

FSP INFORMAZIONE

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ENGLISH

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From the Superior General



Dearest Sisters,

Figuratively speaking, I am writing to you from the Conference Hall of the Bishops Synod where, through the mysterious and providential plan of God, I am participating in the Church's profound and courageous reflections on the role of the Word of God in the life and mission of every Christian. I realize that my participation in this event is a privilege but, at the same time, I am also profoundly convinced that, through me, the Church wants to pay grateful tribute to all the Daughters of St. Paul, who have always been committed to preaching the Word in fidelity to the mandate of our Founder and in keeping with the example of the Apostle of the Gentiles.

The Pauline Year and this Synod lead us back to the heart of our charism, which finds its daily nourishment in the Word, and which draws inspiration and content for the apostolate from it. Beginning with initial formation, we were all taught to cultivate an intense and profound rapport with the Scriptures, which has always held—and continues to hold—a place of honor in our homes and apostolic centers.

Our Constitutions are filled with references to the Word. They urge us to welcome it “with attentive, docile and prayerful hearts, allowing ourselves to be evangelized by the all-surpassing knowledge of Christ” (8). They propose Mary as our model because she “welcomed, treasured and lived the Word” (10). They remind us that our apostolate is at the service of the Word and that we are to “dedicate our time, our energies and our very life” to this cause (12). From the Word, we draw “the manifold wisdom of God” (16), which we try to translate into “a language that communicates” (21), “without reductions or alterations” (17), “so that the Word of God may reach the greatest number of people and be presented to them as the truth that saves” (24).

The Word fills our days to overflowing! It should permeate us to the point that it speaks through us, making us “living Words.” But if we look within ourselves honestly, we realize that we are not yet producing the spiritual and apostolic fruit that should be the result of the Seed deposited so continually and abundantly in us. That Seed must penetrate the soil of our heart, sprout, grow and produce stalks laden with grain. This is what the Holy Father emphasized during the Synod's opening Mass in the Basilica of St. Paul on 5 Oct.: “When God speaks, he always asks for a response. His saving action demands human cooperation; his love must be reciprocated.”

“When God speaks”: the Word is the privileged place where the Lord enters into dialogue with believers, provides meaningful answers to their questions, and casts light on their actions. In the light of the Word, every event, fact and phenomenon has its place in the not-yet-complete plan of God, who is and remains our Father. In the school of the Word, we learn to read the signs of the times, to gaze upon the world with love and participate in its life, to strive to do good to the people of today, and to respond to their cries for communion and love, which assail us from all sides.

In his homily on 5 Oct., Pope Benedict XVI urged all Christians to make the cry of the Apostle of the Gentiles, “Woe to me if I do not evangelize” (1 Co. 9:16), resound with special urgency during this Pauline Year. This should be our way of responding to the appeals of all those who have not yet met Christ, all those who have abandoned the practice of the faith and all those who are seeking the true meaning of life. Only Christ, the Word of God, can provide satisfactory answers. “Therefore,” the Holy Father said, “it is indispensable for Christians on every continent to be ready to

reply to those who ask them to account for the hope that is in them (cf. 1 Pt. 3.15), joyfully proclaiming the Word of God and living the Gospel without compromises.”

Fr. Alberione urged us to imitate the Master in spreading the Divine Word in both cities and rural areas, not overlooking even the remotest habitations. He taught us that we must not only proclaim the Gospel but also reflect on it profoundly and witness to it credibly through our lives: “Since we must give divine doctrine, we must on the one hand be well enlightened and on the other hand communicate the wisdom of God” (Vademecum, 1013). “The apostle exudes God from all her pores: through her words, prayers, gestures and attitudes, in public and in private—with her whole being. Live God and give God!” ((UPS IV, 278)

I feel you with me in the Synod Hall, where we are all once more attending “the school of the Master,” who speaks to us through the Church and her Synod representatives from every continent.

The bishops tell us about the challenges they are facing: their limited resources, the problem of consolidating theological formation and of promoting a deeper reflection on the Word of God in diverse contexts, often marked by poverty and injustice, not to mention a plurality of religions, civilizations and cultures. As a bishop from India said, this means that “we must use categories of thought, symbols, and spiritual traditions that have meaning for the people among whom we carry out our pastoral work. This is a very big responsibility for those who teach the Word.”

Many bishops voice fears about their current situations but also their hopes and enthusiasm. In speaking about Europe, the Archbishop of Zagreb, Croatia reminded everyone that “a culture that breaks with the Christian celebration, that is, with the celebration of the Mystery of the goodness of God and the salvation realized in Christ, risks its joy and moves toward suffering and sorrow. The Word of God reinvigorates the human capacity to celebrate life. Wherever a celebration of the Christian mysteries exists, there the Church is young, and this will guarantee that Europe remains young.”

Other bishops from Africa, Australia and the Americas pointed out the problems arising from the changing times and the consequent need for adaptation, advising everyone—as did the Archbishop of Chicago—to ensure that those who proclaim the Word and interpret the Scriptures undergo themselves a conversion of imagination, intellect and will.” All the speakers expressed their trust in the openness of their peoples, in the support of their collaborators in spreading the Word, and in the hope that is generated by the Word itself.

The Rabbi of Haifa, Israel, underscored: “It is incredible to observe how the Sacred Scriptures never lose their vitality and relevance in the face of today’s problems. This is the miracle of the eternal and perennial Word of God.”

Dear sisters, I want to end this letter with the words of Benedict XVI, uniting my prayers and best wishes to his: “May the Lord enable us to draw near in faith to the twofold banquet of the Word and the Body and Blood of Christ. May Mary most holy, who ‘treasured these words and pondered them in her heart’ (Lk. 2:19) obtain this for us. May she teach us to listen to the Scriptures and meditate on them in an inner process of maturation that never separates the mind from the heart. May the saints come to our aid, especially the Apostle Paul, whom during this year we are increasingly discovering as an undaunted witness and herald of God’s Word.”

