

DEAREST SISTERS...

PAULINE PANORAMA

The General Government

In the Land of the Rising Sun

Thank you, Maestra Assunta

The Circumscriptions

Philippines: Ten Years at the Service of Communications

Italy: Fr. Fabio Rosini Receives the *Paoline 2012 Award*

Czech Republic: A Night Dedicated to the Psalms

Pakistan: A Small Pauline Book Center in the Land of the Taliban

Romania: Celebrating Pentecost with the Laity

India: For a Better Tomorrow

Spain: Madrid Book Fair

Paraguay: Culture and Development

Calendar of the General Government

Our Studies

Formation Course on the Pauline Charism

Formation to Communications in the Seminary of Santiago, Chile

FAITH – A RELATIONSHIP

Faith as Listening

THE TEACHINGS OF MAESTRA THECLA

“I love you all very much and I long to see you”

SHARING OUR STORIES

Fascinated by the Pauline Book Center

THE PAULINE FAMILY

Meeting of the Pauline Family

Communications Week

Bible Festival 2012

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Window on the Church

China: Over 22,000 Baptisms on Easter Sunday

Episcopal Conferences Online

Window on the World

Arab World: A New Springtime for Women’s Rights?

Pakistan: Give Women a More Active Role in Society

Africa Day

Window on Communications

“Dear Diary...”

Farewell to Pierre Babin, Missionary-Communicator

A Film To Commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the Salesians

First 3-D Movie about Jesus “Made in India”

EVENTS AND APPOINTMENTS

FSP Profession

CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE



THE POWER OF WEAKNESS

Dearest Sisters,

With great joy, I am writing to you on the day that the Daughters of St. Paul on all continents are united in prayer to celebrate our beloved Congregation's 97th anniversary. As our Founder said with great feeling, it is "a day of blessing."

We were born in poverty and obscurity, called into being by the unshakable faith of a young priest from Alba and a humble seamstress from the same area, who immortalized our beginnings with these words:

The origins of the Daughters of St. Paul were humble and hidden.... They were born without a name, without a house, without anyone even being aware their presence. The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds.... At times, things were so dark that we understood nothing. But as for me, I was never afraid despite all the talk and the many crosses in the community (Maestra Thecla, *Our Beginnings*).

Nearly a century has passed since those words were written. Exhilarating periods of numerical growth and apostolic expansion alternated with times of problems and disorientation. Today we are tempted to focus on what is immediately before us, failing to see our poverty as a favorable condition and resource. But in doing this, we run the risk of paralyzing our creativity, diminishing the credibility of our witness and clouding the horizon of faith in which the Pauline life was born and the only environment in which it can live. As Fr. Alberione reminds us:

Faith! Because it is faith—our pact with God—that gave birth to the plant. That plant grew and—thanks to this pact—produced branches and fruit. But it all came from God (1959).

Meditation on the experience of St. Paul, our "father, teacher, exemplar and founder" (AD

2), can help convince us that it is only when we are "earthen vessels" (2 Co. 4:7) that we become incarnations of the power of Christ, "for it is when I am weak that I am strong" (2 Co. 12:10).

In his catechetical discourse on 13 June 2012, the Holy Father underscored that it is only

to the measure that we grow in union with the Lord and intensify our prayer that we return to the essentials and come to understand that it is not the power of our means, virtue or abilities that builds the Kingdom of God. No, it is God who does amazing things precisely through our weakness and inadequacy in accomplishing the duty entrusted to us.

The good outcome of our evangelization activities does not depend on us: "Apart from me, you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5).

The one thing necessary is God's grace (cf. 2 Co. 12:9):

Only faith—that is, trust in the divine action, in the goodness of God who never abandons us—reassures us that we are not working in vain (Benedict XVI).



Our Constitutions say the same thing in different but equally incisive language when they urge us to let Paul teach us "how to accept the fatigue, sufferings, and failures of the apostolate, carrying within us the cross of Christ, so that all may have life" (n. 33).

Sisters, let us allow ourselves to be accompanied by St. Paul in this time of preparation for our 10th General Chapter, so that we will see the hand of the Lord continuing to design our future. May the Apostle's faith in the power of weakness help us to trust God and rekindle the fire that made him, Alberione and Thecla intrepid and ardent missionaries.

In affectionate communion and prayer,

Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato
Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato
Superior General

Rome, 15 June 2012

IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

REPORT ON THE FRATERNAL VISIT TO THE PROVINCE OF JAPAN



Japan is a fascinating country of unparalleled natural and artistic beauty—a country suspended between the old and the new, in which ancient and deeply-respected traditions live in harmony with the most advanced modern technologies. Within this framework, Superior General Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscati and General Councilors Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan, Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave, Sr. Francesca Matsuoka and Bursar General Sr. Gabriella Santon made the Fraternal Visit to the Province from 12 April–11 May 2012.

The socio-cultural situation of Japan is complex. This country, highly developed on the social and technological levels, is still recovering from the consequences of the severe earthquake and tsunami that struck it on 11 March 2011, followed by an energy leak in one of its nuclear plants. Only about 448,000 (0.35%) of the 127-million population are Catholic, although recent immigrants to the country have boosted this number slightly. The people of Japan enjoy a high quality of life but the national birthrate is very low. In fact, Japan has one of the world’s highest percentages of people over the age of 65.

Although a tiny presence in the country, the Catholic Church is well-known and admired. For years the Gospel has been one of the best sellers in Japanese book stores and the people in general are becoming more and more familiar with the Christian lifestyle. It is above all the numerous and well-established Catholic schools in Japan that have made the Church a visible and respected element in society. But the Local Church asks itself why, given these positive

premises, the number of conversions continues to be very low.

In this context, the Daughters of St. Paul feel called to help the Gospel and the Catholic Faith reach as many non-believers as possible.

The Fraternal Visit was carried out in a spirit of great joy. The Institute’s first community in Japan was opened 64 years ago and the founding sisters passed on to their local vocations a deep love for the Pauline charism, the Founder and Maestra Thecla. Thanks to this heritage, our Japanese sisters live their vocation with conviction and enthusiasm. They radiate a strong sense of belonging to the Congregation, a deep sensitivity to the Pauline spiritual life, ardent love for the apostolate and great fidelity to the Church.

Our Japanese Province is currently made up of 137 sisters, who are subdivided into 12 communities. The median age, which is already over 74, is steadily increasing due to a scarcity of vocations. Our sisters place their faith and hope for the future in a renewed commitment to pastoral work for vocations.

Their apostolic activity is intense. Their productions are directed primarily to non-Christians, who deeply esteem them, and publishing rights to their books are frequently ceded to our sisters in Brazil, Korea, the United States, Italy and Portugal. In response to today’s ever-changing market, the circumscription is also making an effort to produce electronic books. The first one was released last Christmas—the first electronic book produced by the Catholic Church in Japan.

Our sisters take advantage of every opportunity to reach the country’s 952 Catholic pre-schools and 319 elementary and high schools by means of capillary and collective diffusion. They disseminate 43% of their publications through this apostolate, which



they carry out with great generosity. They also take advantage of seven secular and Protestant agencies to contact 3,300 of the country's 30,000 secular and 79 Christian book shops. More than 350 book stores nationwide carry our editions.

