

## N. 1 - 15/01/2009

We are happy to present you with the first number of *PaolineOnline*, a new information organ available in both digital and printed format that will provide you with updates on our [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org) website.

Attached is the version that can be printed out. You can also download the first number from our Homepage, under the heading “Bulletins”.

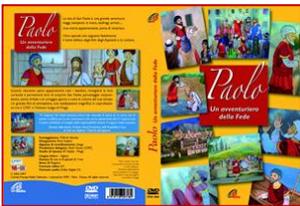
And this news itself is our first update...

## INFORMATION

**15-25 January:** on the Homepage of our website, you will find a link to online pages that will allow you to keep track of what is happening in the Enlarged Council Meeting (the meeting of the General Government with all the circumscription superiors and the superiors of the communities dependent on the GG). The meeting, which will be held in the St. Paul House of the Generalate, Rome, will focus on the theme of redesigning our presences.

## NEWS

### Italy: Rome – Animated Film for Children (12-01-2009)



To celebrate the Pauline Year, the Daughters of St. Paul have dubbed an animated cartoon series for children produced by the *Paul: Paolo un avventuriero della fede (An Adventurer for the Faith)*, is now available in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

Through this cartoon series (total running time, 56 min.), the FSPs want to help children get to know the life and mission of the great Apostle of the Gentiles. The eight 7-minute episodes faithfully follow the story of St. Paul's adventurous life as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles: his travels, the storms he weathered on the high seas, his shipwrecks, the challenges he faced, his arrests and his contacts with new peoples. The Daughters of St. Paul are convinced that this animated film will capture the interest of children everywhere, allowing them to discover the remarkable figure of Paul, a person of firm faith and great courage, a missionary open to all the cultures of his time.

### Italy: Message of the General Governments of the Pauline Family (11-01-2009)

Ariccia, Divine Master Retreat House, 7-11 January 2009



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

At the end of the XXVII Meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family, we are writing, as is our custom, to share our experiences with you: our joy at drawing on the common heritage that reinforces our fraternal spirit, the enthusiasm for the Pauline vocation that binds us together and supports us on our journey, and the beauty of sharing with great simplicity and frankness the journey each Institute is making, year after year, in creative fidelity to the charism of Blessed James Alberione. Within the framework of the Pauline Year, the theme we reflected on and shared ideas about could not help but focus on the Apostle of the Gentiles in the light of the charismatic experience of our Founder: *Alberione: Interpreter of St. Paul for the Pauline Family*.

We began our annual meeting with a pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, to the tomb of the Apostle, a site dear to the heart of the entire Pauline Family. In his greeting at the opening of the Eucharistic Celebration, Fr. Silvio Sassi, Superior General of the SSP, explained the reason behind this choice: “For Primo Maestro, the purpose of a pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Paul was to ask for a little of the [Apostle's] spirit of prayer and apostolic daring so as to transmit it to the Institutes of the Pauline Family.

We too are inspired by the same intention, asking that our prayers and reflections will benefit our Congregations and the whole Pauline Family”.

### *Getting To Know St. Paul*

Our first day of work was dedicated to coming to a deeper knowledge of St. Paul. Fr. Antonio Pitta guided us in a reflection on *Peter and Paul and the Evangelization of the Gentiles*. His conference offered us tips for sharing ideas concerning several current problems and also our method of Pauline evangelization yesterday and today. The talk of Fr. Romano Penna helped us rediscover *the originality of the Apostle Paul in early Christianity*, highlighting how his genius was both welcomed and rejected—something that is true also today.

### *St. Paul as Interpreted by Fr. Alberione*

Afterward, we approached Paul of Tarsus from the perspective of the Pauline charism. What was Fr. Alberione’s thought concerning St. Paul in relation to each of the Congregations that make up our Family? This is the question we sought to answer together. The study and interpretation of our Founder’s vision of St. Paul, presented by various brothers and sisters, offered us a picture containing both common and individual characteristics—features that serve to unite us without creating uniformity. Drawing from our common charismatic source is always a reason for great joy: it rekindles our pride in belonging to our Family and strengthens our commitment to getting to know Fr. Alberione better so as to liberate the spiritual and apostolic vitality contained in his legacy for the benefit of the Church and all humanity.