Pope Benedict XVI also reminded us that a religious family, by its very presence, is a living “teaching” of the Word of God. May this be true of each of us and our communities. Affectionately,

Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscatto

The General Government



FRATERNAL VISITS

Community of Moscow

Sr. Anna Caiazza made the Fraternal Visit to Moscow from 1-6 August 2008. Although the Catholic Church is not fully recognized in Russia and is a tiny minority presence there, our FSP book center (opened in April 1994) and its publications are deeply appreciated by the members of the Orthodox Church and by Protestants. On the ecclesial level, things are a little difficult right now due to the fact that a new Bishop, Paolo Pezzi, has just begun his mandate. Due to scant religious formation, Russian Catholics have a weak sense of community in spite of the fact that the fragmented and confused population yearns for this bond. But in spite of their dedicated efforts, the diocesan clergy are far too few to meet the spiritual needs of the Russian people and religious Institutes are prevented from carrying out formation and catechetical activities by national laws that deny residence permits to immigrants without work permits.

The Russian people live in a precarious socio-political context. In the last few years, there has been a notable economic improvement and an increase in businesses and services, but at the same time the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. The nation's cultural level is high and its people are sincerely seeking the truth and the sacred, but in spite of this values are gradually declining. This situation is a big challenge to our community, whose members feel called to promote human and family values and speak out to defend the weakest members of society.

Our sisters, who live very simply and modestly, try to draw maximum benefit from every resource at their disposition, making the most of their personal talents. The community is made up of 6 sisters from 3 different countries, all of whom witness to great commitment on the spiritual, communitarian and apostolic levels. The 3 newest arrivals are also working hard to learn Russian. The community faces many stresses, in particular the obligation to leave the country every 3 months for visa renewals, the lack of a common language, and the tension between the need to learn the Russian language and culture and the need to carry out our mission. Assisted by the laity, our sisters are involved in a number of different aspects of the apostolate, ranging from production to diffusion to outreach through the Internet.



Their catalogue features 50 books, 35 audio/CD/video titles, and a good selection of calendars and greeting cards. To celebrate the Pauline Year, they have published *"The ABC's of St. Paul"* by Giuseppe Pulcinelli. Soon to come: *"Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles"* by Rinaldo Fabris, and a series of magnetic book marks bearing quotes from the Letters of St. Paul. Their well-stocked Center is visited by well-educated people from not only Catholic but also Orthodox, Protestant, Muslim and Jewish backgrounds. Their lay co-workers are competent and dependable. The community recently launched a very promising initiative: monthly encounters in the book center for the public.

Our sisters are currently in the process of transferring their web site to a space under our own domain. They have updated their database, which contains about 13,000 titles from 220 publishing houses, and their home page has been embellished with a banner and an area advertising books on St. Paul in Russian. The community has also begun to take advantage of Radio Sophia-Dar, which offers air time to both Orthodox and Catholic

programs. A lay co-worker uses the half-hour time slot to present new Pauline publications and familiarize people with our Institute and mission.

Our sisters consider formation of their lay collaborators one of their top priorities. In this area, they are giving privilege to content that enables their co-workers to get to better know our mission, St. Paul and Fr. Alberione. Our sisters also feel a profound need to forge bonds with workers in the field of communications.

The community is deeply committed to pastoral work for vocations and is already carrying out this apostolate through prayer and the witness of life. Its newest members are young and, as such, will be a fresh and enthusiastic presence at vocation encounters organized by the diocese and at the bishop's monthly meetings with youth.

Our sisters deeply feel the need for ongoing formation and consequently are striving to learn from everyone and everything, taking advantage of every possibility offered them.

The priorities entrusted to the community at the conclusion of the Visit spring from our sisters' sincere desire to forge a strong bond of communion among themselves, since this is the key to effective apostolic action. Thus it was recommended that they seek to grow in love, share their faith and life experiences with one another, listen to one another respectfully and patiently, cultivate a family spirit, integrate their talents, carry out their duties in a spirit of corresponsibility and be ready to welcome new experiences.

Our hope is that this community, whose members yearn to offer life and hope to a people seeking light, will effectively implement the pastoral methods of Paul so that every person will be able to meet God's saving Truth: Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life.

Community of Via Mascherino, Rome

Sr. Anna Caiazza made the Fraternal Visit to the Via Mascherino community, Rome from 4-8 September 2008.

Opened in 1989, the community carries out a valuable service in the universal Church and participates intensely in the ecclesial life of many countries thanks to its members' daily contact with bishops, priests and laity from all over the world. This reality invigorates the community's life on the personal, community and apostolic levels, prompting our sisters to take a keen interest in socio-political events and international situations so as to offer their clients suitable pastoral responses.



Our sisters are striving to faithfully implement their community Project on the spiritual, communitarian and apostolic levels. A positive factor in this regard is the stability of the community, which has allowed the members to get to know one another well, carry out a progressive journey and consolidate the book center's activities. The sisters are happy to belong to this community and feel they have made significant progress in their efforts to respect one another's differences, forgive one another, dialogue with one another and appreciate each one's positive qualities. At the same time, they are aware that they need to listen to one another more profoundly and without bias, and learn to compare ideas and opinions with one another in a sincere and constructive way.

