. May God bless this dear nation and grant projects to realize the good of Pastoral Care of Clergy developed in these seminaries of Barquisimeto and Caracas.

In Ecuador, 7 to 12 December 2009, there were a number of activities:

On 8 December there was a meeting with 18 seminarians with two priests in the

regional seminary of Ambato, where the participants showed great interest in AUC. In the evening, with Bishop Victoriano Naranjo, we visited Bishop Germán Pavón Puente, of Ambato, who received us very well and was interested in the spirit of AUC.

On 9 December in Quito there was a meeting with the **President of the Episcopal Commission of the clergy**, Bishop Nestor Herrera who was much interested in the program of training for animators of the clergy and the publication of the book “Disciple Pastors,” on behalf of the clergy of Ecuador. We thank you, Bishop Nestor and the Director of the Department of Clergy, P. Richard Garcia Loo, for your interest in the service of AUC. In relation to it he has sought the support of the Episcopal Commission.

We had two meetings on AUC in **Riobamba**, one in the seminary and the other in the House of Clergy, with the participation of several priests and 10 seminarians on December 11th 2009. All appreciated greatly the contribution of the AUC and made several important applications to fortify it. In the end, we shared about the usefulness of AUC for each of us and for the service to others in





the presbytery at the grassroots level. Everyone was very interested in promoting this little fraternity and to continue to receive materials on the pastoral care of clergy and

on AUC.

On 10 December we had a meeting AUC in Latacunga with Bishop Victoriano and his Vicar General, in which we shared reflections on AUC. In addition, we analyzed the steps for the promotion and animation of AUC at national level.

We offer our fraternal support to Archbishop Victoriano Naranjo and to all other brothers who are taking steps for living the Apostolic Union of Clergy and organizing it in their own dioceses.

In Peru, from 14 to 18 December 2009 there were a number of activities:

AUC meeting from 14 to 15 December, 2009.

With Bishop Juan de Dios Rojas, we had a meeting in a retreat house in Lima. It was attended by five priests, in an environment of brotherhood and with a lot of important applications for the personal life and service to the clergy. Moreover, it has consolidated the service of Bishop Juan de Dios Rojas in the national animation of AUC. Four participants committed themselves to promote their AUC group, which would make the corresponding animation for them.

Certainly with the steps given the team will succeed in strengthening the national team of animation of AUC and

contact the other priests to join AUC. The proposal of a web page for AUC - Peru will do very well for all the clergy of Peru in future and will bring good fruit.

A cordial greeting to Bishop Miguel Irizar C, Bishop of El Callao, who has always welcomed us with great fraternity and gave us Bishop Juan de Dios Rojas for the service (part time) of AUC. We thank also Bishop Santarsiero, Bishop of Huacho and his Vicar, Monsignor Alejandro, for their generous hospitality and for the important steps that are being taken for the service of the clergy and the organization of brotherhood.

In Colombia, December 21, 2009, a meeting with the National President of AUC, P. Ignacio T. Capador to Ubaté was held. We have shared three hours with him in which:

- We have made a review and completed the plan of the meeting of zonal level AUC for Easter 2010.
- We have verified some matters of local organization for the zonal meeting.
- We have discussed the importance of creating motivation for AUC in the dioceses of the country.

Thanks to P. Ignacio and the National Council for their generous collaboration in the preparation and realization of this important AUC zonal meeting. We extend our cordial greetings to Archbishop Sanchez, Bishop of Chiquinquirá, with whom we shared the ideal of priestly fraternity. Greetings again to the Rector of the Marian shrine and the Dominican Fathers, whom I visited.

Thanks to all the brothers who live and serve the AUC in the different nations of the world.

2. AUC ANIMATION IN MALTA

The International Secretary of AUC Monsignor Albino Sanna, after informing the International Counselor of AUC for Europe P. Joseph de Metz-Noblat, during his visit to the island of Malta on 2-5 January 2010, took contacts with the Episcopal Delegate for Clergy Monsignor Joseph Bonnici Mifsué to discuss with him the possibility to resume the life of AUC. In an atmosphere of great religiosity of the Maltese people and the generous and constant pastoral commitment of the priests, he was able to launch a new contact with the AUC and in particular has found the interest of the Archbishop of Malta Mgr Pawlu Cremona and many priests.