Our sisters realize that without the help of their lay collaborators they could not carry out such an extensive mission. Thus they are wisely making the effort to give these co-workers a high-quality Christian and Pauline formation.

Collaboration between the FSPs and the other Institutes of the Pauline Family in Japan is good. In view of the PF's upcoming Centenary of foundation, an even more intense collaboration is being carried out on the spiritual and apostolic levels. Once a month, the persons in charge of the apostolate in the various Pauline Congregations meet to organize various events and coordinate the Pauline mission more effectively.

At the conclusion of the Fraternal Visit, our

sisters of Japan were entrusted with a number of priorities, the first of which is a deeper commitment to pastoral work for vocations. In fact, the province is currently holding a "vocation year" in view of this. Other priorities: to develop production so as to foster the diffusion of the Gospel through the excellent modes already underway; to continue the re-designing process; to give continuity to the circumscription's project for the laity, and to study ways to care for our sick sisters.

The Fraternal Visit to this "old" province was carried out in a spirit of continual praise to God for the amazing things he has done for our Congregation in Japan, for all the sisters who have accompanied the circumscription's birth and development, for the deep love of the Pauline charism that has always been a notable feature of this province, and for our sisters' desire to use every instrument of communication to help the Gospel "race ahead" in a country thirsting for the Truth.

THANK YOU, MAESTRA ASSUNTA



I want to join all our sisters and brothers in joyously and gratefully remembering Maestra Assunta. I preserve in my heart, as a great privilege, my many meetings with her—and not only those that took place during the years when she was at the peak of her health and mental acuteness.

I remember a particularly moving but also very happy occasion on which I visited the James Alberione community, Albano. Talking with the sisters that afternoon, I told them about the visit I had just made to one of our more distant circumscriptions, recounting the fervor of the sisters and their many creative apostolic initiatives.

Sitting in the front row, Maestra Assunta listened to me with shining eyes. From time to

time she would ask, "But are the Daughters of St. Paul doing all they can to spread the Gospel?"

Afterward, when I went to greet her, she looked me straight in the eye and asked, "And you—what are *you* doing for the Gospel?"

Dearest Maestra Assunta, I will always remember you at that special moment and I often repeat your question to myself because it truly touches the heart of our vocation.

You gave and taught us so much.

I know you will continue this mission from heaven, where you are now in the company of all our Pauline saints.

I entrust every Daughter of St. Paul, all our young women in formation and our countless initiatives to your intercession because you were a faithful and tireless apostle.

And I ask the Lord to grant us the grace to live the heritage you left us: the ability to let ourselves be questioned by the needs of humanity and the courage to respond to those needs promptly, boldly and enthusiastically.

Thank you, Maestra Assunta, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Daughters of St. Paul and every member of the Pauline Family. Until we meet again! We love you!

Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscatto
Superior General

PHILIPPINES

TEN YEARS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



The Paulines Institute of Communication in Asia (PICA), based in Pasay City, celebrated its 10th anniversary of foundation with a beautiful Eucharistic Celebration on 12 April. It was a time of heartfelt gratitude to God and also grateful remembrance of all the people—especially members of the Province—who helped to launch and develop this Institute. PICA offers many individuals the chance to receive a media formation that will help them witness always more authentically to the Truth in today’s digital culture.

ITALY

FR. FABIO ROSINI RECEIVES THE PAOLINE 2012 AWARD



This year, the *Pauline Communications and Culture Award* was bestowed on Fr. Fabio Rosini, Biblical scholar and Director of the Vocation Office for the Vicariate of Rome, in recognition of his tireless commitment to the Word of God. The award is given each year to a pastoral or media worker in appreciation of the person’s concretization of the Pope’s Message for World Communications Day. In his discourse for 2012, the Holy Father reminded us to “balance silence, word,

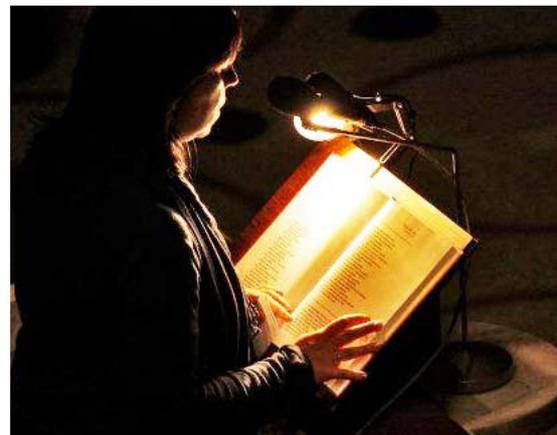
images and sound” because “when messages and information are plentiful, silence becomes essential if we are to distinguish what is important from what is insignificant or secondary.”

Some years ago, Fr. Rosini initiated a catechetical project on the ten commandments that was quickly adopted by many dioceses throughout Italy. This form of evangelization has helped innumerable people become more familiar with the Word of God. Fr. Rosini’s commentaries on the Sunday Gospel and his various catechetical lessons, including the radio programs *I Frutti dello Spirito* (*The Fruits of the Spirit*) and *Le armi della luce* (*The Weapons of Light*) (also accessible via the Internet), enjoy a large following.

The award ceremony took place on 3 May 2012 during a Congress organized by the Pontifical Lateran University, the Social Communications Office of the Vicariate of Rome and the Pauline Communications and Culture Association to celebrate World Communications Day 2012. The Congress was part of the *Communications Week* program organized by the FSPs and SSPs of Italy to prepare the public for this big day.

CZECH REPUBLIC

A NIGHT DEDICATED TO THE PSALMS

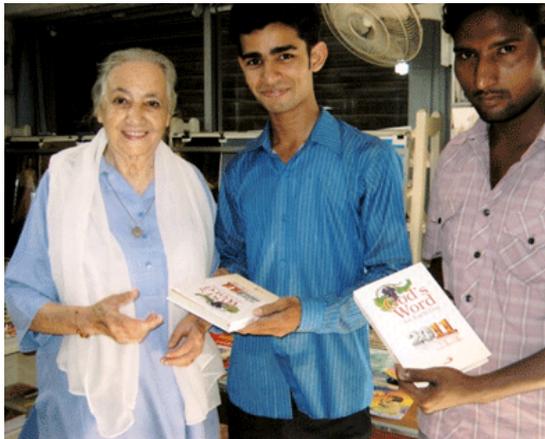


The Daughters of St. Paul of Prague helped to organize *A Night Dedicated to the Psalms* that was celebrated on 18 May. The nocturnal reading of this book of the Bible took place from 7:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. in beautiful Sacred Heart Church. The event was introduced by Scripture scholar *Josef Hřebík*, who then proceeded to read Psalm 1 aloud in Hebrew. The FSPs and numerous other

volunteers took turns reading the rest of the psalms. Many passers-by, seeing the church brilliantly lit at such a late hour, dropped in out of curiosity and then, fascinated by the powerful spirit of listening and prayer that pervaded the atmosphere, stayed to participate in the prayer liturgy. The event concluded with a singing of the *Te Deum* in thanksgiving for this profound experience of the Word.