### *St. Paul in the Prayers of the Pauline Family*

The Intercongregational Commission for the revision of the *Manual of Prayers of the Pauline Family* offered us the results of its research and historic-critical reconstruction of the texts that contain this precious legacy of our charism. After a brief synoptic presentation of the prayers in general, the Commission centered its attention on the prayers of St. Paul written by our Founder. The research of the members of the Commission brought to light interesting information, the most curious of which was the origin of the Litany to St. Paul the Apostle. Commissioned by the SSP missionaries in China, the Litany was written in Chinese in the mid-1940’s. It was translated into Latin and presented to Fr. Alberione, who liked it so much that he inserted it into our prayerbook. According to the old saying, *lex orandi – lex credendi* (the law of prayer is the law of belief), we draw from this episode too the confirmation of Fr. Alberione’s love and openness toward all peoples, which encourages us to explore new frontiers for evangelization.

### *Sharing Common Elements*

We would like to mention here several points drawn from the different reports concerning which we came to a convergence of thought in our sharing sessions:

- to continue a systematic study of St. Paul that will enable us to get to know him more profoundly and make him better known in the Church and in society;
- to get to know St. Paul so as to assume a mentality and a form of life and apostolate worthy of our Pauline vocation;
- to rekindle within us the gift of the apostolic mysticism of St. Paul, who lived in Christ and announced him in the fullness of his Mystery;
- to strive always more, as a Family, to be “St. Paul living today, in a social body” so as to carry out our activities and be recognized as a Family that has Paul as its common Founder.

### *Next Meeting*

We all hope that interest in St. Paul does not end with the closure of the Pauline Year.

Together we want to take on the commitment to study the thought and life of the Apostle more profoundly so that he might help us find suitable replies to the issues that question us from time to time. Because of this, all the General Governments of the Pauline Family agreed that our next meeting, to be held in the Divine Master Retreat House (Ariccia), Italy from 7-10 January 2010, will focus on the theme, *Paul: Mystic and Apostle*.

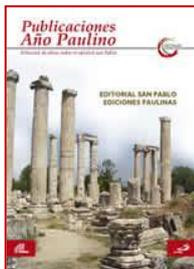
Dear brothers and sisters, having “revisited” together the figure of St. Paul and reflected on Primo Maestro’s thoughts about him in relation to the different Congregations of the Pauline Family, we now have a responsibility in our service of governing. We want to not only share with you our joy in studying and searching together, but above all to “infect” you too with this experience.

We want to “work together for your joy” (2 Co. 1:24), inviting all our governments, at different levels and in all our circumscriptions, to continue to foster occasions for communal encounters, study sessions and prayer around the figure of St. Paul the Apostle, whom Fr. Alberione pointed out to us as the Father, Teacher, Example and Founder of our Family. And in fact, it is so. Through him the Pauline Family was born, by him it was nourished and raised, from him it received its spirit (cf. AD 2).

We send you our affectionate greetings, taking advantage of the words of the Apostle of the Gentiles: "To end then, brothers and sisters, we wish you joy; try to grow perfect; encourage one another; have a common mind and live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you" (2Co. 13:11).

The participants in the XXVII Meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family

### Spain: Joint FSP-SSP Catalogue for the Pauline Year (08-01-2009)



The FSP and SSP publishing houses of Spain have produced a joint catalogue for the Pauline Year.

The colorful 10-page catalogue offers books, pamphlets, CDs, DVDs, posters and calendars, plus an elegant panorama of more than 30 publications on St. Paul that are being widely-diffused throughout the country and that are receiving a warm reception everywhere. The catalogue in digital format is being sent by email to individual customers and lay book centers, while the printed catalogue is being distributed through our book centers. All the FSP and SSP apostolic centers in Spain (a total of 13) have prepared a special display dedicated to the Apostle of the Gentiles. Its centerpiece is a transparent, internally-illuminated panel (2 m. x 60 cm.), around which assorted material on St. Paul is arranged. The same display in all our book centers is a fresh way of presenting the public with the Pauline Family's common commitment to making our Father known and loved.

### Italy: Rome - Holy Father's Appeal for Gaza: "War and Hatred do not resolve problems..." (04-01-2009)



"War and hatred do not solve problems. Even the most recent history confirms this". Benedict XVI repeated this after Sunday's Angelus prayer, joining the appeal of Patriarchs and heads of Christian churches in Jerusalem to end the conflict in the Gaza Strip. Benedict XVI: "The tragic news reaching us from Gaza demonstrates that refusal to dialogue leads to situations that unspeakably impact the people who are once more victims of hatred and war".