Visitors to our Pauline Multimedia Center relish its multilingual, multicultural, multimedia and multifunctional characteristics. Universal in nature, the Center is also universal in clientele, attracting bishops, priests, missionaries, religious, students of Rome's many pontifical universities, catechists, lay people and families. The Center, which radiates a clear identity and an ecumenical/pastoral outlook, offers patrons top-quality service, which they deeply appreciate. It stocks a wide array of publications in several different languages, arranged in sectors managed by sisters who not only speak the language concerned but who are also familiar with the cultures of the countries represented by that linguistic

group. In addition to book center diffusion, the sisters also stock the libraries of various Roman and foreign universities, and organize book displays and exhibits.

Our sisters are giving priority to the formation of their lay co-workers by implementing a formation/information itinerary designed to involve their personnel in ecclesial events. This year in particular, our sisters want to help them get to know St. Paul more deeply.

The community feels the need to become more involved in pastoral work for vocations. Consequently, besides intensifying their prayers and witness of life in this regard, the sisters are also making the effort to participate in prayer and vocation encounters organized in nearby parishes, to take advantage of the opportunities provided by their apostolic activities to get to know young women, and to collaborate with various vocation organisms.

They also feel the need for continual updating due to the universal nature of the apostolate they carry out and thus they are striving to learn from everyone and everything, taking advantage of the instruments at their disposition such as meetings, personal reading and the exchange of ideas among themselves.

The *priorities* entrusted to this community at the end of the Fraternal Visit correspond to the needs pinpointed by its members themselves, namely: to revitalize their faith by improving the quality of their spiritual life, concentrating it always more on the Word and Eucharist, according to the example of St. Paul and Fr. Alberione; to grow in discernment; to collaborate more with one another; to overcome the temptations of sectorialism and competition, and to offer their lay collaborators a joyous and credible witness of life.

During the Fraternal Visit, the community was also consulted concerning the appointment of its new superior. Our sisters thanked the Lord and Sr. Rosalba Conti for the love, wisdom and discretion with which she carried out her service as local superior.

We hope that this community, which serves the universal Church fervently and competently through our St. Paul Multimedia Center, will continue its journey in communion with the whole people of God, to whom it is called to vigorously and joyously proclaim God's saving Word.

Delegation of Chile

Superior General Sr. Antonieta Bruscato, General Councilor Sr. Francisca Matsuoka and Bur-sar General Sr. Gabriella Santon made the Fraternal Visit to Chile from 26 August to 10 September 2008. 85% of Chile's population is Catholic and currently the country is going through a period of economic stability. This year, the Delegation is celebrating its 60th anniversary of foundation and our sisters rejoice in the spiritual and apostolic progress the circumscription has made over the past decades. The Delegation, which has just welcomed its new government, is made up of 22 sisters, including 2 Koreans, 2 Brazilians and an Italian. It has 3 communities: Santiago, Concepción and Antofagasta. Currently the circumscription is facing problems such as a lack of vocations, poor health on the part of a number of sisters, and economic fragility, which hinders the development of the apostolate and the community.



All the sisters carry out the apostolate with great generosity, including the elderly sisters, who contribute to it in keeping with their possibilities. The circumscription is involved in publishing, marketing, book center activities, administration, diffusion and Otec (an organism that provides technical training in communications). Lately its book centers have experienced a decline in diffusion due to problems obtaining stock, especially new products. Steps need to be taken to reinvigorate and increase dissemination, strengthen the Delegation's economic situation and revitalize its apostolic activities so as to respond to the call of the Lord and the requirements of the Pauline mission.

The circumscription is giving priority to pastoral work for vocations and has designated one member of each community to carry out this apostolate directly. It continues to implement the formation project drawn up in 2002 but in spite of the hard work of everyone results up to now have been scarce. Our sisters realize they must continue their efforts without becoming discouraged, each one doing her best to help build a serene and enthusiastic community atmosphere that will draw young women.

In each community, the Visitors were given a warm and fraternal welcome. The presence of sisters from other countries in the local communities has helped to create an open-minded attitude toward different cultures and enables the members of the Delegation to live universality on a daily basis, each community in its own particular way. Our sisters say they both need and want to improve the quality of their community life.

Priorities entrusted to the Delegation

On the basis of what emerged during the Fraternal Visit, the General Government entrusted the following priorities to the new delegation government:

- To be a government of communion and animation so as to revitalize the Delegation and help it improve its quality of life. To govern in a “circular” way through listening, dialogue, the sharing of information and the effort to reestablish trust and hope. To accompany and motivate the sisters, integrate energies and gifts, and give new thrust to our mission.
- To improve the quality of the circumscription’s spiritual and communitarian life.
- To reinvigorate pastoral work for vocations.
- To give new thrust to the apostolate and improve the circumscription’s economy.
- To choose and form our collaborators more carefully and share our charism with them.

During the visits to the communities and dialogue sessions with the new government, the potentials and resources of the Delegation emerged, together with the fact that the circumscription can count on members filled with spiritual, charismatic and also physical energy. We hope that the Divine Master will give our sisters the love, support and light they need to announce his Gospel to the people of this land in the spirit of the Apostle Paul.

Appointment of Circumscription Governments

Venezuela-Dom. Rep.-Puerto Rico Delegation

Sr. Milagros Miranda Rivera Deleg. Superior
 Sr. Elisabetta Vargas Segovia Councilor
 Sr. Liliana Barozzi Councilor

Taiwan Delegation

Sr. Ida Porrino Deleg. Superior
 Sr. Tecla Lin Councilor
 Sr. Giulietta Loda Councilor

Calendar of the General Government

October-December 2008

13-17 October	Frankfurt	<i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i>	Book Fair
23-29 October	Mumbai	<i>Sr. Gabriella Santon</i> <i>Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave</i>	Special Visit
27 October–2 Nov.	France	<i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i>	Special Visit
4-21 November	Portugal	<i>Sr. Anna M. Parenzan</i> <i>Sr. Francisca Matsuoka</i>	Special Visit
5-10 November	Albano Hospital Community	<i>Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato</i> <i>Sr. Samuela Gironi</i>	Special Visit
5 November–5 December	Venezuela/Dom. Rep. Puerto Rico	<i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i> <i>Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave</i> <i>Sr. Gabriella Santon</i>	Fraternal Visit
15-30 November	Pakistan	<i>Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato</i> <i>Sr. Samuela Gironi</i>	Fraternal Visit

