

## THE FEAST OF SAINT VINCENT PALLOTTI: APOSTLE OF THE CHRISTIAN UNITY IN CAMEROUN



22 January of every year is quite an unforgettable and a memorable date, not only in the heart of every child of Saint Vincent Pallotti but also in the heart of every catholic. Yes, every child of Pallotti in the Union of the Catholic Apostolate (UAC) which involves; the Society of the Catholic Apostolate for Rev Fathers and Brothers and the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate or the laics.

Certainly, it was on this holy date, in the year 1850, that the holy founder left this world and his then young foundation, to answer the call of the Eternal Father. He, Pallotti, gave every of his energy in renewing the relationship between the clergy and laic of his era. This remarkable date didn't left his children under the canopy of the Holy Trinity Region, Cameroun-Nigeria unmoved. The celebration started with the observance of the Pallottine's triduum, which comes two days before the proper celebration or the feast day.

In the footsteps of Pallotti, a two-day conference was organised and talks given by Rev Frs Richard NGONO, SAC (*Rector, Pallottine philosophical house*) and Paschal Blaise FANGA, SAC, (*Director of Henri Vieter college*) on the themes: *Saint Vincent Pallotti and the promotion of the lay people* and *The place of Mary in the life of MSGR Henri Vieter (First Pallottine Missionary in Cameroun)* on Thursday and Friday respectively.



This year's triduum, which started from Thursday, the 20 January 2011 was ended with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Very Rev. Fr Bruno ATEBA EDO, SAC, the Regional Superior of the above mentioned region, at Saint Peter and Paul Parish, Mfoundassi, on the 22 January 2011, which was also the venue of the conferences. The Holy mass which started at about 12h00 had many pallottine priests, Rev. Brothers and sisters, seminarians and a crowd of lay people in attendance.



In his homily, the Superior Regional, Fr Ateba, gave a brief history of Saint Vincent Pallotti, his birth, vocation, apostolate, mission etc. He insisted much on the key word that moved and galvanized Pallotti into founding the UAC, which was *'togetherness, collaboration and cooperation'* and the word of Saint Paul in his letter to the Corinthians: *'the love of God urges us on'*.

He further urges the Christian and his fellow brothers in the Union, to imitate the spirit of collaboration as was preached by the Holy Apostle. He encouraged Christians to sit up and play their role in the mystery of our salvation in collaborating in their own way as we all were called to be apostles.

The mass ended with the presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Ireland, which was given to the UAC of the Region during the last general congress of the union.

“May the spirit of Saint Vincent Pallotti be renewed in every one of us and infuse into our apostolate that irresistible glow of love which the doubting, uncertain and suffering men of today need much” prayed His Holiness Pope Pius XII who cited this great sacerdotal figure as an example for Parish Priests and preachers of the Gospel.

NWORAH Valentine O.