Monsignor Albino was able to meet many priests including a group of elderly priests at Birkinkara and a group of young priests in Rabat. Among these, the Rector of the seminary Fr Jimmy Bonnici and Don Nicholas Cachia, Spiritual Director of the Seminary had been in contact with the AUC in the past.

At the conclusion of several meetings, the following programmes were agreed upon for the future:

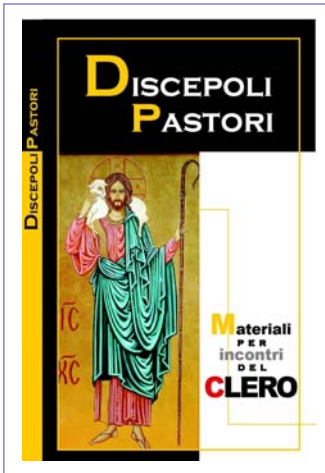
1. To maintain contact with Monsignor Joseph Bonnici Mifsué to whom the materials and addresses of AUC are to be sent for a concrete and fruitful contact with the international Center of AUC.
2. Monsignor Joseph Bonnici Mifsué will inform the Archbishop and the international Direction of AUC



concerning the developments in Malta.
3. The AUC is to make proposal to the free and spontaneous groups of priests, including the young, who wish to live in its spirit and keep open the group to those who wish to join without making it compulsory to make adhesion to AUC. Anyone who wants can join freely and will formalize the adhesion also with associative quota. Within this group, one can have an animator of AUC who will make contacts with the international office.

In Malta Monsignor Albino Sanna found that the reality of a faith is very strong and well participated by the faithful, also the clergy there are numerous and are well-trained, enthusiastic and generous, highly dedicated to the apostolate in their communities. It has remained well built up and we wish that the presence of the AUC can further help to consolidate the fraternity and cooperation among the diocesan priests in their spirituality and commitment to support each other for an even more powerful witness to the love of God and his people.

3. PASTORS AS DISCIPLES



In full agreement with the Year of Priests, we are offering guidelines for the meeting of the Clergy, published in many nations with the title “Discepoli Pastori” These are materials which will help us to take steps in this Year of priests for being a good shepherds, better brothers and effective ministers in our diocesan presbyterate. The benefits of these materials are to be shared with your brothers in the Presbyterate. Each guideline initiates a fraternal dialogue and better ways of communion and service in the context of our particular church. In all groups of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC), we shall use these guidelines to make a step in the renewal of our ministry and our lives.

GUIDES FOR OUR MEETINGS

A. WAYS AND RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

1. Called to grow in the ministry and in life.
2. A journey of renewal for our ministry and our life.
3. Our diocesan spirituality
4. We are Pastors for the people of God
5. Build us with our gifts.
6. All for all: the Pastoral of the Clergy
7. Sanctify us through the exercise of our ministry.

B. RENEW US IN OUR PASTORAL MINISTRY

Disciples and Servants of the Word

8. Disciples of the Word
9. Pastors, ministers of the Word.
10. A journey for our formation to the ministry of the Word.

Friends of God and ministers of the Liturgy

11. Friends of God and Spiritual animators
12. Pastors, ministers of Sacraments

13. A journey of formation for our ministry of the Liturgy.

United and ministers of charity.

14. Our christian solidarity

15. Pastors, ministers of charity

16. A journey of formation to the ministry of charity

Brothers and pastors in the community

17. Our spirituality of communion.

18. Pastors, ministers of communion

19. A journey of our formation to the ministry of communion

Sent to our diocese and to the entire world

20. Universality and the diocesan quality of our mission.

21. Pastors, ministers and animators of the missionary pastoral.

22. Our formation for the “missionary pastoral”.

C. RENEW OUR LIVES AS PASTORS

23. Our obedience

24. Our celibacy

25. Our poverty

26. Unity and harmony in our lives as Pastors

27. The Bishop: life and ministry

28. The diocesan priest: identity and mission.

29. The deacons: life and ministry

30. Communion between Pastors. The diocesan presbyterate.

31. The Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC) for us.

32. Organization and services for our integral wellbeing.

33. The laity: life and mission

D. TOWARDS THE PROJECT OF PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

34. The community project of life.

35. Ways and means for our **human** growth.

36. Ways and means for our **spiritual** growth.

37. Ways and means for our **intellectual** growth.

38. Ways and means for our **pastoral** growth.

39. Our personal project of life.

40. Mary, our mother, model and companion.

CONCLUSIÓN

APPENDIX:

1. Diocesan spirituality for the ordained ministers.

2. To be helped and to help: Apostolic Union of the Clergy.

4. ENCOUNTER OF THE APOSTOLIC UNION OF THE CLERGY (AUC)

Rome, 8 June 2010



Invited:

Priests, Bishops, Deacons, members of AUC or those who are interested in it.

