



QUESTO CUORE DI SAN PAOLO

*così acceso,
a cui non bastavano i popoli dev'essere la vostra eredità.
...eredi del suo spirito, della sua carità, dei suoi desideri.*
(Alberione, 1946)

Rome, Feast of St. Paul 2016

To All the Sisters

Dearest Sisters,

Our Seminar on Apostolic Mysticism ended just a short time ago and now we are preparing for our Interchapter Meeting, which will center on the theme: *We believe and therefore we communicate the joy of the Gospel and the beauty of our charism*. The two events are profoundly connected and are powerful reminders to us of the unity of life attained by the Apostle Paul—a unity to which he witnessed through word and deed.

The Seminar invited us to rekindle our faith and overcome fragmentation so as to proclaim God by means of our life and every language of communication. It also urged us to reflect on the fact that our existence—whatever our situation or age—is called to be an act of worship, a marvelous “liturgy” offered to the Father for the salvation of all (cf. Rm. 12:1-2) in the complex context of the present time.

We revisited the roots of our charism and relished to the full the happiness of being Daughters of the Apostle Paul, sent to everyone to proclaim the joy of belonging to the Lord. The secret of the apostolic mysticism lived by Paul and interpreted by our Founder lies in this sense of mutual belonging, in this vital relationship with the One who “captured” us (cf. Phil. 3:12).

In our very fruitful sharing sessions, we perceived the urgent need to strengthen our loving and filial relationship with Christ Jesus, nourished by the Word and Eucharist, by study, and by a steadfast journey of continual conversion and communion. All this can help us rise above the conflicts and dichotomies that at times we discover in ourselves and can also help us become always more aware of the fact that we are not apostles because of what we do but because of *how* we do it and *for whom* we do it.

We are called to allow the Spirit to duplicate in us the same admirable journey of grace accomplished by Paul so as to attain that gradual process of immersion in Christ by means of which he alone “lives, thinks, works, loves, wills, prays, suffers, dies and rises again” in us (DF, p. 64), as well as lives, thinks, loves, wills...in all the people we are called to reach through our mission.

Our Founder reminded us that to live the Pauline spirit means “to possess the soul, heart and mind of St. Paul. This requires a very intense interior life; zeal and generous dedication in the apostolate; practical love for the Divine Master and for the Church, and constant, intimate and serene union with God” (FSP53, p. 446). In fact, the apostolate is “the fruit of an intense interior life. It presupposes a heart that is aflame—a heart that cannot contain or restrain that internal fire...” (Fr. Alberione, 16 Dec. 1950).

Warmest best wishes that the Pauline spirituality will truly become, for all of us, “the source of our interior unity and apostolic dynamism, the bond that unites us to the other institutes of the Pauline Family, a precious heritage to deepen, live and make known” (Const. 11).

Best wishes in particular to the sisters who are making their first professions or perpetual professions, and to all those who are celebrating their fidelity to the Lord through the commemoration of their anniversaries of profession. I want to offer everyone my warmest regards using the same words Maestra Thecla tenderly addressed to all our communities:

You are always in my prayers; I see you, follow you and am united to you.... I accompany you with my heart and my prayers. Are you content? May the Lord bless you. I send you an affectionate kiss in the Lord.

I too and the sisters of the General Government also send you a warm embrace brimming over with our best wishes for you.


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan