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NEWS

Italy: Salerno - Week of Missionary Animation (2009-04-15)



Each year, during Holy Week, the University of Salerno's Chapel Ministry team holds a Week of Missionary Animation for the students of the university with the help of different missionary Congregations (the Saverians, Pime, Comboni priests and sisters, etc.). This year, the team asked the Daughters of St. Paul to collaborate with this initiative by means of an exhibit in honor of the Pauline Year. In keeping with the Week's theme—A Meeting Between Cultures and Openness to Diversity—the FSPs set up a display on the life of St. Paul in the atrium of the university library from 30 March—2 April to underscore that the Apostle of the Gentiles was the first missionary of the early Church. In fact, he took the Gospel to those whom the Jews called “pagans,” thus disseminating it among new peoples and cultures.

Assisted by the zealous members of the Young Pauline Evangelizers (YPE) groups of Salerno and Naples, our sisters took advantage of this opportunity to make the Word of God and its peerless Apostle known to the many students who passed the university library and stopped to visit the display. These were golden moments for exchanging ideas with the students, explaining the Gospel to them and laying the groundwork for friendship and growth. Each exhibit visitor was given the chance to “meet the Word” personally through a Bible verse offered by other young people (the YPE) eager to share with them the beauty and fulfillment that comes from meeting Christ. Our sisters tell us it was an experience that touched both them and the students deeply and was a way of prompting the young people to question themselves more profoundly on many levels.

Brazil: Itapajé - Paul the Evangelizer (2009-04-14)



From 22-29 March, the FSPs participated in a Mission Week in Itapajé (Diocese of Itapipoca). The initiative was organized by Fr. Arnaldo José de Lima with the help of the religious and laity of his parish and the special collaboration of the Daughters of St. Paul. The theme of the Week was: Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel (1 Co. 9:16).

The Week offered the people a powerful experience of faith, lived in harmony with the special characteristics of St. Paul: a missionary spirit, prayer, and radical love for God and for all people. The initiative opened with a Pauline Pilgrimage that began at 5:00 a.m. Just as Paul left his established communities to reach dispersed ones, the pilgrims also left their parish for other parts of the town in the name of the Gospel, concluding their journey with a Eucharistic Celebration.

After a communal “coffee break,” the participants then scattered to visit the families of the area, approaching each one as the Apostle Paul would have done, that is, by listening to the people they met and offering each one a message of hope and love.

From 23-28 March the parishioners were offered the chance to participate in a creative and dynamic workshop designed to help them get to better know the great Apostle of the Gentiles: his meeting with Christ on the way to Damascus, his mission and the places in which he carried it out.

Other events during the Week included a theater performance, a concert inspired by the figure and writings of St. Paul, and the presentation of the results of the different activities carried out during those days.

Mission Week closed on Sunday, 29 March, with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Bishop Antonio Roberto Cavuto of Itapajé. Representatives of many groups in the city and outlying districts participated in the Liturgy—in fact the assembly was so large that it spilled over into the church plaza.

Everyone expressed their joy at having come to know the Word of God and its great Apostle more profoundly and the directive team took advantage of the opportunity to invite the people to now continue the Mission in their families and workplaces.

India: FSP Mission to the Mideast (2009-04-09)



In carrying out his mission, St. Paul exclaimed: "The Word of God cannot be chained!" Our sisters of India experienced the truth of this statement for themselves last month when two members of the province, Sr. Rosemary Patrao and Sr. Mary Joseph Ponatt, visited Kuwait, Dubai and Abhu Dabi on the Persian Gulf from 4-20 March, thus fulfilling one of the circumscription's long-held dreams. Thanks to the efforts of relatives in Dubai and the help of the Carmelite Sisters of Kuwait, our missionaries were able to obtain the necessary visas without too much trouble. Upon their arrival, Bishop Camillo Ballin of Kuwait City gave the two FSPs a very warm welcome, as did the Carmelites, with whom they stayed.

On the advice of the Bishop, the sisters contacted the Bible Society of Kuwait about importing books and religious articles into the country, since it is the only religious organization in the Middle East licensed to do this. The Society's purchasing representative assured our missionaries that the Bible Society would help our Institute to export books, music, films, etc. from India to Kuwait. During their stay in the country, the two FSPs also held several book and audiovisual displays in parishes and schools, where diffusion was excellent.

On 12 March the sisters left for Dubai, where they visited several bookshops and schools, and on 16 March they arrived in Abhu Dabi. There they visited Bishop Paul Hinder, OFM Cap, who gave them a warm welcome, encouraged them in their goals and offered them practical advice concerning how to carry out the Pauline apostolate in the religious-cultural context of the Middle East.

While in Abu Dhabi, the sisters visited the International Book Fair in progress in the city's Exhibition Center. About 85% of the books on display were in Arabic. Most of the stands with books in English were run by Indians so our missionaries left them copies of our FSP catalogue. Upon their return to Dubai, the Bible Society offered them several proposals as to how to help our publications, once imported, reach as much of the Catholic population as possible.

Our sisters realize that disseminating the Word of God in the Persian Gulf will not be easy because all the bookshops there, even the secular ones, must submit to the censorship of the Ministry of Information. Nevertheless they say they felt the powerful presence of the Lord and the support and prayers of many priests, religious and lay people throughout their trip. Now it is up to the Spirit to open the necessary doors.

Italy: Earthquake Survivors Live the Passion of Christ (2009-04-08)



For many years, the Daughters of St. Paul had a community and book center in Aquila, a city now in rubble following the severe earthquake that hit central Italy a few days ago.

Our book center and community there were closed some years ago, so no FSP was injured as a result of the natural disaster, but the relatives of some of our sisters are still unaccounted for and others have lost their homes and all their belongings.

One group of these "refugees" is currently staying in a small residence owned by the FSPs in Rome. We entrust all the victims of this tragedy to the Lord and ask that the passion they are living in these days, united to that of Christ, will reawaken in everyone a sense of solidarity and infuse the desperate with hope.

***During Holy Week,
which we relive every year,
we contemplate the Lord's passion
with hearts filled with anguish
at the thought of the sufferings
Christ lived in his flesh
so as to give us salvation and hope.***

***But this year our anguish
extends even further
to encompass all the victims
of the terrible earthquake
that transformed
a beautiful Italian city
and its surrounding towns and villages***

into piles of rubble.

*We contemplate the stunned faces
of those who lost loved ones,
of those who lost all their material possessions,
and, like the Lord,
now have no "place to rest their heads."
Without having to utter a word,
this immense crowd of people,
bound together in communal grief,
speaks to our hearts,
asking us for love and solidarity.*

*Let us embrace them one by one
and range ourselves alongside them,
sharing their sufferings
and doing what we can to alleviate them.
May the many forms of fraternal solidarity
offered them in these days
once more kindle their hope
as we all wait to hear the sound
for which we yearn:
the rumble of the rock
rolling away from the entrance to the tomb
to reveal the risen Christ.
For those who believe and love,
it is a sound that signals new hope for all of us. (M.A.Q.)*

Italy: Rome - Communications Festival 2009 (2009-04-07)



On 8 April, the Communications Festival for 2009 will be officially announced in Vatican Radio's Marconi Hall. This year the annual event, which takes place in a different city each year (Salerno–2006, Bari–2007, Brescia–2008), will be held in Alba from 17-24 May. Its program will feature a rich and varied assortment of initiatives focusing on one or more of the technologies of communication.

The choice to hold the Festival in the city where the Pauline Family was born was motivated by the desire to combine the celebration of World Communications Day with that of the Pauline Year. In this way, the Temple of St. Paul—so rich in significance for the Pauline mission, as Blessed James Alberione said—can serve as a point of reference for both events.

For more information, please visit the following websites:
www.settimanadellacomunicazione.it and www.festivaldellacomunicazione.it

India: Mumbai - Welcoming Six New Professed Sisters Among the Daughters of St. Paul (2009-04-06)



The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker is an important date for many Daughters of St. Paul because it marks the anniversary of their unconditional surrender of their lives to God through religious profession. In keeping with this tradition, on 19 March 2009 the Divine Master consecrated six novices of our Indian Province to himself.

Aminah, Clara, Manju, Princy, Scandya and Silvy made their first professions in accord with the rite of the Institute, carrying their baptismal consecration a step further through their public promise to follow Je-sus Master by means of a life dedicated to evangelization with all the instruments and technologies of communication. It was a day of joy and gratitude to God for His boundless love and faithfulness.

The solemn Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Fr. George Chathanatt, Vice-Provincial of the Society of St. Paul, with 8 other priests as concelebrants. The Liturgy opened with a beautiful dance by the postulants that set the tone for the entire day.

After the Mass everyone gathered in a nearby hall, where the newly professed sisters were greeted with warm congratulations and a welcome dance, followed by the cutting of a special cake, music and more dancing. That evening the community organized a cultural pro-gram to prolong the festivities and reinforce the warm spirit of fraternity and communion that reigned among them.

Colombia: First Virtual Meeting of the Sisters in Charge of the Formation of the Province's Pauline Cooperators (2009-04-03)



On 17-18 March 2009, the Daughters of St. Paul of Colombia-Ecuador held their second formation meeting for the sisters in charge of forming the Province's Pauline Cooperators. This time the team that organized the event used the Internet, one of the swiftest means of modern communication, to provide the participants with flexible, modern and effective animations.

The primary goal of the meeting, which centered on the theme, "*Imitate me, as I imitate Christ*" (1 Co. 11:1), was to evaluate and share what our sisters in charge of the Cooperators had accomplished with their respective groups in 2008. The meeting's secondary goal was to provide the participants with even greater motivation to carry out their ministry by offering them new instruments to work with and fresh orientations for the future.

Thanks to Skype, a software that allows users to communicate with one another via the Internet in a multimedia way (through webcams, microphones and audio systems), the group leaders of the Pauline Cooperators in Baranquilla, Cali, Cucuta, Manizalez, Medellin and Quito all participated in a video conference in which they were able to see, listen to and share their experiences with one another online.

The sisters were especially pleased with the "virtual presence" of Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato, Superior General of the Daughters of St. Paul, and Sr. Ana Maria Killing, who is in charge of the Institute's International Sector for the Laity. Through the Internet link-up, the two sisters, based at the Generalate in Rome, were able to take part in several moments of the encounter.

Qualified lay persons also offered the group valuable input on two sub-themes: "*The Lay Person in the Thought of Paul*" and "*Seven Ideas for Effective Leadership*."

The participants in the encounter say they are grateful to the God of life for giving them the chance to re-create his project of love through today's new technologies, which they call "our new pulpits."

Italy: Palermo - Piazza Named for Fr. James Alberione (2009-04-02)



On Saturday, 4 April 2009, a large piazza in Palermo's Brancaccio neighborhood will be dedicated to Fr. James Alberione, Mass-Media Apostle. The event will be preceded by a congress on 3 April, which will be held in the Blessed James Alberione Conference Hall of the FSP book center in Palermo. The theme of the encounter will be, "*Fr. Alberione's Charism in a Multimedia Society*."

The congress will feature several guest speakers. Historian Giancarlo Rocca, ssp, will talk about "*The Historico-Socio-Cultural Context of the Alberionian Charism*"; Archbishop Salvatore Di Cristina of Monreale will examine the subject, "*Fr. Alberione: a 'Pastoral' Prophet Whose Apostolic Intuitions Question Us Profoundly*"; Fr. Agatino Gugliara, ssp, will discuss "*Fr. Alberione and His Charismatic Legacy*"; FSP Provincial Superior, Sr. Giovannamaria Carrara will guide a reflection entitled "*May the Pauline Family Be in Every Era 'St. Paul Alive Today,'*" and Sr. Doriana Giarratana, pdm, will present "*The Eucharist and Liturgy in the Life of Blessed James Alberione*." Sr. Fernanda Di Monte, an fsp journalist, will introduce and coordinate the event.

This recognition of Fr. Alberione on the part of the Palermo city council is important because it underscores our Founder's contributions to the Church and to society, admirably summed up by Pope Paul VI in 1969, when he said: "*Our Fr. Alberione has given the Church new instruments with which to express herself; new means for reinvigorating and expanding her apostolate*." Esteem for our Founder's role in the world of the media has not diminished through the years, as can be verified by a survey of Catholic websites on the Internet. The poll reveals that Fr. Alberione holds first place among all the candidates proposed as their patron. The FSP community and book center of Palermo, opened in 1929, was one of the first branch houses of the Pauline Family. On 27 November, our sisters will celebrate 80 years of intensive apostolic activity in this city.

Spain: Promoting the DVD "Paul: an Adventurer of the Faith" (2009-04-01)



All our FSP book centers of Spain are carrying out a vigorous campaign to make St. Paul known and loved. One promotional item that has aroused great interest is the DVD for children entitled, *Paul: an Adventurer of the Faith* (available in Spanish, Catalan, French and Portuguese). Each book center has set a diffusion goal for the DVD and is striving to reach its target with great enthusiasm, aiming at the future.

Our sisters tell us that setting a target that goes beyond what they consider would be “normal” diffusion of the DVD has stimulated their creativity to offer it to families, catechists, priests, etc., and has urged them to work in closer union with their lay collaborators so as to carry out a wider diffusion.

On 24 March, the sisters of our FSP book center in Barcelona, in collaboration with the Diocesan Catechetical Delegation and School of Biblical Animation, presented the DVD to the public. Guests speakers for the occasion were Bishop Enric Termes, head of the Diocesan Catechetical Delegation, and Quique Fernandez, a catechist and biblical animator.

In his talk, Bishop Termes underscored the importance of Paul’s witness of life and wealth of doctrine for the Church, as well as his timeliness today. The Bishop also emphasized the catechetical value of the DVD and the effectiveness of using the audiovisual medium for contemporary youth. He called attention to the skill with which the animated cartoon was subdivided into a series of short, well-chosen episodes without losing the harmony of the overall story, and also pointed out the originality of the artwork and the clever strategy of presenting the Apostle in a simple yet adventurous way to children.

The two episodes of the series that were shown during the presentation were warmly received by the participants, who thanked the Daughters of St. Paul for making the DVD available in their local language (Catalan).

NEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Superior General - Easter 2009 (2009-04-09)

DATA BANK

Section Pauline Mission – Paul of Tarsus and His Message: Interview with Sr. Anna Caiazza, fsp (14-04-2009)

- *What would Paul of Tarsus say to people today?*

I think that the Apostle of the Gentiles would have a lot to say to the people of our time. No definition of him seems to be more fitting than the one often repeated by Pope Benedict XVI, namely, “Paul is not a figure of the past.” These words underscore the timeliness of the Apostle and his message for today’s variegated humanity. I would even go so far as to complete the Pope’s statement by saying that Paul is a figure for all times because he embodies the deepest aspirations of human beings: their need for transcendence and their longing for authenticity, stability and communion. Those who are striving to draw closer to Paul (and the Pauline Year is contributing to this in a significant way) and who manage to overcome their wariness to approach his writings because they are said to be “difficult,” discover, first of all, a “well grounded” and determined man, who is centered on one thing alone: Jesus Christ. They find a passionate man who openly reveals his true feelings. Paul’s language is frank, sometimes biting and often full of tenderness. It always reveals his deep participation in the lives of the people. Paul is focused on others—all the “others” with whom he comes in contact. No obstacle holds him back. No ethnic, societal or religious background frightens him. He overcomes differences and assimilates them, fully involving himself in the situations of others, taking their burdens on his own shoulders, making himself “all to all” without giving in to easy compromises. It is precisely because he is 100% interested in others that he cannot prevent himself from lovingly and respectfully offering them the reason for his own happiness: faith in Jesus Christ.