PAKISTAN

A SMALL PAULINE BOOK CENTER IN THE LAND OF THE TALIBAN



The Daughters of St. Paul have a small book center in Saddar, one of the most crowded and chaotic quarters of Karachi, even though it is extremely dangerous to diffuse Bibles, catechisms and above all audiovisuals in this area. The Taliban accuse the sisters of possessing material prohibited by the Koran such as filmstrips and pictures of the prophets, and as a result they have flooded the quarter with leaflets bearing the threat: *Close or die!*

The book shop, which carries various categories of religious material including catechisms in Urdu and English, is the only place where Catholic Bibles can be obtained. Unfortunately, the faithful are so poor that the purchase of even an inexpensive book is beyond their means. Christians have a big problem finding employment due to religious discrimination and consequently it is a struggle for them to scrape together enough money just to feed their families and send their children to school.

The Daughters of St. Paul are striving to reach the people not only through their book

center but also through visits to the parishes of the extensive *basti* (slums) on the outskirts of the city, where they teach catechism to children and explain to their mothers the importance of educating their offspring in the Faith.

ROMANIA

CELEBRATING PENTECOST WITH THE LAITY



An intense spiritual retreat on Pentecost Sunday brought to an end the cycle of meetings with the laity to form them in the Pauline spirit—an itinerary that was begun last December. This part of their formation journey was centered on the first stage of *Donec Formetur Christus in Vobis*, namely: to get to know and live the Father's plan for each one of us. The participants attentively studied the material proposed by Fr. Guido Gandolfo, ssp, who helped them understand the words of our Founder and apply it to themselves. It is always a joy to see how interested the laity are in the Pauline spirituality and how enthusiastically they incorporate what they have learned into their daily lives.

INDIA

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



India's National SIGNIS group recently met at the Don Bosco Center in Mumbai, the country's most populous city, to discuss the

theme: “*Creating Images for a Better Tomorrow.*” About 100 SIGNIS members, including four Daughters of St Paul, gathered from all over India for the annual assembly.

The question that dominated the 5-day encounter was: *What is changing in the world?*

When it comes to communicating today, it is more important than ever to listen. As Gandhi said: “If we have ears to hear, God will speak to us in our own language, whatever it may be.” All those who work in the field of communications have a responsibility to listen to the voices of the world so as to *create a better tomorrow.*

SPAIN
MADRID BOOK FAIR



The 71st Madrid Book Fair, held from 25 May–10 June 2012, showcased a wide array of titles produced by national and international publishing houses and displayed in 356 stands. This year’s event–Spain’s largest and most important book fair–was enhanced by the presence of dozens of authors, who took advantage of the opportunity

to dialogue with the public. The FSP stand featured Fr. Pedro Miguel Lamet, SJ, whose books, *Las palabras calladas* (*Silent Words*) and *Las palabras vivas* (*Living Words*), awakened great interest in visitors to the Fair. Fr. Lamet took advantage of the opportunity to get acquainted with his fans and enriched the moment with formative-spiritual input.

PARAGUAY
CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT



The city of Asuncion, Paraguay held its 18th annual book fair from 20 June–1 July 2012. More than 100 national and international publishing companies, including Pauline Editions, participated in the event, which centered on the theme *Culture and Development*. Our publishing house, which this year is focusing on *national cooperatives* that produce books and support the publishing sector, offered Fair visitors a high-quality choice of material at the service of culture and the Gospel.

The performances and activities on the Fair’s program helped the public get better acquainted with the world of books and culture.

Calendar of the General Government

14-31 July	Australia	Special Visit	Sr. Anna Caiazza
10-12 August	Papua NG	Fraternal Visit	Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato Sr Samuela Gironi
13-25 August	Australia	Fraternal Visit	Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato Sr Samuela Gironi
26-27 August	Singapore	Meeting with the Sisters of Malaysia and Singapore	Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato Sr Samuela Gironi
28-31 August	Thailand	Fraternal Visit	Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato Sr. Samuela Gironi
25 August – 25 September	Rome	Month-long Course of Spiritual Exercises PF	Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

FORMATION COURSE ON THE PAULINE CHARISM



**SR. GODELIVE MASTAKI NGALULA,
D.R. CONGO**



For me, this course on the Charism of the Pauline Family was like a “second call,” a gift of grace that re-energized my poor self. The course, characterized by input concerning the work of

God during our foundation period, offered me great spiritual illumination.

Now, having explored more fully the distinctive features of each Institute of the Pauline Family, I better understand my specific vocation and what it means to be a “family.” The experience also convinced me that the Pauline Family has been entrusted not only with a mission but also with a *message* for the Church and world.

During our course of spiritual exercises on *Donec Formetur*, I felt Jesus Master telling me over and over again, “Let me do everything. Just follow me. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” These words, overflowing with love and mercy, helped me penetrate more deeply Fr. Alberione’s experience of divine Providence: “It is not the case to force God’s hand. It suffices to be on the alert, to let oneself be guided, and to strive in one’s various duties to employ mind will, heart and physical strength...” (AD 44).

The Charism Course was a precious time in which to prepare myself to celebrate my Silver Jubilee of religious profession. I thank the Lord for his fidelity and for *making all things new*. I also want to thank all my classmates, as well as everyone who made it possible for me

to participate in this course. I am returning to my own country with the burning desire to live and communicate what I saw, touched and heard.

SR. LIZA LUIS, INDIA



My soul glorifies the Lord because he has done great things in me.

I am very happy that I was able to participate in the Formation Course on the Charism of the Pauline Family. For me, this was a year of grace, renewal and deeper study and reflection. I threw myself wholeheartedly into the classes, pilgrimages (especially the one to Alba), the writing of my dissertation, the various celebrations and, above all, the experience of being part of the Pauline Family.

I feel I am returning home with a more attentive heart, filled with experiences and memories that will urge me on to carry out the Pauline mission with greater awareness and dedication. Thank you!

**SR. MAGDALENE CHONG,
MALAYSIA**



During this Formation Course on the Charism, the lesson that has been engraved on my memory for all time is without a doubt the importance of the *Apostolate of the Good Press*.

I am deeply grateful to the Lord for having illuminated me in a particular way concerning this aspect of our work of evangelization. My tears and sadness at the beginning of the course (due to homesickness and language problems) were quickly transformed into joy, ardent desires and hope! The family spirit that reigned among the sisters and brothers of our group helped me to move forward courageously and enthusiastically. By means of this course, Jesus Master enlightened my mind and liberated me interiorly—an immense gift!

I came to a better understanding of integral Pauline formation: how to balance human, Christian and Pauline values, and how to integrate them into my prayer life, apostolate, studies, fraternal life, way of living poverty... so as to become holy on the level of concrete daily life.

The Charism Course helped me rejoice in being a Pauline. I could see the yearning of all the members of our group to get to know, love, live and irradiate Jesus Master and Communicator, the Way, Truth and Life. I came to understand that when people see us at work in the apostolate, they give praise to God because they realize that every member of the great Pauline Family is by vocation a genuine means of communication, just as St. Paul was.

Sr. TERESIA INOUE, JAPAN



I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to participate in this course. It was a great grace for me to come to better know our Founder and the beauty of our charism. I am also very grateful to my classmates from the different Pauline Institutes who shared this journey with me. With them, I was able to experience more profoundly what it means to be “family.” In my country, different animation initiatives are being carried out on the level of the Pauline Family. I think that this course will be a big help to me in living my vocation and in working together with the other members of the PF.