The Circumscriptions



Argentina

Youth Mission in Resistencia

In their effort to expand their vocation activities, the FSPs of Resistencia are seeking new ways to interest young women in the Pauline mission. With this in mind, they recently held an Urban Youth Mission aimed at promoting the Christian culture and bringing Jesus to places where young people gather such as neighborhood squares, street corners, high school and university campuses, etc. Taking as their starting point the Lord's invitation to be his disciples and missionaries, our sisters taught the participants how to present Gospel values through the diffusion of books, posters and leaflets emphasizing the importance of life, of living together, of service and of human dignity. Each small group dedicated Saturday or Sunday to this simple mission, offering passersby the material they wanted to promote.



Bolivia

International Book Fair

From 14-24 August, the FSPs of La Paz participated in Bolivia's International Book Fair, whose wide display of books drew numerous visitors. Our sisters took advantage of the occasion to launch their new children's book, *Quieres leer un cuento*. The author, Monica Esparza, present for the occasion, received a warm welcome from both teachers and their students, who listened raptly to her presentation of the values highlighted in her stories. Many families and groups of school children flocked to our stand, prompting our sisters to say that the Fair was a wonderful apostolic experience and a beautiful way to commemorate the Pauline Year.



Brazil

Book Salon in Tukurui

In August, the Department of Culture of the State of Parà, in collaboration with Eletronorte Company, held a Book Salon in Tukurui. The FSPs of Belem participated in the event with a display of our Pauline publications and also organized parallel cultural initiatives with the help of their collaborators. About 600 elementary and middle school teachers and principals were given vouchers by the Ministry of Education to purchase books from the exhibitors. A notable amount of people stopped by our stand to tell our sisters how much they appreciated their presence at the event.



Colombia

New Members of Our Family

Realizing the importance of the Congregation's project, *Co-Workers for the Sake of the Gospel*, for the Church and the Pauline Family, the FSPs of Colombia are striving to fos-

ter the human, Christian and charismatic formation of their lay collaborators in the circumscription's local communities. In view of this, the sisters appointed to supervise the Province's various groups of Cooperators recently met in Bogotá to share ideas on the theme *Go out to the whole world and preach the Gospel*. Afterward, they established guidelines to follow and drafted a work plan.

On 20 August the Province officially launched the Pauline Cooperators Association: groups of laity in Medellín, Cali, Manizales and Cucuta began their formation journey joyfully, in a climate of prayer and trust. To consolidate this initiative, our sisters

are also carrying out a publicity campaign to promote the vocation of the laity by inviting those who feel God's call to join the Pauline Cooperators Association.



Ecuador

Important Missionary Congress

The Third Latin American Missionary Congress was held in Quito, Ecuador from 12-17 August 2008. Over 3200 people, including 80 bishops and a delegate of Pope Benedict XVI, participated in the event, which revolved around the theme, *With Christ, Latin America Listens, Learns and Proclaims*. The participants reflected on the missionary discipleship of every baptized person in preparation for the great continent-wide mission currently being organized by the presidents of the Latin American Bishops Conferences. During the Congress, Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, urged everyone to take Paul of Tarsus as their model of discipleship and to imitate his virtues, teachings and evangelization methods so as to be able to say with him: "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." He also invited the participants to rediscover the missionary passion of Paul that prompted him to exclaim: "Woe to me if I do not evangelize!" so that they too will feel the conviction, "Woe to us if we are not missionaries!"

The FSPs attending the Congress projected an integral image of missionaries, apostles and communicators. They collaborated with the Congress' Press Office and printed a special bookmark to acquaint the Congress delegates with our latest missionary foundation in Sudan. Everyone displayed a great interest in this initiative and praised our Institute for its courageous effort to bring the Gospel to all peoples in the style of the Apostle Paul. Our sisters also took advantage of their stand to launch their new book, *Misiones Populares*. As part of the group of journalists covering the event, they were able to reach many people through different instruments of communication. During one of the press conferences, it was underscored that the Pauline communications mission is an effective way of meeting today's challenge to offer truth, justice and peace to the contemporary world.



Philippines

Bible Symposium

One of the highlights of the Pauline Year celebrations in the Archdiocese of Manila was the Biblical symposium on St. Paul organized by the members of the Pauline Family in collaboration with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres. More than 400 people (priests, religious sisters, seminarians and lay educators) participated in the event, which was held at San Carlos Major Seminary on 16 August 2008.

Guest speaker, Most Rev. Pablo David, Auxiliary Bishop of Pampanga and a well-known Scripture professor, explored the topic: *Power in Weakness—Unlocking the Language of Paradox in Paul*. He said that the four keys to unlocking these paradoxes are *agape, kenosis, resurrection* and the idea of the *Corporate Christ*. Speaking about this last concept, the Bishop mentioned the biblical dissertation of Sr. Bernardita Dianzon, FSP, on the same topic. During the 30-minute break, the participants viewed the film *Saul of Tarsus*.



Paul Speaks to Children

During this Pauline Year, our sisters of Pasay are striving to make St. Paul known to children, especially the most underprivileged, through monthly meetings. Twenty children from a local institute for the deaf have already participated in the sessions, which feature a film on St. Paul followed by a short catechesis conducted with the help of the children's teachers. The children then offer their feedback through writing and pantomime. Four other groups from the same school are scheduled to participate in the sessions.

