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## :: NEWS ::

### Romania : Communicating the Gospel Together with Joy (12/08/2009)



How wonderful to be able to exclaim with the St. Paul: "I do everything for the sake of the Gospel!" (1 Co. 9:23)

This brief statement, which sums up the Apostle's whole life, was the motto of the week-long Bible Mission held by the FSPs of Bucharest and members of the Society of St. Paul from Vicenza, Italy in Assumption Parish, Horgesti (a beautiful town in northern Romania) from 25 July-3 August 2009.

Helped by the pastor of the parish, our Pauline missionaries organized this event to offer a mixed group of Italian and Romanian young people the chance to experience what it means to "do everything for the sake of the Gospel" today.

The 17 animators of the Mission, who came from various parts of Italy and Romania, went beyond the barriers of culture and language so as to share with the young people participating in the initiative what it means to joyfully proclaim the Gospel.

The rich and varied program of the week included prayer sessions, catechesis on the Bible, a day of retreat, an ecumenical meeting with representatives of the Orthodox Church, a Way of the Cross through the streets of Horgesti, a celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation for 70 teenagers, a stage performance and a concert-all lived in a spirit of great fraternity and enthusiasm generated by the joy of sharing the immense value of the Bible with others.

At the end of the Mission, all the families of Horgesti Parish and its mission chapel, Galeri, received a copy of the Gospel as gift so as to help them continue their journey to God in the light of his Word.

This initiative, like many others of the Pauline Family, was organized to celebrate the Pauline Year, which, although now ended, continues to "sow seeds" that God will cultivate and bring to full maturity.

An innovative element of this Mission was the fact that it was carried out by an FSP-SSP team, whose members warmly thank all the people who accompanied them with their prayers. They say they now hope to organize other projects to help the Gospel reach the homes and hearts of many more people today.

### Colombia : Bogota - Online Diploma on Human Rights and Values (11/08/2009)



The Daughters of St. Paul of SAL (Latin American Secretariat for the Apostolate) in conjunction with Colombia's Catholic University Foundation of the North are offering an online diploma on Human Rights and Values from the Perspective of Biblical Spirituality.

The objective of the course is to reinforce the ongoing formation of our sisters and their collaborators in the biblical sphere, taking as a starting point human rights and values-a fundamental concern of Latin America. In presenting the material from the perspective of biblical spirituality, the course follows the pastoral guidelines set down by the Latin American Episcopal Conference at the end of its Aparacida Meeting, the Synod on the

Word of God, and the Continental Mission that has just begun. This perspective was chosen so as to help the people of Latin America attain abundant life in Jesus Christ.

The diploma can be obtained by taking three online courses, each consisting of 120 class hours. Twenty-five people from various Latin American countries (Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Colombia) are enrolled in the first course, which opened with a week of introduction in which the following themes were presented: An Analysis of the Violations of Human Rights; Human Rights in the Social Doctrine of the Church and in St. Paul; Introduction to the Biblical Foundations of Human Rights; A Christology that "Humanizes" Culture; and How To Use the Bible (including its virtual dimension) in Pastoral Work and Formation. The input was enriched by workshops that helped the participants practically apply what they learned.

This first "virtual course" of studies-a new dimension of Pauline formation-will last a year.

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### **Korea : Global Perspective - Dying for the Bible Today** (09/08/2009)



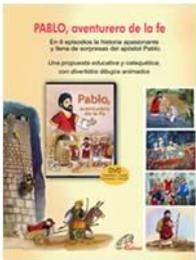
The Catholic Biblical Federation has circulated a moving note that we want to share with all the Daughters of St. Paul throughout the world and also with those who love and spread the Word of God.

On 16 June 2009, in North Korea, Ri Hyon-ok, a 33-year-old Christian woman, was sentenced to death by the communist regime of her country for distributing Bibles. Reports say that her husband and three children were sent to a concentration camp on the border of China immediately after her death.

Bishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Catholic Biblical Federation, underscores that this woman is "a martyr of the Biblical apostolate." She died because of her yearning to give the Word of God to others. She is an example to all of us who "have not yet resisted to the point of shedding our blood" (Heb. 12:4). In his commentary, Bishop Paglia goes on to say: "In the last few years, two other Christians-one in Turkey and one in Gaza-were killed because they distributed Bibles. [...] What threat is a Bible? It is the only Word that nullifies and disproves every totalitarian system." He concludes with the plea: "Dear friends, may the martyrdom of Ri Hyon-ok strengthen our faith and make us new and ardent apostles of the Word."

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### **Spain : Book Center Goal Reached and Even Surpassed!** (04/08/2009)



One of the many initiatives carried out by the Daughters of St. Paul of Spain during the Pauline Year was the dubbing and diffusion of the animated cartoon series for children: Paul: An Adventurer of the Faith.

Fired by their love for St. Paul, our sisters have been striving since 15 February 2009 to diffuse this film through their 5 book centers. And the results have been optimum. They tell us that at the close of the Pauline Year (30 June 2009), thanks to the generous and enthusiastic collaboration of all their lay co-workers, their book centers had diffused a total of 1100 copies of the DVD-far surpassing the goal they had set for themselves.