Together with the pastors of Christian churches in the Holy Land, the Pope prays, and asks for all to pray that "the Child in the manger ... inspires the authorities and leaders of both sides, Israeli and Palestinian, to take immediate action to end the current tragic situation".

### Italy: Brescia - Award for an FSP Missionary in Pakistan (03-01-2009)



On 23 Dec. 2008, Sr. Daniela Baronchelli, fsp, who has worked as a missionary in Pakistan for the past 27 years, received the "Friend of the Heart" Award for her commitment to helping the weakest members of society—especially women and children—by promoting their education through the instruments of communication.

"We are in Pakistan to witness to the fact that it is possible to live together peacefully". Sr. Daniela said upon notification that she would be honored with this award. "We will continue to carry out this mission day after day with the Word of God as our shield, standing at the side Pakistan's poorest people."

The award is a confirmation of the importance of our Pauline presence in a country in which 96% of the people are Muslim and only 2.5% are Christian.

### Korea: The FSPs Look Toward North Korea (02-01-2009)



The Daughters of St. Paul of Korea have opened a new book center in the diocese of Uijeongbu, north of Seoul, near the North Korean border, at the request of Bishop Giuseppe Lee, who during the inaugural Eucharistic Celebration said that he hoped the center would "open new apostolic horizons" in North Korea for our sisters. The inauguration was attended by many people of the diocese and many members of the Pauline Family.

For now, the new apostolic center is very small, like the little dwelling in Bethlehem, but the Uijeongbu diocese offers many possibilities to the Pauline mission and also for vocation work. Our sisters hope this new apostolic center will be a beacon of light for the Word and a "meeting place" for both North and South Korea, as well as for many young people who are seeking the truth and who would like to dedicate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel in the world of communication.

**Section Co-workers – Paul’s third missionary trip (13-01-2009)**



“After spending some time [in Jerusalem],” Paul set out on another missionary trip (cf. Acts 18:23). He was accompanied by Timothy, Erastus and several other co-workers whom he does not name (cf. Acts 19:22). They traveled through Galatia and Phrygia, visiting the Christian communities already established there, and eventually reached Ephesus. There was a Christian community in this city too because, before Paul’s arrival, a Christian named Apollos had explained the Hebrew Scriptures to the people, demonstrating how they were fulfilled in Jesus. However, although Apollos was very familiar with the Old Testament and the preaching of John the Baptizer, he did not have a full grasp of Jesus and his message. Aquila and Priscilla, who had befriended Paul in Corinth, would later instruct Apollos more fully in the Faith and he too would become one of Paul’s co-workers. As was his custom, Paul first of all proclaimed the Gospel in the synagogue. He did this for three months (19:8), and then, due to the hostility of some of the congregation, turned to the Gentiles (19:10). For the next two years, he held daily discussions with the pagans in the lecture room of Tyrannus, with whom he was staying. Thus both cultures, Jewish and Greek, received the word of the Lord from the mouth of Paul (Acts 19:10). The Apostle’s stay in Ephesus was one of the most difficult stages of his trip. While there, he unmasked a number of Jewish exorcists (Acts 19:11-20), who tried to imitate him by casting out evil spirits in his name. But the very spirits they sought to dominate mocked them. Amazed by this, the Ephesians brought their books on magic to the town square and burned them publicly.

During Paul’s stay in Ephesus, he sent Timothy and Erastus ahead of him to Macedonia. While they were gone he became involved in a confrontation with the silversmiths of Ephesus, who made and sold small shrines of Artemis, the goddess of fertility. The Apostle’s preaching caused many of the Ephesians to abandon this cult, thus decreasing sales of the statuettes. The silversmiths, worried that their livelihood was threatened, incited the crowds to rise up in protest against Paul (Acts 19:23-40). The mob dragged two of the Apostle’s co-workers, Gaius and Aristarchus, to the theater, which could hold about 25,000 people. Paul refers to this event in his letter to the Corinthians, where he says: “If I fought wild animals at Ephesus in a purely human perspective, what had I to gain by it?” (1 Co. 15:32) His comment in 2 Co. 1:8-10 leads us to surmise that he barely escaped death. Perhaps this was the occasion on which Aquila and Priscilla risked their lives to save him (Rm. 16:3-4).