- *What lesson does Paul teach that religious can draw fruit from on a daily basis?*

I think it is very appropriate that consecrated persons think of Paul as their “father and model,” above all because of the fact that he was rooted in Christ; that his life was completely dedicated to the Lord and to the proclamation of the Gospel. However, I would like to underscore some of the Apostle’s “secrets” that I think should be safeguarded and cultivated more and more by women and men religious. First of all, we should share his profound and always-fresh awareness of having been chosen by God from the time we were still in our mother’s womb (cf. Ga. 1:15); of having been “seized” and conquered by God. It is this “love of predilection” that gives thrust to our mission (cf. 2 Co. 5:14) because we feel compelled to communicate this love to others (cf. 1 Co. 9:16). Paul reminds us that we must live by faith (cf. Rm. 1:17) and that any “success” we might have in evangelizing does not depend on our “professional abilities” or the instruments we use. This realization can help to free us from the temptation to abandon our apostolic work when it does not yield the results we hoped for.... I believe

that, today, the truly prophetic dimension of the religious life is the witness of consecrated women and men to the primacy of God in their lives.

Paul teaches us that it is impossible to think of the apostolic life apart from prayer. Our prayer must spring from a solicitous and grateful heart that embraces the situations, problems and joys of others and that yearns to take the Good News—Christ himself—to everyone. Our prayer should be patterned on that of the Apostle, who never forgot those who worked with him to spread the Gospel.

Another interior dimension of Paul that we, as consecrated persons, should cultivate is to accept the fatigue, sufferings and possible failures that go hand-in-hand with our apostolic activities. In other words, we must carry within us the cross of Christ, so that everyone might have life (cf. 2 Co. 4:10-12).

- The purpose of the Pauline Year is to help people get to know St. Paul better and realize that he can help us grow and improve our dialogue on the ecumenical level. In your opinion, how can the Apostle be proposed to young people today?

I am convinced that the Apostle Paul is truly able to inspire enthusiasm in young people, who in general are attracted to individuals who incarnate great ideals or who reveal new and boundless horizons to them through the witness of their lives. Paul is a daring man who fought for what he believed in and who always went “beyond” established borders in obedience to the compelling power of the Spirit. He also struggled with himself and readily admitted his weaknesses and failures. He believed in friendship and collaboration, in the warmth deriving from the sense of belonging to a community, but at the same time he never turned his back on “outsiders.” How should we propose Paul to young people? First of all by helping them to approach him directly by reading the Acts of the Apostles and then the Apostle’s own writings.

True, the content of Paul's letters is weighty, the language is often difficult, and his ideas are explosive and sometimes not linear at the first reading. But let us trust that if young people enter the world of Paul with patience and with a good guide, they will be drawn to his overpowering personality and his unshakeable convictions. And who knows? Perhaps they will discover that they share his ideals.

- How should we tell young people today about the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, the greatest missionary of all times?

This can be done in many ways. I would start with a description of what happened to him on the way to Damascus, as presented in the Acts of the Apostles. Luke's account of this fascinating story reads almost like a movie script: the light from heaven, the voice that calls to Saul, the dialogue between the two protagonists: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." I think it is important to help young people come to understand the profound meaning of the Damascus event, namely, that Christ, who identifies himself with the Christians Paul is persecuting, suddenly explodes into his world and turns his life upside down. For Paul, nothing is ever the same again after that moment. Only in this way can we speak about "conversion."

- If St. Paul were alive today, what type of mass media initiatives do you think he would be involved in?

In 1914, Blessed James Alberione, the Founder of my Institute, cited the words of Archbishop Ketteler of Mainz, Germany, who said a century earlier: "If St Paul were alive today, he would be a reporter." Maybe so. Perhaps he would be a realistic and inspired special correspondent, or a person passionately involved in using the Internet to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world.

The figure of St. Paul, whom the Pope defined as an "itinerant ambassador of Christ" and an "evangelizer of people and cultures," is a symbol of union in the variegated mosaic of ecumenism. What role do religious, particularly the Daughters of St. Paul, play in this scenario?

Paul was an evangelizer of new frontiers thanks to his own "frontier" upbringing—the fact that he was born and raised in a city in which the Jewish and Greek-Hellenistic cultures lived side-by-side. Because he experienced the laceration of divisions in his own flesh, he prayed and worked for unity, patiently building up a spirit of communion that does not abolish diversities but relativizes them because, in Christ, Gentiles, slaves and women are equal in dignity to Greeks, free people and men.... Paul's "ecumenical" approach to everything is a powerful example and stimulus to consecrated women and men. It invites us to feel that we truly owe "the debt of the Gospel" to all people, without distinction or discrimination. It urges us to cultivate a mentality that is open to diversity, dialogue and a comparison of ideas at all levels, in a spirit of charity and respect for others.