We desire to meet

- ✓ In order to strengthen our international fraternity.
- ✓ To share important aspects of the life and services of AUC throughout the world.
- ✓ In order to agree on some common projects in favour of the clergy in our nation.

For these finalities, we will have:

- Initial animation, Prayer, Opening greetings, Presentation of the participants.
- Witnesses of the life and service of AUC.
- Presentation of some specific assistance given by AUC to the diocesan clergy.
- Group dialogue on the ways and means of strengthening the life and service of AUC in our Dioceses. Large group.
- Eucharist.
- Pizza and fraternal sharing.

Economical contribution: Free-will offering.

We will meet in the Pontifical **Urban College** (Via Urbano VIII, 16, Roma), 8 June 2010, from the hour 14: 00 until 21: 00.

To sign up, **send us immediately** your name – diocese, to unioapostolica@unioapostolicacleri.org.

WE WAIT TO SEE YOU!!! WELCOME!!!

EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE

Our bulletin can become a useful instrument for reflection and the growth of our readers and at the same time for information. This objective can be reached if everyone participates.

Therefore, we eagerly await signed articles, reports on the activities of the nations and dioceses, photographs.

It is possible to spread the Bulletin among our friends inviting them to visit also our website www.unioapostolicacleri.org where the latest Bulletin and other useful news about AUC International are found.

Thank you!

Testimonies



AUC ACTIVITIES IN POLAND

From November 16-17, 2009 the National AUC in Poland held their Assembly and the Pilgrimage of the Unionist Priests to Jasna Góra. The theme and objective of our encounter, our reflection and our prayer was: “We are testimonies of Charity – renewal of the life of the shepherds”. The inspiration for this theme came from the Year for Priests, from the pastoral program of the Episcopal Conference in Poland and from the theme proposed by the international AUC Council in Rome for this year. The Masses were celebrated in the marvelous chapel of the Black Madonna. The prayers and reflections were held in the Chapel of the Holy Rosary. Jasna Góra for AUC in Poland is a spiritual capital.

The first reflection “The joy to be a priest, consecrated for the salvation of the world”, was presented by professor Fr. Giorgio Bagrowicz from the University of Miko³aj Kopernik in Toruń. This joy comes from ones own priestly identity, which has its source in the priestly consecration.

With this identity the priest must live, remember and continuously deepen his knowledge.

Another reflection was presented by the Biblist, Fr. Giovanni Nowak, professor of Holy Scriptures in the Major Seminary in the Diocese of Kielce, on the passage: “Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us” (1 Jn 3:1) – the source of the discovery of the priestly identity, life and mission in the Church and in the world”. We were all full of wonder, listening to these words of the Love of God. This must be the objective of the meditation for every priest and the foundation of the understanding that the priest has been chosen by God, who is Love. The mission of the priest who is aware of this identity, inspires him to tend towards sanctity and forms him to be a creative priest and a witness of Christ the Priest.

We also listened to the conference of the Auxiliary Bishop of Katowice, Gerard Bernacki, entitled: “The pastoral ministry of the unionist priest as the way to sanctity”. There is no other way, for every priest to reach

sanctity, than that of the pastoral ministry.

The last conference was held by Fr. Jarosław Przeździecki, diocesan Director of AUC in Drohiczyn: “The contribution of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy, of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the renewal of the priestly life”. The Speaker, in a historical perspective, from the beginning of AUC until today, helped us to reflect on all that has served in developing the spiritual life, the proposals, the initiatives that the Church has offered with its long tradition.

We also reflected on how to

increase the number of AUC members and how to deepen the diocesan spirituality among priests.