After he left Ephesus, the Apostle went to Macedonia and from there, accompanied by a number of friends, he reached Corinth, where he spent the winter. Here he wrote his magnificent Letter to the Romans, in which he reveals his desire to reach the ends of the earth, which at that time meant the Iberian peninsula. On his way to Jerusalem to deliver the alms he had collected for the poverty-stricken Christians there, he stopped in Troas, where he restored a young boy, Eutychus, to life (cf. Acts 20:7-12). After Troas, he went to Miletus and from there sent for the elders of the Church of Ephesus. When they arrived, he delivered a discourse that has come to be called his “spiritual testament” (Acts 20:17-35). In this speech, he summarizes his life and then reminds these church leaders to carry out their service attentively, selflessly and responsibly, reminding them that should be like watchmen on the ramparts of a city, protecting it from harm. He concludes by citing words of Jesus not recorded in the Gospels: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Paul’s words reveal him as an evangelizer-shepherd who is concerned about the future of the Christian community, foreseeing that problems will arise. He told the elders of Ephesus that he was convinced that imprisonment and perhaps even death awaited him in Jerusalem. Hearing his, they begged him not to go there but he replied that he was ready to do the will of God to the very end, no matter what the cost. Luke infers that Paul’s presentiment of what will happen to him was similar to the foreknowledge Jesus experienced about his own end when he turned his steps toward Jerusalem (cf. Lk. 9:51).

Deeply moved by Paul’s words, the elders of Ephesus accompanied the Apostle to his ship. Disembarking at Tyre, he then proceeded to Caesarea Maritima, where he called on the deacon Philip. While there, a prophet called Agabus prophesied Paul’s dramatic end. Once again urged by his friends to avoid Jerusalem, Paul declared that he was ready to die for Christ, concluding with the words: “The Lord’s will be done” (Acts. 21:14). He was determined to reach Jerusalem in time for Pentecost. In recounting the last stage of Paul’s life, Luke sketches out the portrait of a disciple whose life perfectly reproduced Jesus, his Master. Upon his arrival in Jerusalem, Paul went to see James and the other heads of the Church who were present. They advised him to go to the Temple with a group of men who were under a vow and to be purified with them so that the Jews could see that he (Paul) had nothing against the Temple. Paul complied with this request but a misunderstanding arose that led to his arrest. Several Jews had seen him in the company of a Gentile and mistakenly believed that he had brought the man into the Temple area reserved only for Jews. Enraged, they dragged Paul out of the Temple and tried to kill him. He was saved by the intervention of the Roman tribune and his soldiers, who mistook the Apostle for an Egyptian who had led a recent revolt (cf. Acts 21:27-36).

Paul was arrested but was spared the death sentence because of his Roman citizenship (cf. Acts 22:3ff.). The Apostle remained in prison until Antonius Felix, the governor of Judea, who lived in Caesarea, could be notified and hear his case.

## FOR DEEPER REFLECTION

**Corinth**, a Greek port city, was one of the chief commercial centers of the ancient world. Its citizens were considered superficial and loose-living and thus the city did not have a good reputation. It was filled with philosophers and polished speakers who proposed new religious doctrines and as a consequence the Corinthians worshiped a wide array of gods. Society was divided into two classes: the wealthy and the poor. Paul visited the Christians of Corinth at least three times and wrote a number of letters to them, only two of which have come down to us. In these letters, he defended himself from his adversaries by vigorously asserting that he was a genuine apostle. In spite of the many tensions and sufferings that tore apart the community, a number of Corinthian Christians—in particular Phoebe, Stephanus and Crispus—were among the Apostle's most dedicated co-workers.

**Ephesus**, another port city and the capital of the Roman province of Asia, was much more beautiful and refined than Corinth. It was home to a very popular cult of Artemis, the goddess of fertility, which dated back to the 8th century B.C. Its temple to the goddess was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and every Spring worshipers flocked to the city to celebrate her feast. At the time of Paul, Ephesus was the religious, economic and administrative headquarters of Asia.

## CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT



2-3 January	Rome <i>Generalate</i>	Meeting with the Government of the Italian Province
7-11 January	Ariccia	Meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family
15-25 January	Rome <i>St. Paul House</i>	Enlarged Council Meeting of the Circumscription Superiors and the Superiors of the Communities dependent
7-20 January	Madagascar	Fraternal Visit
6 February - 4 March	Congo, Ivory Coast	Fraternal Visit
10-28 February	Great Britain	Fraternal Visit
21-26 February	South Africa	Fraternal Visit
27 February - 5 March	Mozambique	Fraternal Visit
6-12 March	Angola	Fraternal Visit

Greetings from the Paoline *Online* editorial team

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