On 30 June 2008, our sisters returned from morning Mass at the cathedral to find 20 young people, ranging in age from 15-23, on their doorstep. Some were students, some already held jobs, but all were seeking religious who were willing to give them spiritual guidance and formation. The young people are members of a local group committed to helping the children of their part of the city, which is extremely poor. They teach catechism, try to make peace between rival youth gangs, hold contents to foster the talents of the children, distribute used clothing and toys, etc. The group meets its expenses by selling old newspapers and small items donated by families of the area. The members are searching for competent guides to help them grow on the spiritual plane, get to know the Catholic Faith and the Bible more profoundly, guide their apostolic activities and help them better organize their group. They are eager to collaborate with the Pauline apostolate in any way that they can. Realizing that some of these young people could be future Pauline Cooperators, our sisters accepted their request and are now preparing a formation program for them.



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Equatorial Guinea

Missionary Trip to the Mainland

Sr. Letizia Panzetti, Delegation Superior of Spain, spent a month in Malabo to allow the sisters of the community to take turns for a brief rest. She writes in the delegation's bulletin "*Comunicandonos*" that the recent itinerant mission carried out on mainland Guinea by Sr. Olga e Sr. Marta was very positive. The sisters held parish displays, visited the families and also met several young women whom a local priest is guiding toward the Pauline religious life. Our missionaries returned to Malabo filled with enthusiasm as a result of their evangelizing activities and the warm welcome they received from the people, who begged them to open a community on the mainland.



Hong Kong

Blessing of the New Book Center

On 4 August 2008, Most Rev. John Tong, Coadjutor Bishop of Hong Kong, blessed the new St. Paul Book & Media Center in this city. Sr. Mary Grace Lee opened the event with a brief explanation of the meaning of a St. Paul Book Center. Bishop Tong encouraged our sisters to always keep in mind the objective of Pauline evangelization and emphasized the need to lead people to Jesus Christ, our supreme hope in life. The FSPs have been in Hong Kong for 30 years, spreading the Word of God through direct contact with individuals and also through their evangelization activities in parishes, organizations, schools etc. But the sisters needed a base to provide people with more resources, as well as support for their spiritual needs. For the past two years they rented a small space in a commercial center, but it proved to be inadequate. Last April they asked Cardinal Zen to help them find a better location for their book center and with his aid they were able to move to their current, much more suitable location.



India

Catholic Enquiry Center

The Catholic Enquiry Center of the Archdiocese of Bangalore conducts a correspondence course on Christianity in English, Tamil and Kannada for people who want to get to know Christ and the Catholic Faith. The Center is managed by Sr. Clare, fsp, with the help of several collaborators. On 13 July the Archbishop celebrated a Mass for the Center's staff and students, which was also attended by many non-Christians. In his homily, he urged the faithful to spread the Gospel like St. Paul, using the means at their disposition. During the communion service, the non-Catholics were invited to also approach the altar. Each was given a flower and then the con-celebrants laid their hands on each person individually. After the Liturgy, the young people of the parish put on a program highlighting the important events in the life of Jesus. Catholics and non-Catholics alike enjoyed the performance immensely. One former Hindu recounted how CEC had helped her get to know Christ and become a Catholic. The Archbishop lauded the work of the Center and encouraged its personnel to continue their mission with enthusiasm.

Pauline Book Fair in Shillong

This year, the annual book fair (11-20 Sept.) held by our FSP Book Center in Shillong took on a special "Pauline" color in honor of the Pauline Year. The pastor of the Cathedral parish launched the event by reminding everyone of the presence of the FSPs in the city for the past 32 years and how their wealth of publications has contributed to the spiritual formation of the people of the region. The opening ceremony, comprised of the lighting of a lamp, the reading of the Word, and a small skit on St. Paul performed by our Juniors, underscored the book center's role in the work of evangelization. The head of the local Theological Seminary then spoke about the importance of good reading, saying it helps to shape a person's mind and personality. The ceremony was attended by many friends, cooperators and religious of the city, all of whom appreciated the gift items and discounts being offered to celebrate the occasion. In the following days, the fair was visited by various categories of people, including heads of institutions and schools, all of whom thanked our sisters profusely for this annual event.



Great Britain

Meeting in the Liverpool Book Center

Following Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to "listen and drink from St. Paul as our teacher in truth and in faith," the FSPs of Liverpool have organized a series of conferences, encounters and prayer moments for the Pauline Year. The first in the series of talks elicited notable interest from both Catholics and non-Catholics in the city. On 10 Sept. 2008, more than 70 people came to our book center to listen to Archbishop Patrick Kelly speak about "*The Struggles of Paul on the Road to Damascus*." The Archbishop said that everything Paul had studied and believed was thrown off balance by his experience of light on the road to Damascus. The God who revealed himself to the Israelites and assured them of his presence became flesh in Jesus. Paul understood that Jesus did not only "become like human beings in all things but sin," but that he also dwells in them, as evidenced by his words: "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting." Paul's meeting with Christ led him to consider all that he had studied, believed and worked for as rubbish compared to the surpassing knowledge of Christ.



Those who attended the conference were very pleased with the Archbishop's interesting and unexpected presentation of Paul and willingly accepted his invitation to read the Apostle's Letters in a fresh way by paying attention not only to the text but also to the context in which they were written.

Italy

Summer Events for Youth

As always, during the summer months the FSPs of Italy multiply their vocation encounters and other vocation-oriented activities. In July, our sisters organized a youth gathering in Spinello to celebrate World Youth Day in communion with the young people gathered in Sydney, Australia for that event. The participants spent intense days of prayer and reflection, liberally interspersed with times of fun and recreation. Another team of FSPs guided a course of reflection on the Word of God from 17-23 July in Alba. A third group hosted a "Bible Camp" for youth in Camerata di Salerno from 12-18 August. The teens who participated in



this event enjoyed it very much, as can be verified by their blog *cantalavita*. Our vocation animators also held encounters on the Apostle Paul, spiritual exercises for youth, and their annual "Radiolab Workshop." Let us now accompany all the participants in these summer camps with our prayers, asking that the journey they have begun will continue and that if they hear the Lord calling them they will respond with generosity.