In some Major Seminaries the diocesan directors hold meetings with the seminarians to spread the knowledge of AUC among them. In a few Seminaries there are already some AUC cenacles or groups.

At the end of our meeting we had Eucharistic Adoration led by the National Director of AUC in Poland, Fr. Tomasz Rusiecki. Then, in the Marvelous Chapel, we entrusted AUC in Poland to the protection of Mary Most Holy, the Black Madonna.

Fr. Tomasz Rusiecki



*National AUC Assembly in Poland: 16 – 17 November 2009
Theme: “We are testimonies of Charity – renewal of the life of the shepherds”.*

Seeds of life



1. THE PRIEST AND PASTORAL MINISTRY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Message of the Holy Father for the 44th World Communications Day

by *Méthode Gahungu*

Permanent formation of priests requires a constant engagement and openness to *modern means of communication*. The present day audiovisual and media techniques, such as the radio, television, newspapers and internet, are to be considered as valid means to transmit the evangelical message.

Already the Vatican Council II understood this necessity: it was not by chance that they published a decree about the means of social communication, "*Inter mirifica*". Pope John Paul II insisted on the importance of these means in today's world, and therefore also on the necessity of placing them at the service of evangelization (cfr. *Ecclesia in Africa*, nn. 125-126). He even calls them «The first Areopagus of the modern age is the *world of communications*, which is unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a "global village." » (*Redemptoris Missio*, 37). In the globalized world, they have become for many people, the first reference

point for formation and for information, and the inspiration for personal comportment (*Ibidem*, 37). The 44th World Day of Social Communications on 16 May 2010, has as its theme: "*The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word*" Pope Benedict XVI presents these means as a «great resource for all humanity», and «as a great opportunity for believers », an instrument for evangelizing in a new and efficacious manner. Digital instruments have become every day instruments especially in developed countries. People have eliminated all distances: they send messages through internet and cell phones, this permits them to reduce distances and to have a wide range of communication. Borders are widened, the ministry calls the priest to respond in the pastoral ministry to this phenomenon that introduces into new realities and makes us ever more sensitive to the universal and communitarian dimension of the

Church.

The priest, therefore, is invited to have a knowledge of these means, to use them, not only to respond to a need of renewal, but «exercising their proper role as leaders of communities which increasingly express themselves with the different “voices” provided by the digital marketplace».

The Pope indicates, therefore, that along with the traditional means of oral predication, direct communication through dialogue, books, radio and television messages, also the audiovisual instruments of the new generation must be used: pictures, video, animation, blog, web-sites. Through internet and cell-phone messages, we are apt to accomplish an extraordinary work of evangelization. Many ordained ministers already use “You tube”, they have vocational animation via internet, which helps today’s world to understand that God is present in today’s reality. The usage of *cyberspace* by ordained ministers, is the occasion to « show that God has his rightful place in every age... to say once more: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and

he with me” (Rev 3:20)».

The pastoral ministry in this world of communication does not regard only the faithful who are already in the Church. These instruments are to be used in the evangelization of those who have fallen away, of those who do not believe.

The Pope declares: «Just as the prophet Isaiah envisioned a house of prayer for all peoples (cf. Is 56:7), can we not see the web as also offering a space – like the “Court of the Gentiles” of the Temple of Jerusalem – for those who have not yet come to know God?».

We need to be seriously and well prepared in the art and methods of communication: we need to learn how to make ourselves understood with few words, and to transmit a strong message synthetically, respecting the convictions of others. We must learn pedagogical communication, the art of educating all people. For such an important ministry, the ministers of the Word must be great listeners of Christ, and admirers of His mystery.

A humble and faithful disciple, testimony of the Word of Christ which he meditates profoundly, celebrates and coherently lives, will be able to leave an impact on the highways and pathways of the *cyberspace*.



2. INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF PRIESTS

9 – 11 June 2010

The **Year for Priests** that we are living is awakening a great interest among the priests and also the christian faithful. All dioceses and ecclesiastical regions have organized encounters, reflections, moments of prayer, and especially moments of Eucharistic adoration.

The **Congregation for the Clergy** has given messages and indications for reaping a bountiful harvest from the celebration of this year of grace.

