

Annunciamo



la grande gioia

Rome, Christmas 2016

### To All the Sisters

Dearest Sisters,

During this Jubilee Year we experienced an extraordinary outpouring of grace and felt enwrapped in the mercy of the Father. Truly, “like a brisk but wholesome wind, the Lord’s goodness and mercy have been poured out upon the entire world” (*Misericordia et Misera*, 4).

In union with all the members of the General Government, I want to wish you a Blessed Christmas from the bottom of my heart, joined to the hope that each of us will experience the mercy of God so as to pass it on to others, becoming a “caress” of his goodness and tenderness to everyone, beginning with the sisters in our communities.

May Jesus, the Child of Bethlehem, help us throw wide the *door of mercy* and grow in compassion, especially toward all those who live in the greatest poverty—that of not knowing the Lord. “If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life” (EG 49).

We have “a prophetic mission and a responsibility toward history” (Const. 12) that we must fulfill in today’s lost and confused society. Fr. Alberione reminds us: “The Gospel has been placed directly in your hands.... Each one of you can say: ‘God has sent me to evangelize the poor.’ Your Institute exists for the sake of the Gospel.... Mary made it possible for the world to read the eternal Word: Jesus Christ. The Daughters of St. Paul can all call themselves ‘Mary’” (FSP53, p.485).

Like Mary, the “living tabernacle of Christ,” who preserved the mercy of God in her heart, we are called to meditate on the Word and “dwell” in it. We are called to proclaim it joyfully because *the Lord is with us*; because his love, which we do not merit, is unconditional; because we too have *found favor in his sight*.... If we are fecundated by the Word, we will be transformed into fervent and bold apostles, communicators of beauty, bearers of God.


May Christmas be a genuine rebirth for us, an occasion to set out on the path opened to us by the Son of God in Bethlehem: the path of humility, poverty, love and the gift of self. May the Christmas spirit, brimming over with amazement and awe, diffuse around us a breath of fresh air: the air of hope, communion and consolation...*the air of God!*

My best wishes to our collaborators and Cooperators, who generously offer their support to the Pauline mission throughout the world. My best wishes to all our young women in formation and to each of our communities.

I unite my Christmas greetings to those of our Founder, who said: “Sanctify Christmas and grow in Jesus Christ. To what point? To the point that he is formed in you” (J. Alberione, 1964, unpublished work).

Thank you all for your commitment, love for the Pauline vocation, dedication to the apostolate and family spirit—features that distinguish us everywhere.

With deep affection and a warm embrace,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General