Primo Maestro has left us an immense legacy. Our charism is like a fountain that never runs dry, even though we are continually drawing from it. I must keep returning to this fountain if I want to grow as a Pauline. I now better understand what Fr. Alberione desired with re-

gard to our formation, namely: he wanted us to be more aware of our human faculties—mind, will, heart—and to live Jesus Master integrally so as to witness to him and communicate him to the world. I now feel a greater responsibility to do this. I want to live the Pauline charism by *learning from everyone and everything* and to continue to study it more profoundly so as to share it with all the people I will meet on the road of life.

Sr. EMMA UMURERWA, D.R. CONGRO/IVORY COAST



For me, this course was a return to our charismatic heritage. I came to a deeper appreciation of the immense wealth the Lord has given us through Fr. Alberione, a vessel whom he filled

to overflowing and then poured out on the whole Pauline Family.

To live and give Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life in the Church and through service of her: I saw this yearning incarnated in the members of our group—in each one’s spirit of commitment, in the help we offered one another, in our teachers, who passed on to us the living flame of our charism and spirituality, in our brothers and sisters of the “first hour,” who radiated the joy and certitude of having received an immense gift that they want to continue to share with everyone today in spite of advancing age and illness.... I also lived this aspiration in our pilgrimages to the sites of our beginnings in Alba and those linked to the Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome.

As I return to my community, I take with me the desire to share the wealth I received through the witness of my life and renewed vigor in proclaiming the Gospel.

Sr. REBECCA RICAFORT ANZANO, ALBANO, ITALY



The Charism Course was a great gift for all of us who participated in it. Personally, it helped me come to better understand the charism of our Founder—the charism of the Pauline Family. Fr.

Alberione left us this precious gift, urging us to love it and share it with others. I hope and pray that I will live it more deeply now and witness to it more authentically in my daily life.

As the weeks went by, the members of our group learned to appreciate one another and the different Institutes of the Pauline Family. We came to realize that we are all called to live the same spirit: the *Pauline spirit*, and the same mission: *to live and give Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life to the world*.

FORMATION TO COMMUNICATIONS IN THE SEMINARY OF SANTIAGO, CHILE

THESIS OF SR. CLAUDIA PENA Y LILLO VALENCIA



Since the formation to communications of seminarians and priests is in general very weak, superficial and inadequate, Sr. Claudia limited her research in this field to the Pontifical Major Seminary of

Santiago, Chile. Her purpose was to determine if and how the new languages of communication have been adopted there and if the directives of the Holy See concerning the use of psychology in the formation of seminarians are being applied. The results of her investigation reveal that formation to communications is almost non-existent in this particular seminary, while some attention is being given to the use of psychology in the formation of the seminarians.

In the first part of her thesis, Sr. Claudia takes a look at the epochal changes that are touching all the dimensions of the life of individuals, families, young people, society

in general, culture and work. She seeks to penetrate the heart of education to communications, reflecting on the development of a person's potentials (empowerment) and on theocentric self-realization and self-transcendence from the perspective of the theories of Fr. Luigi M. Rulla, SJ.

The major part of the text is dedicated to what she calls *communication empowerment*, that is to say: increasing a person's capacity to communicate, to critically assess the content of a message, to produce effective messages, and to competently handle the transmission of messages between individuals, between individuals and groups, and between groups.

The thesis sketches out the journey of the Church with regard to the formation of seminarians, making reference to numerous documents on communications and on the use of psychology in formation. The investigation concentrates on the Pontifical Major Seminary of Santiago by means of an extensive and detailed interview with the Rector of the Seminary and with its Academic Director and Formator. Sr. Claudia asks how the seminarians view the instruments of communication and today's new technologies and how they use them; how the subject of communications is taught and lived in the seminary, and what suggestions the interviewees have as to how to integrate the subject of communications into the seminary's formation program.

The author's analysis of the interview offers glimpses of concrete lines of action that can be pursued. The thesis concludes with the proposal of a plan of formation to communications, complete with objectives, content, strategies and actions.

Our compliments and best wishes to Sr. Claudia.

We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (cf. *Mt.* 5:13-16). The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him (cf. *Jn.* 4:14). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the Word of God, faithfully handed down by

the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples (cf. *Jn.* 6:51). Indeed, the teaching of Jesus still resounds in our day with the same power: "Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life" (*Jn.* 6:27). The question posed by his listeners is the same that we ask today: "What must we do to perform the works of God?" (*Jn.* 6:28).
(*Porta Fidei* 3)



Francesca Pratiello, fsp

Addressing the Christians of Rome, Paul of Tarsus states emphatically that “faith comes from hearing and that means hearing the word of Christ” (Rm. 10:17).

It is obvious to everyone that our digital age gives primacy to the eye, to sight, to a rapid succession of images, rather than to what we hear. In contrast to this, the Bible accentuates a slow and attentive listening to the Word: “Listen, Israel...” (Dt. 6:4).

In the aforementioned Pauline text, three elements can be identified as contributing to the growth of the community’s faith: the person who speaks, the one who listens, and God’s saving Word. It is through this interlocking channel that the water of faith runs.

To “connect” with the Word, it is essential to come in contact with a witness who has already made the journey of faith. The fact that such a witness is necessary (cf. 1 Jn. 1:1-4) reveals both a profound anthropological truth and a fundamental theological one. The anthropological truth is that human beings grow and develop only in an environment of listening. A person is by definition a creature created for dialogue, for interaction with others. He/she is the subject of relationships, and those relationships are ordered to communion.

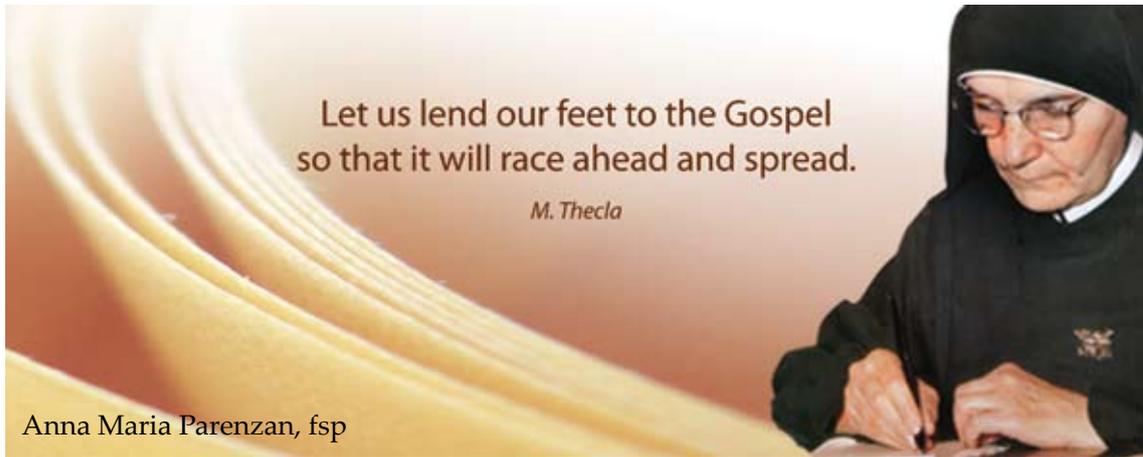
Today, unfortunately, no one teaches the important truth that the gift of listening is an exquisite act of love. Many people believe that it is more important to speak than to listen. And yet I become who I am through you. My identity is formed by listening to God and others, and it remains clear and vibrant only through fruitful relationships.