This year especially, some **objectives** were placed before us and among them the following:

- The faithful celebration of the **annual spiritual exercises**, periodical retreats and days for priests;
- a special engagement in promoting **permanent formation**;
- a deepening of the knowledge, also for seminarians, of the theme of sacred **celibacy** in the historical, theological, spiritual, pastoral dimensions;
- a deepening of the **Directory for the ministry and life of priests** which was published by the Congregation for the Clergy in 1994;
- care for the **rubrics of ministerial priesthood** in the local, national and international printing;
- promotion of **pilgrimages** to places of particular significance;



- a deepening of the **priestly identity** and the consequent development of a specific spirituality;
- special attention to **priests in difficulty** for health problems, age, and for other particular situations.

Some of these objectives have been reached; others, probably, need to be pursued with determination, being aware that, if the Church has a well-formed clergy, it will be able to strengthen the faith and give impulse to missionary activity for the benefit of all humanity.

Now we are approaching the **conclusion** with the international Meeting of priests that will be held in Rome from June 9-11, 2010. We exhort all AUC members and sympathizers to participate by registering according to the

technical indications given by the Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi.

*Let us welcome **the Pope's invitation** to all priests to take part in the International Meeting of Priests at the conclusion of the Year for Priests, in Rome, June 9-11, 2010: "May the Year for Priests be another occasion, for religious priests, to **intensify their itinerary of sanctification** and, for all consecrated religious, a stimulus to accompany and support their ministry by fervent prayer.*

This year of grace will have its culminating moment in Rome, next June, during the international meeting of priests, to which I invite all those who exercise the Sacred Ministry".

Benedict XVI at the beginning of Lent exhorted his priests to live intensely their total personal

donation to God through obedience.

Obedience – affirms the Holy Father – is "an unpopular word in our day. Obedience appears as an alienation, a servile attitude. One does not enjoy one's own freedom, one's freedom is subjected to another's will, hence one is no longer free but determined by another, whereas self-determination, emancipation, would be true human existence. Instead of the word "obedience", as an anthropological keyword we would like the term "freedom". Yet, on considering this problem closely, we see that these two things go together: Christ's obedience is the conformity of his will with the will of the Father; it is bringing the human will to the divine will, to the conformation of our will with God's will".



To register for the international Meeting of priests
Please consult the site of the organizing committee
of the Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi in Piazza Pio XII n. 9 Rome
Tel. 0039.06.69896.393 / Fax 0039.06.6988.5673 / E-mail:
a.sacerdotalis@orpnnet.org

Diaconate today



EVEN ON THE CODE ONE CAN MEDITATE

Last October 26th, with the Apostolic Letter “*Motu Proprio*” *Omnium in mentem*, the Holy Father modified two articles of the Code of Canon Law that concerns the permanent diaconate, highlighting the difference between this and the other two levels of Holy Orders. The previous version could have given an interpretation of the diaconate as a kind of filling in the gap on a lower level than that of presbyter. We know well though that the Council brought back the diaconate as a permanent level of Holy Orders, not because there are few priests, but rather because there are few deacons. The change in these two articles (canons 1008 and 1009) can give us some points for reflection on our vocation: even on the Code one can meditate.

Every deacon, remembering his own story of his vocation, will discover that it was a call to become ever more imitators of Jesus who washes the feet of his Apostles and then the next day mounts the cross. This, in fact, is what today’s world needs: in this society inebriated by practical materialism, by the presumed omnipotence of the “god money”, a humble and freely motivated

diaconate, demonstrated by facts and not by words, is probably the only means of tearing down the wall of apathy and egoism.

One who searches for the first place does not make news, instead one who chooses freely the last place does. The whole Church is diaconal, yet within the Church some members are called to give witness “ad intra” and “ad extra” how in our society and in this era we can live a “true” diaconate. This is our vocation, this is the goal of our years of preparation: to become witnesses of Christ-servant.

In our common language “servant” is the contrary of “leader”. Let us remember that, towards the end of the first millennium the deacons forgot that their existence came from the motive of being witnesses of Christ’s “service” and they wanted to become “leaders”. The Lord quit sending vocations and the diaconate disappeared because the motive of its existence had been abandoned. Hence there was a certain surprise in 1983 in the text of article 1008 of the new *Codex Juris Canonici*, according to which – written in a way that was unclear and somewhat

confused – it seemed that deacons were destined to accomplish “*in the person of Christ the Head, ... the functions of teaching, sanctifying and governing*”. The Council, though, had not stated this: it was cautious to avoid making the same error that had brought the diaconate to extinction!

And our vocation? Has the Lord called us to be “servants” or “heads”? Some – forgetting maybe the difference between a juridical text and a truth of faith – have made many considerations about the first version of the article 1008 that has been quoted. This resulted in a confusion of ideas among many people, and maybe, even among some

of us. Maybe the desire to serve the Lord in the best way possible led us to desire the possibility to utilize a qualification that does not belong to us.

Let us be calm: something similar happened even to the Apostles and nobody will impede us to follow our vocation for our whole life, like Stephen, Laurence, Ephraim, Vincent, Eleuterio, Faustino, Giovita and many other holy deacons. “Blessed” “Benedict” – in Italian it is the same word “*benedetto*” – be the Holy Father who by his “*motu proprio*” has clarified the situation and has helped to avoid a new extinction of the diaconate.

Deacon Valerio Cimagalli



Sharing of deacons – Albano (Italy)

THE MESSAGE OF THE TREASURER



FOR OUR PRIESTS

*Campaign of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC)
for special services
for the clergy of the whole world.*

Dear Brother and friend:

Greetings and best wishes of many blessings of God who is Love. We invite you, together with the other Members and Friends of the Apostolic Union of the Clergy (AUC), to **participate** with us in a special program in favor of the clergy of many nations:

1. Formation of 600 Priest Animators of the Clergy, through 10 international zone meetings.
2. A gift of the book “Disciples and Shepherds” and the booklet “Bothers and Servers” to 10.000 Priests Servers of the Clergy.
3. Promotion of the AUC fraternities of priests in 30 Nations.
4. Sustain the service of AUC on the internet for the clergy of the whole world.
5. Financing the Bulletin Notitiae of AUC.
6. Financing specific projects in favor of the great needs of clergy in 10 nations.

Three motives push us to **participate in these programs** of service to our Shepherds:

- We do it **for God**, to respond faithfully to him, loving Him and sharing the gifts that we have received from Him. In this way we unite ourselves to God, to help our Shepherds.
- We do it **to help them**. The Shepherds are our brothers, they need our collaboration, and we can be united to AUC to help them to grow and serve as holy Shepherds. We can help them directly, or by using these

services of the Apostolic Union of Clergy (AUC). In this Year for Priests, we are called even more to help the priests of the entire world.

- We do it **for ourselves**, because service helps us to grow, being faithful to our mission. Also, through this service to the Shepherds, we will receive special blessings from God. We will receive more than what we share with them.

You can participate in these programs in various ways:

- You may do so by **praying**: you can be united through personal prayer, or praying together with others to support spiritually the life and ministry of our Shepherds. This way, we can remain united for many years, supporting these services of the clergy.
- You may do so **by serving**, like the family of Bethany did (Lazarus, Martha and Mary, cfr. Lk 10:38-42). They welcomed Jesus, they listened to his Word and supported his ministry. You may do this as well with your Bishop, your priests and Deacons of your diocese, beginning from your parish. You can begin a group of “Friends of the clergy”, and offer your service to AUC by supporting the service of many Shepherds of the entire world.
- You may do so by a **fraternal and generous economical offering** helping to support the services that AUC renders to resolve the great needs of many priests, bishops and deacons throughout the world. Together we can strengthen their fraternal communion, help with their permanent formation and fraternally share “**bread and love**” with those Shepherds that are in greater need.

Which way, how and how much will your prayer, your service and your economic offering be, will depend on what God places in your heart, and will also depend on your fraternal generosity.

How to contribute an economical offering:

- **You may consign it to the National President AUC. In www.unioapostolicacleri.org you will find the necessary information.**
- You may also, through our site www.unioapostolicacleri.org, or that of 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** C. corr N°.1133001967/84. filiale N° 2767 RM Borgo Pio I-00103 ROMA. **IBAN:**

IT28 C030 6905 0821 1330 0196
784. BIC: BCITITMM700.

Kindly inform us, please, of your offering (and the method used, amount, finality, etc) at 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!!



***“All were joined in continuous prayer,
together with several women, including Mary
the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”*** Acts 1: 14

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