Madagascar

Silver Jubilee of Foundation

This year the Daughters of St. Paul are celebrating their 25th anniversary of presence in Madagascar, where they arrived on 11 July 1983. To celebrate this Jubilee, our sisters organized a Eucharistic Celebration in their parish church, presided over by Archbishop Odon Razanakolona. During the Liturgy, 3 junior professed sisters made their perpetual professions and 4 novices made their first vows. Commemoration of the day continued with a panel discussion on the theme, "*The Impact of the Cinema on Our Life and on So-*

ciety.” The discussion, which revolved around education to the media, was aired on Radio Don Bosco. Listeners were able to contribute to the program by phoning in their comments and many took advantage of this opportunity. The day concluded with a concert featuring the bands Vetson’Fianar and Pretra Mihira. Our sisters are now carrying out other initiatives to commemorate their Silver Jubilee—a year during which they want to thank the Lord for all the doors he has opened to them in the apostolate and for the young women he is sending to continue the Pauline mission in this country.



Peru
Congress for Young Catholics

About 1500 young people participated in a Youth Congress held in Huanuco from 7-10 August. The event, a vocation initiative organized by the Pauline Family to celebrate the Pauline Year, revolved around the theme: *Young Missionaries of Christ for a Continental Mission*. Sr. Jessica Mostacero, fsp, and other members of the Pauline Family guided the event, which unfolded in a joyous, spontaneous, united and pluricultural atmosphere.

The participants were encouraged to examine the situation of young people in Peru from the perspective of Jesus and to expand their horizons to embrace the entire continent, in keeping with the orientations of the Aparecida Document. Each theme was presented in the light of the Word, the “staple food” of every missionary of Christ.



Romania
First Romanian Daughter of St. Paul

During this year dedicated to St. Paul, the FSPs of Bucharest received the great gift of the first profession of Ana Maria Bulai, the Institute’s first Romanian Daughter of St. Paul. The profession ceremony, which took place of 7 Sept. in Ana Maria’s parish church, was attended with great warmth and joy by the faithful, who just three weeks earlier had supported the Bulai family through the sorrowful death of Ana Maria’s father, Gheorghe. Ana Maria’s wholehearted “yes” to God was an echo of the firm “yes” voiced by her father in support of religious publications banned throughout the country during the long years of communist dictatorship, even though taking such a stand meant risking his job and even his life. In the light of his convictions, he saw his daughter’s vocation as a gift of God not only for the entire family but also for our Institute and for the whole Church.

Our sisters of Bucharest prepared the parishioners for the profession ceremony by inviting them to participate in an encounter entitled, “*What Is Religious Profession? Why Dedicate Your Whole Life to God?*” During 2 other encounters, held in the following days, our sisters presented the figure of St. Paul (“*Who are you, Paul?*”) and that of Thecla (“*A Thousand Lives*”).



for the Gospel”), giving everyone the chance to get to know our Father and Model, and also our Co-Foundress, who joyously and enthusiastically followed in his footsteps.

Singapore

Catholic Doctors Meet St. Paul

Sr. Ida Porrino was asked by the Catholic Medical Association of Taiwan to speak on the subject of St. Paul to the participants in a medical conference held in Singapore on 31 August. The theme assigned her was: “*Conquered by Christ: Faith as a Relationship.*” Her talk was followed by the viewing of the DVD “*Paul: From Tarsus to the World.*”

The 20 doctors who participated in the event said that it was a wonderful experience to listen to Sr. Ida's simple and clear presentation of St. Paul as a teacher of faith. Her talk was enriched by a small display of books on St. Paul in Chinese and English, as well as the DVD.



CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

Daughters of St. Paul

Sr. M. Agnes Shizue Kurihara, age 69 - 02.08.2008 - Tokyo, Japan
Sr. Domitilla Angiolina Ovi, age 94 - 10.08.2008 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sr. Immacolatina Maria Bianco, age 98 - 26.08.2008 - Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Emma Maria Anna Fornaro, age 92 - 04.09.2008 - Albano TM, Italy
Sr. Maria Pia Carmen Delgado, age 81 - 20.09.2008 - Bogotá, Colombia
Sr. M. Letizia Caterina Britti, age 72 - 22.09.2008 - Albano TM, Italy
Sr. Emiliana Ermenegilda Miserere, age 90 - 25.09.2008 - Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Cherubina M. Lourdes Fernandez, age 75 - 26.09.2008 - Pasay, Philippines
Sr. Candida Anna Rivi, age 91 - 06.10.2008 Alba, Italy
Sr. Annabianca Olimpia D'Alberto, age 87 - 11.10.2008 - Alba, Italy

Parents of our Sisters

Sr. M. Lorenza Meinerio (Mother, Maria) – at home, Italy
Sr. Porferia Ocariza (Mother, Flora) of the Davao community, Philippines
Sr. Samuela Lee (Father, Sang Hak Augustino) of the Seoul CP community, Korea
Sr. Samuela Gironi (Father, Gino) of the Generalate community, Rome, Italy
Sr. M. Rosaria Attanasio (Mother, Assunta) of the RA community, Rome, Italy
Sr. Susan James and Sr. Ann Richard Heady (Mother, Helen), Redwood and Boston, USA
Sr. Sandra M. Zuleta Garron (Mother, Elena) of the Lima community, Peru