The theological truth referred to above springs spontaneously from this anthropological reality first of all because God himself is the Living Word. In the Hebrew way of thinking, the Word is manifested not only as Divine Revelation but also as the power that calls all things into being, into relationship. God, the people we meet, history and our very life need silence and profound listening if they are to progressively reveal themselves. Only the Word proclaimed by a credible witness and welcomed with an open heart can call faith into being. To believe is to enter into communion with God through the Word. It is the fruit of the Father’s call, the Son’s revelation and the Spirit’s illumination.

The believer listens to the Word of Christ and that listening leads to faith. The true vocation of a Christian is to listen to Jesus: “This is my Son, the Chosen one. Listen to him” (Lk. 9:35). But not only is it important to listen to Jesus; it is also essential to allow the Spirit to teach us how to do this.

The listening of Jesus was a profound participation in the sufferings and hopes of humanity. His listening reached its culmination on the cross, where it was transformed into obedience to the Father and total self-offering for the life of the world (cf. Phil. 2:5-11). For Christ, listening meant accepting people and offering them what he “heard” from the Father, namely: the love that frees and saves, comforts and strengthens.

For the Church of every era, listening to Jesus is an indispensable criterion for interpreting events and situations in the light of faith in the midst of the inevitable difficulties of our constantly-changing history.



“I LOVE YOU ALL VERY MUCH AND I LONG TO SEE YOU”

Maestra Thecla, Sister and Mother

Maestra Thecla was a woman who communicated with others on a profound level. She treated every sister as a unique individual, establishing bonds of communion by relating to each person objectively and as an equal, recognizing the individual's positive qualities and showing her that she trusted her. Maestra Thecla created union among the sisters and roused them to enthusiasm in even in the most difficult circumstances. She knew how to keep her counsel, acknowledge her mistakes and ask for forgiveness. She was above all a woman of great faith.

“Not only kindness, peace and calm, but also great inner strength! She possessed the gentle strength that makes itself felt powerfully but sweetly—a strength impossible to resist” (Cardinal Arcadio Larraona).

Maestra Thecla speaks to us through her conferences, circulars and personal letters. It was a perpetual suffering to her that she was unable to answer the letters she received as quickly as she would have liked. She wrote in one of her circular letters: “If you don't hear from me, don't think I've forgotten you. No! I carry you all in my heart. I remember you every day to the Lord and place you under the mantle of the Blessed Mother” (VPC 112).

The Nuances of Love...

She wrote to the sisters who had just left for Brazil: “I am with you in mind and heart. You are before me at every moment” (23 Jan. 1932).

And to Sr. Paula Cordero: “I just sent you a letter yesterday and now I am sending this one by express mail so that, if possible, it will reach the steamship before it sails! Sometimes I am seized by a powerful yearning to drop everything and go to see you! I can picture you in

spirit and I am in the midst of you.... I love you all very much and so I long to see you.”

And again to Sr. Paula: “I wrote to your mother yesterday because she said it has been a long time since she has had any news about you and she is worried....”

A month later, she advises: “Write to your mother once a month. If you include a letter for her when you write to me, I will see that she gets it. She is all alone and you are very far away. I am sorry when your letters arrive and there is not at least a note for her included.”

Maestra Thecla's respect for every person was manifested in her ability to keep secrets, her discretion, the sincere love with which she corrected others, her attention to everyone's health, and her encouragement to the branch houses to practice charity among themselves (cf. VPC 291). Her teachings about love touch the details of daily life. She is sure that “we will do good to the degree that we live in charity at home, among ourselves” (VPC 81).

Maestra Thecla was especially concerned about fraternal life and interpersonal relations. She wanted the sisters to cultivate a strong sense of belonging to the Institute and to feel that they were a part of a single, large family: *one in heart and soul*:

“The model for all the houses of the Daughters of St. Paul should be the little house of Nazareth where Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in perfect unity of heart.... May our model be the humble life of Jesus. Let us work as he worked: intimately united to God, doing everything out of love for him, with the maximum perfection and precision. The faithful performance of our duties, harmony, peace, humility, mutual compassion and sincerity: all these virtues will make our religious houses warm nests of affection—places where one can grow ‘in wisdom and grace’ and enjoy a foretaste of the joys of heaven. Is our family really like this? If we notice that it differs from the Nazareth model in some ways, then let us resolve to correct the situation.”

**FASCINATED BY
THE PAULINE BOOK CENTER**



There is a legend regarding how God created the nations on earth. After forming out of clay immense China, India and all the other huge land masses, he saw that some bits of clay still clung to his hands. When he shook off these fragments, they fell into the Pacific Ocean and formed 7,107 islands, which today are home to about 100 million Filipinos!

It was on one of these islands, Iloilo, that I was born some 64 years ago—the fourth child in a family made up of four boys and three girls.

My family lived on a farm. My father cultivated the land. My mother took care of the house and family and also helped my father on the farm. Both of my parents were rich in faith and Christian values. A dream that they held dear was to send all their children to school. And they had the joy to see all of us finish college.

When I finished my studies, I taught in a school run by the Benedictine Sisters in Bacolod City. I enjoyed teaching. On my way to work, I would pass in front of a Pauline book center. I was curious about the shop and asked myself: Who are these sisters? What are they doing in a book center? Why are they doing that kind of work?

Not long after this, I stopped inside the shop,

browsed through the books and bought some little things to give as gifts to my students. After that, whenever I had free time, I would visit the sisters and help them by dusting the books. I liked to spend time with them, watch them carry out their apostolate, and ask them questions. I felt united to them while I dusted the books and shelves. In fact, whenever I needed to buy some small items for the school, I would choose those that were a little defective or worn so as to help the sisters “maintain the balance between apostolate and economy....”

I understood the importance of this value in the life of every Daughter of St. Paul only later, after entering the Congregation (in which I have now been a member for 41 years). The relationship between apostolate and economy is so essential that in the last two years (2011-2012) our Institute held four continental meetings to help our sisters get to understand this concept better and put it into practice.

I remember that the school where I studied in my own city, Iloilo, was very near to another Pauline book center. I would stop in there frequently and Sr. Melania Ravarotto, one of the FSP pioneers in the Philippines, would always welcome me with a smile. She would ask me from time to time if I wanted to become a sister. When I finally did enter the Congregation in 1971, I traveled to Manila by boat, and it was Sr. Melania who met me at the dock and presented me to Sr. Atanasia Seganfreddo, who at that time was the formator of the aspirants and who today is an FSP missionary in Kenya.

A parenthesis: Sr. Melania died in 2004, while the sisters of the General Government—including myself—were finishing the Fraternal Visit to the Philippines. It was a great privilege for me to be present on the day of her departure for the Father’s House and I am sure that from there she now continues to intercede for her beloved mission land.

Sr. Melania was the only member of the pioneer group of FSPs to the Philippines to die and be buried there. In fact, her determination to remain in “her” country was so strong that she was always reluctant to return to Italy for a vacation or for any other reason because she was afraid something might prevent her from going back to the Philippines. And the Lord in his goodness

granted her desire to remain at her mission post to the very end.

