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PAULINE YEAR 2008-2009

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### .: NEWS :.

Macau: Celebrating the Conclusion of the Pauline Year (25/06/2009)



The Diocese of Macau will hold a grand conclusion to the Pauline Year on 28-29 June-an event in which the FSPs will also participate. A pilgrimage to 5 churches will also take place on 27 June.

In order to make the conclusion of the Pauline Year memorable on the congregation level, our sisters invited their collaborators and friends to participate in a prayer service on 20 June, followed by a fellowship meal. The encounter, which was conducted in both Chinese and English, included readings from the letters of St Paul, a powerpoint program and film clips from the DVD Paul of

*Tarsus.* The group also recited the *Prayer to St Paul for All Nations* written by our Founder. At the end of the prayer service, our sisters took the opportunity to thank their collaborators for their availability and generosity during this year.

The encounter concluded with everyone promising to continue the "community experience" they had lived during the Pauline Year.

### Italy: Mantua - St. Paul in the Elementary Schools (18/06/2009)



About 500 students in a number of elementary and intermediate schools of Mantua enthusiastically participated in a contest entitled, *Paul: From Sword to Word*, organized by the Daughters of St. Paul. The goal of the initiative was to make the Apostle of the Gentiles known to the children and their families.

The Pauline Year, now drawing to a close, and the award ceremony that took place during Social Communications Week ensured that the contest received good news coverage by the local media.

The song, poems, film clips and drawings prepared by the students formed the "centerpiece" of the award program held to conclude the contest and gave due recognition to the efforts of the many children who had poured great creativity into making St. Paul "live" today.

The award ceremony ended with the distribution of books and magazines for children published by Pauline Editions, together with colored hats as a souvenir of the event.

### Taiwan: Catholic CD "Golden Music Award" Finalist (16/06/2009)



For some time, the Daughters of St. Paul of Taiwan had wanted to produce a Marian CD to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the island's evangelization. (To commemorate this event, the statue of the Blessed Mother from Wan Gin Church, the first Taiwanese church dedicated to Mary, made the rounds of the island, stopping in every diocese.)

Plans for this CD were initiated several years ago but the project was never completed due to continual problems. Finally, our sisters asked the famous *La Cien Ren* choir to collaborate with them and, wonder of wonders, in just six or seven months every obstacle was miraculously overcome with regard to the

CD's preparation, taping and final quality.

The studio where the taping was done suggested that the CD, entitled *Hymns to Mary,* be entered as a contestant in the government's annual Golden Music Festival and our sisters agreed to this, even though they seriously doubted that the CD could possibly win, given the fact that more than a thousand other CDs were competing for the award.

But to their great surprise, *Hymns to Mary* earned extravagant praise and turned out to be one of the finalists in the music competition. Even though the CD did not win first prize in the "Religious Hymns" category, our sisters-together with the Secretary of the Taiwanese Episcopal Conference and two members of the choirwere delighted to walk the "red carpet of the stars" for the first time as representatives of the Catholic Church for this significant event.

### Singapore: St. Paul among the Booksellers and Crowds (15/06/2009)



As part of their celebration of the Pauline Year, our sisters of Singapore participated from 29 May-7 June in the city's 24th annual Book Fair, organized by the local publishers. Formally known as the World Book Fair, it is the biggest book event of the year, bringing together more than 100 local and overseas English and Chinese publishers and attracting more than 500,000 visitors each year. Although the Book Fair is a "secular" event, our sisters see it as a great opportunity to make our Pauline presence felt among both Christians and non-Christians, in keeping with our mission to reach out to all people. This is the

second time they have participated in the Fair-the first was back in 1995, when we first opened a community in Singapore. The presence of the FSPs among the other book publishers elicited positive feedback from the crowds. A number of people passed by our booth with curious looks, some with friendly and approving smiles, and many welcomed the idea of a Catholic presence at this significant event.

#### Philippines: Reflecting on the Power of the Mass Media (10/06/2009)



On Pentecost Sunday (31 May), the Daughters of St. Paul organized a one-day youth camp to celebrate World Communications Day 2009. More than 400 young people from different schools, parishes and organizations, as well as the seminarians, pre-postulants, postulants and novices of the Pauline Family, participated in the event.

Seeking to better understand the power and impact of the new forms of communications media, especially on contemporary youth, the group reflected on the Holy Father's message for World Communications Day: "New Technologies, New Relationships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship."

The day began with the singing of the Filipino national anthem, followed by an opening prayer, a welcome address by the FSP Provincial Superior, and the introduction of delegates from the different schools, parishes and organizations.

The morning was characterized by stimulating input on the part of communications experts, which opened the door to a lively sharing session among the participants concerning both the good and bad aspects of the media, and a questions and answer session as to how to use them properly. Contests, entertainment and the awarding of prizes filled the afternoon, and the day concluded with a beautiful Eucharistic Celebration.

## Colombia: Bogota - Communications Challenges in Contemporary Society (09/06/2009)



The great communicator St. Paul calls us to follow his example and recognize the centrality of the role of communicators in contemporary society. In the light of this, the Paulines of Colombia organized a meeting in the auditorium of the *Sovraintendenza delle società* of Bogota to celebrate World Communications Day on 22 May.