The successful dissemination of this film was also the result of an excellent promotional campaign, which included encounters in the Barcelona book center to present the DVD to teachers and catechists, and a children's workshop on the film held in the Valencia book center.

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### **Brazil : Salinas - Youth Follow the Footsteps of St. Paul** (03/08/2009)



Conquered by Christ: Youth on Mission-this was the theme of the Fourth Pilgrimage of the young people of Castanhal, held in the city of Salinas from 22-26 July 2009.

Bishop Carlos Verzelette, the "author" of the initiative, has a special rapport with young people, whom he supports and promotes through formation and recreational projects geared to this age group.

The 3000 participants in this year's encounter, who came from all parts of the diocese, were guided by Bishop Giuliano Frigeni of Parintins, another great friend of young people, who speaks their language and takes time to answer their questions. In his

animations, he succeeded in communicating to them St. Paul's enthusiasm and passion for Jesus, kindling in them a burning desire to carry out the same mission.

Numerous priests, seminarians and members of different religious Institutes in the diocese, including the Daughters of St. Paul, also participated in the initiative.

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### **Congo R. D. : A movie on the priesthood - Interview with Sr. Gemma Galfré** (06/08/2009)

To celebrate the Year of the Priest, declared by Benedict XVI in honor of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the Curé of Ars, and also to celebrate the Jubilee of the priests of the Ivory Coast (75 years of presence in the country and the 50th anniversary of the Seminary of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Anyama), the Daughters of St. Paul who live and work in Africa have produced a DVD on the priestly ministry. Entitled, *Le Choix: Le sacrement de l'Ordre* ("The Choice: The Sacrament of Holy Orders"), the DVD, which is available in French and English, contains a film on the priesthood and a documentary on the Rite of Ordination.

Sr. Gemma Galfré, fsp, who supervised this audiovisual project, speaks about it in an interview conducted by Vincent Kouakou, a journalist from the National Catholic Radio Station of Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Sr. Gemma, where did the idea for this project originate?

It was part of a plan to produce movies on the seven sacraments so as to offer contemporary African Christians, who are very receptive to the audiovisual medium, a formation rooted in daily life.

In 1998, we filmed the first of the *Eau Vive (Living Water)* series. At that time, we were preparing for the Jubilee of the Year 2000. That year, as you might recall, was dedicated to God the Father, with a special emphasis on reconciliation. This first movie, entitled, *Le retour (The Return)*, is a modern version of the Parable of the Merciful Father. After that, we made movies on the Eucharist, Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick.

You chose to convey your message through two different genres-fiction and documentary. Why?

Each movie of the series is accompanied by a catechetical reflection on the theme or else by a documentary on the Rite involved so as to ensure that viewers do not remain passive to the message we are trying to communicate. Another purpose is to help group leaders by providing them with material they can use for animations.

Are the parishes taking advantage of these movies?

In my opinion, pastoral agents speak a lot about the instruments of communication but they don't use them enough.... Often, even during catechetical encounters, most of the time is dedicated to talking. This is undoubtedly a valid method of communication but we tend to forget that speech is much more effective when accompanied by audiovisuals, and that children and teens make wide use of these instruments.

So you're saying that every parish should have a media library....

It is our dream that every parish will eventually have both a library and a mediatek. But it is also important to form catechists and animators to use these instruments in an effective way.

*Returning to the movie The Choice: according to what criteria were the actors chosen?*

They were chosen from the casting list presented to us by the director of the film, Mr. Malibu Yehiri, on the basis of each actor's abilities and personality. The main character in this movie is Fr. Paul, the assistant pastor of a parish, who is played by Kané Mahula. The role of the pastor is played by Lance Touré.

What is the basic message of the movie?

The theme of *The Choice* is the vocation to the priesthood and the life of priests. God chooses a person and that person responds with a "yes" that has to be renewed every day, in good times and bad.

What do you hope this movie will achieve?

All our movies are made to be disseminated (but not through piracy, even though the motives of the pirates might be good). We want these films to reach as many people as possible so as to help them grow in faith. During this year dedicated by the Holy Father to the priesthood, we hope many priests will use this movie to help the laity understand the priestly life. We also hope that the example of the main character will inspire young men to consider this choice in life....

I'm sure you received a lot of support in making this movie. Is there anything you would like to say to your "benefactors"?

First of all, on behalf of the Daughters of St. Paul of Africa, I would like to thank the Italian Bishops Conference for its economic support, which made it possible for us to realize this project.

I would also like to thank all the priests who collaborated with us by means of their advice and critical reading of the script, thus ensuring a successful outcome of the movie. In particular, I would like to mention Fr. Ernest Kouacou and Fr. Louis-Joseph Zehia, both experts in audiovisual communication.

Sincere thanks also to Fr. Tite Lathe and his vicars, as well as the Pallottine Fathers, who allowed us to film the movie in their parishes (*St. Pierre de Niangon* and *St. Sauveur Miséricordieux*).

Best wishes from the PaolineOnline editorial team

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