Pauline Family

Sr. Angela Maria Carmina Costantin, sgbp, age 95 - 19.08.2008 - Albano, Italy
Fr. João Guido Henrique Dos Santos, ssp, age 67 - 20.08.2008 - São Paulo, Brazil
Sr. M. Trinity Anna Taricco, pdm, age 86 - 04.09.2008 - Fresno, USA
Sr. M. Lauretana Lidia Carnevale, pdm, age 87 - 12.09.2008 - Fresno, USA
Br. Susumu Giuseppe Giusto Uchino, ssp, age 59 - 16.09.2008 - Tokyo, Japan
Sr. M. Annunziata Clorinda Stanizzi, age 93 - 01.10.2008 - Strathfield, Australia



Communications

Servants of the Word

There is no doubt that Paul was a dedicated servant of the Word. His preaching, his way of presenting himself to the Christian communities and his method of evangelizing were not the result of human wisdom. Instead, his very weaknesses enabled the wisdom and grace of God to shine forth.

He says this very clearly to the Corinthians (1 Co. 2:1-5): “When I came to you, I did not come with any brilliance of oratory or wise argument to announce to you the mystery of God. I was resolved that the only knowledge I would have while I was with you was knowledge of Jesus, and of him as the crucified Christ. I came among you in weakness, in fear and great trembling and what I spoke and proclaimed was not meant to convince by philosophical argument, but to demonstrate the convincing power of the Spirit, so that your faith should depend not only human wisdom but on the power of God.”

The Gospel announced by Paul witnesses to God because he allowed God to reveal how much he loves all those who live in Christ. Paul’s words reflect not himself but the power of the Spirit. His extraordinary effectiveness was the result of his personal experience of the love of God. He traveled the world as a servant of the Word, kindling hope in his listeners. His message was credible because it was founded on the Spirit.

Paul turns continually to the Spirit, his inexhaustible wellspring, inviting everyone to quench their thirst on the gift of God, accessible to everyone in Christ. The Word of God is brought to fulfillment each time we listen to it, welcome it in faith and share it enthusiastically and accurately with others. When incarnated in us, the Word has the power to renew and transform. As Paul says in Hebrews 4:12: “The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Only those who are guided by the Spirit can understand God’s mysterious plan of salvation: “The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.... No one comprehends the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit.... Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.... For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Co. 2:10-16).

The Spirit, the Light of God, enables us to plumb the depths of human, earthly things, of daily events, and discover their profound meaning. Faith allows us to explore history and helps us to incarnate or inscribe the Gospel in the life stories of the people with whom we live.

God’s Word is his self-revelation through human words, which he uses as a historical and personal intermediary. His Word is the Truth concretized in human history, incarnated in our various relationships and in the events of life, as these interweave with one another. We must interpret this Word and communicate it to others—something that can be done only if we get to know God and our contemporaries through the action of his Spirit.

To serve the Word and proclaim it today is not easy because of the complexity of languages involved, the confusion of messages being broadcast and an attitude of widespread indifference. It is a mission that calls for a spirit of discernment and a courageous witness of life. But the Spirit is always ready to help those who, with humility, want to truly serve the Word of God and he transforms this mission into a source of true joy.

Sr. M. Agnes Quaglini

NEW TECHNOLOGIES, NEW RELATIONSHIPS

Theme for World Communications Day 2009

"New Technologies, New Relationships. Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship" is the theme chosen by Benedict XVI for World Communications Day, which is celebrated by most countries around the world on the Sunday before Pentecost, which means that it will fall on 24 May 2009.

The theme was announced by the Vatican on 29 September, the Feast of Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. The Pope's message for the Day will be made available to the public on 24 January, the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists.

Below is an excerpt from the commentary of Archbishop Claudio Celli, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. With his usual clarity, he underscores several important aspects of the world of communications that will be discussed more amply in the Holy Father's message.

He writes:

More than simply a theme, I think the Pope has put before us a genuine program of work... It is a compendium of the commitments and responsibilities that communication and communicators are called to personally assume at a time powerfully marked by the development of new technologies which, in fact, create a new environment, a new culture.

In a certain sense, it could be said that the Pope is asking from communicators today what he asked for during his meeting with the world of culture in Paris, that is, to assume a truly philosophical attitude: to look beyond the penultimate and set out in search of the ultimate and the true.

It is clear that the Pope is confident about the possibilities of the media, which can be of great help in fostering a climate of dialogue and trust.

His emphasis on the fact that new relationships are arising from today's new technologies touches a fundamental element of communications. In fact, technological progress does not simply imply a step forward. It brings with it new conditions and possibilities that humanity can use and invest for the common good, making it the basis for ample and widespread cultural growth.

If we consider media workers to be first of all facilitators of culture, then we cannot help but recall the Pope's words to representatives from the world of culture during his visit to Paris: "A purely positivistic culture that tries to drive the question concerning God into the subjective realm, as being unscientific, would be the capitulation of reason, the renunciation of its highest possibilities, and hence a disaster for humanity, with very grave consequences."

Archbishop Celli then announced that a bishops' meeting has been scheduled for March 2009. The purpose of the conference, which will bring together media experts and prelates responsible for communications, will be to formulate a more precise and modern pastoral program for the media.



Studies and New Editions

STUDIES

Business Planning

This is the theme of the dissertation of Sr. Loretta Toffoletti, presented to La Sapienza University, Rome in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

The 110-page text is divided into 4 chapters that focus on:

- *companies and the business environment*, with reference to the phenomenon of globalization and its impact on business enterprises;
- *strategic planning*: definition of terms; objectives; alternatives; business-related choices and programming;
- *the strong points of businesses*: the way they are organized; their human and financial resources; communication both inside and outside the company; the company's responsibility to society and business ethics;
- *effective strategic planning in view of producing inexpensive goods*: determining elements such as various types of resources, technologies and their use, types of supervision; the importance of trying to foresee future trends so as to guarantee long-term results.