Returning to my vocation story: I would like to cite this Gospel passage: "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?" (Lk 9:25) This passage illuminated and strengthened my decision to join the Daughters of St. Paul in the face of the opposition of my parents, almost all my family and even the Principal of the school in which I taught.

In between her tears, my mother said: "I thought you would be the one to take care of me in my old age...." The Principal, who did not want me to leave, appealed to my sense of responsibility, admonishing me: "If you really are determined to leave, then you should first find someone to take your place as a teacher here...."

But an interior *force* I could not resist gave me the strength I needed to make the decision that would change my life. Although my motivations were not completely clear to me at the time, I knew I wanted to embrace a kind of life that would allow me to *give everything to God* in order to do good. At the end my mother said with exasperation tinged with persistent hope, "Let her go. She'll be back within three months."

My early years in the Congregation were difficult, not due to the work or the trials, but due to homesickness! We were 27 aspirants. I remember that the printing hall was full of us. I liked working in the bindery very much.

Sometimes, when there were urgent jobs to be done, we would even work after supper. We were all very enthusiastic because we knew that every page of whatever book we were preparing *would do good to souls*. This was the motivation that our formators emphasized to encourage us to carry out the apostolate with holy intentions.

With the passing of time, other passages of the Word of God helped to strengthen my conviction that I was not the one who had chosen this kind of life; no, it was God who had chosen me. And even today he continues to say to me very clearly: "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain" (Jn 15:16).

These words are very precious to me; they make me feel strong and well-grounded in



God's plan for my life. In addition, I like to often recall and share this motto with our young sisters in initial formation: "If you know the *why* of life, you can bear with almost any *how* that comes your way."

When I left home to enter the Congregation, my mother was sure I would be back within three months. She died in 2001 and I had the grace to be with her during her last days here on earth. She rejoiced in my presence because she had yearned to see me one last time. And I know that now, from heaven, she is praying that my "three months" as a Pauline will never end.

I became a Daughter of St. Paul because I liked to work in the book center. I was convinced that much good could be done through this specific service. But I find it interesting that in my many years as a Pauline I have never been assigned full time to the book center apostolate. Instead the services that have been repeatedly asked of me have been in the areas of formation and government.

I will be returning to the Philippines next year, at the end of my term as a member of our general governing team. God willing, I will still have the chance to work in one of our book centers. Through the intercession of Sr. Melania, I hope to meet there the young women whom the Lord will send us—persons who will do good through the book center and through all the instruments of communication.

Inocencia Tormon, fsp

MEETING OF THE PAULINE FAMILY



At the beginning of May, the first meeting of the governments of the Pauline Family in Portugal was held in the SSP community of Apelação. Participating in the event were the provincial superiors, councilors, bursars and secretaries of the Society of St. Paul, the Daughters of St. Paul and the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master. The meeting's agenda offered the participants times dedicated to formation, spirituality and the apostolate. During its first stage, Claretian priest Fr. Abilio P. Ribeiro gave the group clearer insights into the ecclesial document *The Service of Authority and Obedience*, whose teachings can help to strengthen faith in the salvific mystery of authority from the Gospel perspective. Fr. Ribeiro's conference was followed by a sharing of ideas and program planning among the governments of the Pauline Family. Taken into consideration during this stage of the encounter were areas of the Pauline life such as organization, circumscription dynamics, formation, community life and the apostolate. The meeting was an excellent moment for pooling experiences and promoting greater integration among the members of the three Pauline Congregations present in Portugal, especially during this time of preparation for the Centenary of the Pauline Family.

COMMUNICATIONS WEEK

Once again the FSPs and SSPs of Italy banded together to celebrate the seventh annual *Communications Week* (13-20 May 2012)—an initiative organized to highlight the Pope's Message for the occasion, which this year



is entitled, *Silence and Word: Path of Evangelization*.

Numerous courses, seminars, conferences, debates, TV/radio programs, festivals, etc. were programmed in various cities up and down the peninsula to

give greater emphasis to the importance of WCD. A major event on the agenda was a Communications Festival in Caltanissetta, organized in collaboration with the diocese for 14-27 May.

The organization committee released the following statement: "To retrace the long and rich history of *Communications Week* means to look back seven years to when World Communications Day celebrated its 40th birthday. The Day was almost unknown to the general public and consequently was celebrated by just a handful of communications workers. The Daughters of St. Paul and Society of St. Paul embraced the challenge to bring this important ecclesial and cultural event to the attention of more people by organizing a variety of activities designed to promote the values proposed each year by the Pope in his WCD Message. Today we can say that the Paulines have met their goal with resounding success. By means of their book and media centers and their many apostolic activities, the FSPs and SSPs play a significant role in helping to unite all the dioceses of Italy on the virtual level to celebrate Communications Week throughout the country every year."

BIBLE FESTIVAL 2012



The Diocese of Vicenza, Italy, in collaboration with the Society of St. Paul, celebrated its 8th annual Bible Festival from 18-27 May 2012. The theme of the event, *Why are you afraid?* (Mk. 4:40):

Drawing Hope from Sacred Scripture, focused on overcoming fear, especially the many fears of today, by holding fast to the hope offered by the Scriptures.

Some Festival events offer participants the chance to engage in debate, while others were designed to appeal to those who just want to enjoy a Bible-centered occasion. Consequently, the Festival program included conferences, reflections, a comparison of ideas and *lectios* guided by experts, combined with “lighter” events such as displays, workshops for children and families, concerts and theatrical performances, plus many food booths—all geared to encouraging Christians and non-Christians alike to participate in the experience. In short, the Festival offered something for everyone: the more intellectually-oriented could take advantage

of the opportunity to study religious, cultural and sociological themes more profoundly, while others who preferred more spontaneity could compare ideas concerning current issues, the meaning of life, etc. in a more unstructured setting, and those who simply wanted to get to know the Bible better could do so in many different ways.

As Vicenza’s Bishop, Benjamin Pizziol, said: “The Bible is able to open the minds and warm the hearts of people, as happened with the disciples on their way to Emmaus—the emblem of this Festival. I hope that those who participate in this event with a yearning to find God are not afraid to get close to him.”