Communicators from different parts of the country participated in the event. After the presentation of the Pauline Family and its charism, two guest speakers took the stage. Fr. Wilson Zuloaga, ssp, spoke about the Pope's

Message for World Communications Day: New Technologies and New Relationships. Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship, and Sr. Lucelly Villa, fsp, explored the subject, The Spirituality of Communications According to St. Paul.

The encounter ended with the distribution of a brochure entitled *Communicating the Truth in the Footsteps of St. Paul*, which contains thoughts from the writings of Blessed James Alberione.

### Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast): Abidjan - The Pauline Family Expands (08/06/2009)



From 30 May to 1 June 2009, 5 Pauline collaborators made an intense spiritual retreat in a climate of silence and prayer in the community of the Daughters of St. Paul in Abidjan in preparation for 28 June, the day on which they will make their promises as Pauline Cooperators and thus become members of our Family.

Here are what these collaborators had to say about their retreat:

Christine Kamagaté: "This retreat in preparation for the Promise I will make as a Pauline Cooperator comforted me in my choice to live and communicate Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life."

K. Justin Amani: "I praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for this retreat among the Daughters of St. Paul. The climate of silence helped me to encounter God and gave me a taste of what it means to belong to the Pauline Family."

Franck Zirihi: "This retreat enabled me to get to know the silence that questions us spiritually. The environment, the spiritual climate and the retreat conferences all helped my most hidden feelings to emerge and helped me get to know myself more profoundly."

Remi Boni: "For a long time now, I have wanted to live a deeper spiritual life and now I am going to be an official member of the Pauline Family. This large, joyous, welcoming, generous and open family has brought me many new friends and models, namely: Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life; Mary, Queen of Apostles, St. Paul the Apostle, Thecla, etc."

Laurent Daté: "I discovered the depth of this Family and of the commitment I am making as a Cooperator to the mission of evangelization initiated by St. Paul. I hope that through the grace of God many other people will be called to this mission."

At the end of the retreat, the five candidates were reluctant to leave the community where they had been so lovingly welcomed. Like the disciples on Mt. Tabor, they wanted to say: "Lord, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three tents..." (Mt. 17:4).

## .: NEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT :.

Italy: Rome - Daughters of St. Paul, Charism Tour 2009 (14/06/2009)



Rome, the Eternal City, is ever open to welcome any visitor or pilgrim from any part of the world. We, the participants in the Charism Tour Course 2009, felt the same warm welcome when we arrived in Rome at our St. Paul House, situated on the grounds of our Generalate.

Clear summer skies and a shining sun, pleasant weather and the smiling faces of our sisters put us at ease at once in the new atmosphere. We immediately felt "at home" in our Mother House.

We began our program on 5 June with an introduction by Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato, who reminded us that "this is a time of grace, a time to return to our roots; to renew and reinvigorate ourselves, to revitalize all our potentials, to give new life and vitality to both our community and apostolic life.

"Srs. Sara Schena and Felicita Teron, our animators, then guided a prayer dynamics followed by group sharing. Listening to each one's story of faith and her experience of God's love brought us closer to one another. Our time of sharing on the animation series, "St Paul, Splendor of Light," was a moment in which each one manifested the hopes and aspirations, experiences and new things she learned during this year dedicated to St Paul.

It was appropriate that on the first Saturday of the month we visited the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles, under the able guidance of Fr. Giovanni Perego. Our visit to the rooms, offices and tombs of Primo Maestro and Prima Maestra Thecla took us down "memory lane" to the humble beginnings of our Foundation. Sr. Sara's talk on "Mary in the Thought of Alberione" refreshed our love for the Blessed Mother.

We celebrated the Eucharist on the First Sunday of the Month with the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master, in the Church of the Divine Master, where the mortal remains of Mother Scholastica (the first Mother General of the PDDM) are preserved. Here Sr. Agar, PDDM, explained to us the iconography of the church.

Sr Samuela Gironi's presentation of "Eucharistic Adoration in the Life and Teaching of the Founder" not only inspired and renewed us but also convinced us that our Founder's thoughts are still alive in us for "sharing and transmission."

Our hearts are full of gratitude to Fr. Guido Gandolfo, SSP, for sharing with us from the rich reservoirs of his



experience of DONEC FORMETUR, as well as for his conference on *"Fr. Alberione as a Model of Apostolic Holiness."* 

In a presentation entitled, "Maestra Thecla's Spirtual Journey," Sr Silvia Parenzan, FSP, offered us new insights into the simple yet deep life of our beloved Prima Maestra. With this refreshed memory of Maestra Thecla vividly in mind, we are now on our way to Alba, the place where she began her Pauline life with our Founder, Fr. James Alberione.

We thank the Lord for the grace and privilege of participating in this course, which can help us come to a deeper grasp of our rich

Pauline spirituality and enable us to renew our love and passion for the Pauline vocation.

Sr. Christine Virginia e sr. Lissy Maruthankuzhy

# .: CALENDAR OF THE GOVERNMENT :.



#### Visita fraterna

7-17.23-24 luglio	Spagna	sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato sr. Anna Maria Parenzan sr. Luz Helena Arroyave
17-22 luglio	Malabo	sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Best wishes from the Paoline Online editorial team

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