In her introduction, Sr. Loretta says: "Companies should be well organized on all levels. They should have good internal communications; employees who possess the necessary technical and specialized skills; good management of physical resources; awareness on the part of every employee that he/she is part of the group; and communal support of the company's values, which not only creates unity of intentions but leads each person to feel that he/she is part of a team working to reach well-defined goals."

It is important that some of our sisters specialize in this field of study so as to apply what they learn to our own apostolic structures, as our Founder continually urged. We hope that Sr. Loretta will continue her research in this area and share her findings with the rest of us, reinforcing the principles and exhortations of Fr. Alberione so as to ensure the stability, efficiency and effectiveness of our apostolic activities in the numerous spheres of our mission.

Itinerary for Psycho-Spiritual Growth

In the last few years, deeper study of the text "*Donec Formetur*" has given rise to several attempts to apply the Founder's principles and methods to the process of Pauline formation. One of these attempts is the dissertation of Sr. Josefa Soares dos Santos, presented to Santa Catarina University, Sao Paulo, Brazil, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a degree in Psychopedagogy. Entitled, "*Itinerary for Psycho-Spiritual Growth in the Light of Donec Formetur Christus in Vobis*," the text is divided into three chapters.

Chapter I analyzes Fr. Alberione's spiritual itinerary, which is aimed at progressive conformity to Christ.

Chapter II discusses "The Anthropology of the Christian Vocation" from Rulla's perspective and examines the psychological inconsistencies that can block or retard the values-assimilating process characteristic of the Christian and consecrated lives.

Chapter III proposes a psycho-spiritual and pedagogical itinerary aimed at integrating the person in Christ. It examines several instruments helpful for accomplishing this goal and emphasizes that this work is facilitated by self-knowledge and the integration of psycho-physical values with spiritual ones. The author underscores the importance of meditation, the examination of conscience, reception of the sacraments, and of loving conformity of one's mind, will and heart to the mind, will and heart of Christ.

News from the Church and World



The Bible and Communications

The Synod on the Word of God has focused attention on the Bible. Last July an Interdisciplinary Bible Week was held in Capo Rizzato, Italy on the theme, *“Paul’s Proclamation Strategy: How To Communicate Incisively.”* People from far and wide flocked to listen to experts explore this theme. One participant, Fr. Giuseppe Mazza, remarked that proclaiming the Word in a pastoral way does not mean offering bland platitudes couched in sacred language. Rather it means presenting the Word of God in such a way that all creation serves to interpret it and transform itself in the light of it.

Master’s Degree in Communicating the Gospel

The first itinerary for a degree in this field ended in June and the second will begin in Oct. 2009. The program, offered by the Jesuits of Italy in collaboration with the Theology Faculty of Emilia Romagna, was judged positively by both its organizers and the course participants, who said that the changes currently underway in society and the Church’s need to respond to them make it urgent to rediscover the strategy of discernment. Indeed, we must learn to evaluate these changes and our responses to them in the light of the Gospel, so as to avoid ‘running in vain,’ as St. Paul said. The motivation for offering this unique degree is the fact that “the Church can carry out a new evangelization only if its evangelizers are the first to undergo a re-evangelization.”

Communications and Web 2.0

The Italian Catholic Webmasters Association is offering an online course on formation to communications, with a focus on web sites. In spite of the fact that the 6-month course is very demanding, it has attracted numerous students thanks to top-of-the-line instructors such as Adriano Fabris, professor of Communications Ethics at the University of Pisa; Gino Roncaglia, professor of Information Technologies at Viterbo’s Tuscia University, and Piersandro Rivoltella, professor of Instruction Technologies at Sacred Heart University, Milan.

Proclaiming the Catholic Faith in a Buddhist Environment

A Christian Communications Faculty in a country where Christians are a very tiny minority is an important instrument for the faithful there. Such is the case in Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist nation in which less than 0.5% of the population is Catholic. Professor Chainarong Monthienvchie of Chulalongkorn University says: “The professors and students of this Communications Faculty can use it to proclaim the love of God to the world. We must get to know and understand our Buddhist brothers and sisters and help them become acquainted with the Gospel and its values. But we have to be very careful that they grasp what we mean when we speak about love, peace and justice. Consequently, it is essential to teach our students how to communicate in a clear, concrete way.”

The Church and Communications in Asia

For some years now, the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences has been striving to strengthen its presence in the media so as to use these “new pulpits” for evangelization. The Bishops of Asia are spearheading an effort to educate everyone to respect the dignity and fundamental rights of every human being, to promote justice and solidarity, to fight discrimination and to promote genuine Christian values. Their latest document, entitled *“The Church and Social Communications in Asia,”* produced by the FABC’s Office for Social Communications, offers new theological insights on the subject, as well as a resumé of all the documents on the theme produced by the various meetings of the Bishops Conferences from 1996-2007. The booklet is meant to serve as a helpful consultation manual for communications workers, offering them general lines of action that can be applied to different Asian contexts.

The Media and Intercultural Dialogue

During this year dedicated to Intercultural Dialogue in Europe, NetOne organized an International Seminar for the Formation of Young Communicators, which was held in Rome from 10-14 September 2008. The theme of the encounter, *The Challenge of Multiculturality*, was approached from the perspectives of the economy, politics and formation. General assembly sessions alternated with creative workshops. The conclusion was that the mass media play a key roll in today’s pluralistic society and make a notable impact on the behavior of people, who can become “bridges” between cultures or who can foment division and try to suppress diversity. Participants were urged to promote initiatives aimed at forming others to build bridges, not destroy them.