FSP PROFESSIONS



FIRST PROFESSIONS

Jamoo Catherine Athitaya, Philippines
 Jullamonthon Maria Parichat, Philippines
 Pondaag Daisy Lrawati, Philippines
 Dias de Abreu Daiane Aparecida, Brazil
 De Carvalho Karina, Brazil
 De Souza Meri Elisabete, Brazil
 Manjate Euclida Angelo, Mozambique
 Nangira Noel Lucy, Kenya
 Doris Wanyonyi, Kenya
 Mukami Elizabeth, Kenya
 Bime Mirabelle Ch. Nyuydze, Cameroon
 Ogu Jennifer Chidinma, Nigeria
 Mtamira Florence Philipa, Zambia
 Mazda Alida Patricia, DR Congo
 Nsakidi Letine Diane, DR Congo
 Noh Seola Francesca, Korea
 Bak Sa Ryung Augustina, Korea
 Cho Hyun Jin Bona, Korea
 Seo Moon Hee Theresa, Korea
 Ahn Jung Do Hyoju Agnes, Korea

PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

Ashiq Sr. Sobia Tubussan, Pakistan
 Flores Sr. María Gabriela, Argentina
 Kamin Kanunda Sr. Perpetue, DR Congo
 Tshibola Nsaka Sr. Thérèse, DR Congo
 Musole Sr. Cecilia Katunge, Kenya
 Mattolini Sr. Silvia, Italy
 Raharisoa Sr. Lea, Madagascar
 Razafimamonojy Sr. Adeline Zoé, Madagascar
 Kondo Rumiko Sr. Piermaria, Japan
 Alarcon Sr.. Rhodora Asuncion, Philippines
 Gutierrez Sr. Ling, Philippines
 Matikova Sr. Anna, Czech Republic
 Lakra Sr. Edline, India
 Ponatt Sr. Shiji Abraham, India
 Kipounamai Sr. Salome Vahnai, India
 Kashong Sr. Hinga Mary, India
 Arul Sr. Kamala Mary, India
 Philip Sr. Sagaya Mary, India
 Ngade Sr. Philomena, India
 Sheu Huey Pyng Sr. Rosa, Taiwan
 Lam Sr. An Mei Marie, USA
 Monge Sr. Marlyn Evangelina, USA
 Martinez Herrera Sr. Yenny Milagros, Venezuela
 Osto Balaguer Sr. Vilma de Los Angeles, Venezuela
 Cuenca Ludeña Sr. Mireya de La Nube, Colombia
 Batista De Souza Sr. Marizete, Brazil
 Ramalho Sr. Ana Paula, Brazil
 Leal Ribeiro Sr. Janete, Brazil
 Klidzio Sr. Angela, Brazil

WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

CHINA: OVER 22,000 BAPTISMS ON EASTER SUNDAY



Fides News Agency reports that 22,104 catechumens were baptized on Easter Sunday in China. The data was collected by the Study Center of Faith, located in the country's Hebei province. The newly-

baptized, 75% of whom are adults, belong to 101 dioceses. Sr. Li Guo Shuang of the Study Center says: "Some dioceses and communities were not able to turn in their data because they had problems contacting us so the figures are not complete and could increase." In evaluating the statistics, it should also be kept in mind that not all catechumens in China are baptized on Easter Sunday. The testimony of a catechist from the Ba Meng diocese (Inner Mongolia) can provide us with a key for interpreting this data: "Evangelization is not something impossible but it calls for strong convictions, solid preparation and an adequate formation to the Faith."

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES ONLINE: CHURCHES IN EUROPE; CHURCHES FOR EUROPE



The Episcopal Conferences of Europe have inaugurated a new information portal that offers each Conference the chance to disseminate news about its initiatives. The articles are automatically translated into the 32 languages spoken in Europe.

"This necessary instrument is the fruit of the communion of bishops," said Cardinal Peter Erdö, president of the Council of European Episcopal Conferences. "It is meant to be a door to helping people participate in the life of the Church in individual countries. It is also a door to Jesus Christ because

the news disseminated gives people access to the wealth of the Catholic Church on this continent."

FINESTRA SUL MONDO

ARAB WORLD: A NEW SPRINGTIME FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS?



More than 50 women from Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Lebanon met in Beirut, Lebanon, from 16-17 May 2012 to see how they could use the social media to create a network of women's organizations and to discuss strategies for attaining their primary concerns, namely: the rewriting of the Constitutions of their homelands, a grass-roots sensibilization to the situation of women and a reorganization of their countries' educational systems.

Many of the participants said that the best thing about the meeting was the chance to exchange experiences with one another and learn from one another how to face similar problems lived in different contexts.

PAKISTAN: GIVE WOMEN A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SOCIETY



About 130 Christian women participated in a congress held in Lahore, during which they analyzed various problems in Pakistani society and proposed initiatives to help resolve them. They took advantage of this event to once more courageously affirm that the women of the country should be allowed to play a more active role in society, taking as a starting point the primary and inalienable right to vote and to be elected to public offices (a point that is currently under hot debate).

It seems as if the role of women in Pakistani society has not improved much in the last few years. One datum to confirm this statement: in 2002, only 30% of the women in the country were registered to vote, and in 2007 this number had increased by only ten percent. Lillian Younas, Vice-President of SHAAD (Association for Social Harmony Awareness and Development), cites patriarchal values, a discriminatory law and inadequate policies as the major blocks to the development of Pakistani women. She says that even when women need an identity card they must depend on male members of the family.

AFRICA DAY: A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND CULTURE



Africa Day—a celebration of African unity and of the continent’s cultural and economic potential—is the annual commemoration on 25 May of the 1963 founding of the *Organization of African Unity* (today known as the *African Union*). Made up of 54 States, the Union tackles problems like poverty, natural catastrophes, extreme meteorological conditions and wars. The worldwide celebration of *Africa Day* is a sign of the global community’s respect for the countries of this continent, which have a right to independence, human dignity and economic well being.

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

“DEAR DIARY...”

Once upon a time there existed something known as a *secret diary*, the faithful friend in whom a person confided his/her worries, fears, hopes and plans. As teenagers, many of us probably kept this kind of journal in which we recorded the events of our day in a very personal way. And precisely because

the things recorded were so intimate, most of us probably kept our diary hidden from everyone else.

Today we call a diary a “blog” and it is no longer jealously guarded from the eyes of others. Instead, we put our thoughts online, making them accessible to everyone. But the truly revolutionary feature of today’s “diaries” is that the thoughts they contain can be read and commented upon by anyone. Thus online diaries take on a life of their own and allow us to dialogue with others.

In the light of this, we can say that blogs—and indeed the whole social network system—are bringing about a vast cultural transformation that is powerfully impacting not only the way we communicate but communication itself. As Pope Benedict XVI says, “The new digital technologies are bringing about fundamental shifts in patterns of communication and human relationships” (*Message for the 43rd World Communications Day*).

Let us rapidly review here some notions concerning blogs so as to understand how they function and how they can be used in the Church’s mission of evangelization.

To define a blog is rather complex since the word does not have any literal meaning. It is a portmanteau of the term *web log*, with “web” referring the Web and “log” to “diary” or “journal.” So a blog would be, as stated previously, an online diary.

Blogs became popular in the United States beginning in the late 1990’s. In fact, the first blog went online on 17 December 1997 when Jorn Barger, an American, decided to post on the Internet his reflections on everything from literature to science.

The most notable structural feature of blogs is that they are virtual spaces in which a person can post content of any type, usually displayed chronologically from the newest entry back to the oldest. This material is preserved in an archive that can be organized according to week, month or year and is often divided into categories to make it easier to track the key subjects of the texts.

Another feature of blogs is that they often allow the insertion of various types of material (pdf files, pictures, videos, audio files) into the text.

Many blogs offer the reader a chance to comment on the texts, giving the author feed-

back on what he/she posted. Here it would be well to make a distinction between the interaction and communication typical of a blog and that of social networks. Social networks (like Facebook, for instance) offer users immediate interaction and the opportunity to exchange or “post” news on one’s bulletin board. This information consists of short phrases, often accompanied by a link, videos or pictures. The language used is very casual and the content is usually drawn from recreational pursuits or day-to-day happenings. Blogs, instead, tend to offer content that is more structured in format and more formal in language due to the type of subjects treated.

So, to reassume: a blog is an innovative communications language—an online space in which individuals can post their experiences and in which others can intervene to comment. Let us now ask the question raised by Pope Benedict XVI: “Is there also a style of Christian presence in the digital world?” (*Message for the 43rd World Communications Day*), and I would add, *including through the use of blogs?*

The answer is *of course* and there are many online examples to substantiate this. A Christian must be a Christian everywhere, including in the world of cyberspace. He/she should witness to the Faith in a coherent way through his/her digital profile, way of communicating, and by making choices and judgments that are in harmony with the Gospel message.

Even though nothing can replace the unique and profound role of the Liturgy and the sacraments in our experience of God, the new technologies of communication (like blogs) “can provide a supplement and support in both preparing for the encounter with Christ in community, and sustaining the new believer in the journey of faith which then begins” (John Paul II, *Message for the 36th World Communications Day*, 2002).

At the end of this brief look at blogs, their importance in today’s cultural context, and the contribution they can make to the Church’s work of evangelization, here is one last thought regarding their concrete possibilities, taking into consideration the steady increase of the new media and social networks.

It is a given that blogs will undergo inevitable technological changes with regard to



software and modes of interaction. But this will not endanger the substance and purpose of this instrument, namely: to function as an online diary—a personal publishing activity that recounts situations in a simple, immediate and interactive way.

We can also say that blogs can help to re-establish the balance of the whole media system because they integrate the traditional broadcast media (which limit themselves to transmitting news *sic et simpliciter*—“as it is and simply”) with all the online media, which make the most of relational communications between groups or networks of individuals.

In fact, media experts say it is incorrect to claim that the role and value of the traditional media have been superseded by the new interactive media. Instead, the traditional media (primarily newspapers and television) can benefit from the challenge offered them by the latest innovations in the world of communications. But in order to reap this benefit, it is necessary that the traditional media give priority to increasing the quality and credibility of their communications so as to serve the public more competently and thus fulfill the heart of their mission.

Within this panorama, blogs can serve as “meeting places” between advancing modernity and traditional forms of narrating reality, the strong point here being the rapport of trust between the persons online, reinforced by the sharing of information.

As was already said, the proclamation of the Gospel must take advantage of the new

“places” of communication (blogs, social networks and other web 2.0 channels)—the modern *agora* that can serve to bring God closer and make him more tangible to today’s “internauts.”

Manolo Pizzoli

**FAREWELL TO PIERRE BABIN,
MISSIONARY-COMMUNICATOR**



Pierre Babin, a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and a renowned expert in the field of religious communication, died on 9 May 2012 at the age of 87. Fr. Babin, who was passionately interested in the mass media and sociology, founded the Crec Avex Research and Training Center in Ecully, France, where hundreds of communicators, above all from Asia and Africa, have been formed.

Fr. Babin was a long-time collaborator of Marshall McLuhan, from whom he drew several ideas regarding communication that he then applied with great competence and prophetic foresight to the ecclesial and missionary sphere.

**A FILM TO COMMEMORATE THE 140TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (SALESIANS)**



Main: The House of Happiness: this is the title of a film on the life of Sr. Maria Domenica Mazzarello (affectionately known as Main), the religious who helped Don Bosco found the Institute of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians.

The film, which premiered in Rome on 4 May 2012 in the auditorium of the Music Park, was produced to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the feminine branch of the Salesians.

The charism of St. Maria Mazzarello blossomed into a huge missionary work. In fact, today the Salesian Sisters work in 94 countries on all the world’s continents, and have a total of 1,436 communities.

**FIRST 3-D MOVIE ABOUT JESUS
“MADE IN INDIA”**



Entitled *Thirty Pieces of Silver*, the first-ever 3-D film on Jesus, currently under production in India, is scheduled to be released for Easter 2013 in 5,000 movie theaters throughout the world. Filming will start in July 2012 and the completed movie will be dubbed in nine languages, including Malayalam and English.

The film’s director, producers and part of the cast are Indian.

Producer Johny Sagarika says: “It took almost 10 years to write the screenplay. The director, Kurien Varansala, held many meetings and discussions with Bible scholars.”

Most of the filming will take place in Ramoji Rao Film City, Hyderabad, while other scenes will be shot in Jerusalem. The 300-strong cast will include 50 people from Kerala.

On 5 June, the film’s producers presented the initiative to 35 Catholic bishops gathered at the Pastoral Orientation Center in Kochi and asked them to bless their project.



Foto: Emmanuel Alves, fsp

DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Sr. Concetta Costantina Belleggia, age 95 - 20.04.2012 - Boston, United States
Sr. Giovanna Ballini, age 78 - 27.04.2012 - Albano, Italy
Sr. Franceschina Tommasina Terriaca, age 99 - 29.04.2012 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. Assunta Emma Bassi, age 96 - 07.05.2012 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. M. Danila Assunta Ferrante, age 83 - 07.05.2012 - Alba, Italy
Sr. Maria Mariakutty Kadalikattil, age 64 - 13.05.2012 - Mumbai, India
Sr. M. Rosangela Virginia Marazzi, age 74 - 25.05.2012 - Albano, Italy
Sr Ildefonsa Genoveffa Pivetta, age 99 - 18.06.2012 Alba, Italy

PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Srs. Patricia Thomas and Helen Rita Lane (Father, Wendell) of the Boston and Toronto communities, USA
Sr. Agnes Bok Hee Yang (Mother, Dok Chang Angela) of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Mari Sapienza Lee (Father, Seng Do) of the Lyon community, France
Sr. Fany Cruz Tlatelpa (Father, Felix) of the Amatista (Mexico City) community, Mexico
Sr. Alicia Cuevas Ochoa (Father, Daniel) of the Mexico City community, Mexico
Sr. Claudia M. Pena y Lillo (Mother, Claudina del Carmen) of the Santiago community, Chile
Sr. M. Redenta Yukie Kikuchi (Mother, M. Johanna Haru) of the Sendai community, Japan
Sr. Shakila Hermas (Father, Hermas) of the Karachi community, Pakistan

PAULINE FAMILY

Br. Eugenio Saverio Priante, ssp, age 70 - 14.04.2012 – London, Great Britain
Sr. Maddalena Innocenza Turra, sjbp, age 79 - 06.05.2012 - Imus (Cavite), Philippines
Sr. M. Maura M. Teresa Bertozzi, pddm, age 79 - 12.05.2012 - Cinisello Balsamo, Italy
Br. Angelo Bruno Baldin, ssp, age 83 -14.05.2012 - Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Yolanda Visitacion Castro, pddm, age 73 - 14.05.2012 - Cordoba, Argentina
Fr. Andrea Ezechiele Damino, ssp, age 96 - 31.05.2012 - Rome, Italy
Br. Eusebio Navarro Navarro, ssp, age 90 - 03.06.2012 - Madrid, Spain
Fr. Sebastian James Karamvelil, ssp, age 73 - 03.06.2012 - London, Great Britain
Br. Kintoki Emmanuel Robert Pembele, ssp, age 69 - 06.06.2012 - Kinshasa, Congo
Fr. Adérito Joaquim Lourenço Louro, ssp, age 79 - 15.06.2012 - Braga, Portugal