In particular, for the Daughters of St. Paul, who consider the Apostle as our "pattern" of how to live as disciples and apostles, all this translates into a more convinced and attentive openness toward ecumenism, into a pastoral concern that prompts us to "approach people according to their physical, intellectual, moral, religious and civil conditions" (Blessed James Alberione). It also translates into the effort to make ourselves "all to all" without, however, emptying the Gospel of its power and truth. It means making the most of whatever is true, beautiful and good—in short, the "seeds" of the Word—present in every person, ethnic group, culture and religion.

MEDIATEK

Video Gallery - Best wishes of Superior General: Easter 2009 (2009-04-09)

CALENDAR OF THE GOVERNMENT



27-30 aprile 01-05 maggio	Alba SG Alba DP	sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato
15-18 aprile 19-21 aprile 28-30 aprile 1-3 maggio	Napoli/C Napoli/D Cosenza Reggio Calabria	sr. Luz Helena Arroyave
15-18 aprile 19-21 aprile 29 aprile–2 maggio 3-5 maggio	Napoli C. Salerno Palermo Agrigento	sr. Francesca Matsuoka
14-17 aprile 18-21 aprile 28 aprile–1 maggio 2-5 maggio	Roma/Vivanti Roma/Castro Alba/SG Alba/DP	sr. Anna Caiazza
14-17 aprile 18-21 aprile 28 aprile–1 maggio 2-5 maggio	Roma/Vivanti Roma/Castro Alba/SG Alba/DP	sr. Samuela Gironi
15-17 aprile 19-21 aprile 29 aprile-2 maggio 3-5 maggio	Roma/Bosio Cagliari Palermo Agrigento	sr. Anna Maria Parenzan



“Certain that death is the passage to a new life in the resurrection, we remember our deceased sisters” (FSP Constitutions), our relatives, and all the members of the Pauline Family who have been called home to heaven.

Daughters of St. Paul

Sr. M. Amabilis Casarotto, age 85 - 17.01.2009, Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Cristina Gamez, age 75 - 24.01.2009, Pasay City, Philippines
Sr. Paquita Lackar, age 73 - 08.02.2009, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines
Sr. M. Viola Domenica Lauria Pantano, age 90 - 17.02.2009, Rome AP, Italy
Sr. Maria de Lourdes Belem, age 76- 18.02.2009, São Paulo, Brazil
Sr. M. Rosanna Giannina Cavallin, age 88 - 22.02.2009, Albano TM, Italy
Sr. M. Franca Rosaria Lo Monaco, age 88 - 01.03.2009, Alba, Italy
Sr M. Regina Teresa Nota, age 77 - 19.03.2009, Alba, Italy

Parents of our Sisters

Sr. Giovanna Caprilli (Mother, Giuliana), at home, Italy
Sr. Corona Park (Mother, Sun Im Candida), of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Margaret and Sr. Frances Obrovac (Father, Joseph) of the Boston and Los Angeles communities, USA
Sr. Maria Paola Chang (Father, Joseph), of the Taipei community, Taiwan
Sr. Maria Hernandez Perdomo (Mother, Ramona), at home, Venezuela
Sr. Germana and Sr. Armanda Santos (Mother, Maria), at home and Redwood City community, USA
Sr. Nancy D'Souza (Father, Joseph), of the Mangalore community, India
Sr. Shirley Dos Reis Souza (Mother, Edimea) of the São Paulo CP community, Brazil

Pauline Family

Fr. Giordano Bernardo Pasutto, ssp, age 81 - 06.02.2009, Rome, Italy
Br. Silvio Virginio Dante, ssp, age 81 - 08-02-2009, Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Ignazia Antonietta Scano, pddm, age 76 - 15.02.2009, Albano Laziale, Italy
Sr. M. Gertrudis Delia M. Fabbri, pddm, age 85 - 09.03.2009, Cordoba, Argentina
Fr. Giovanni Anselmo Bandini, ssp, age 97 - 14.03.2009, Albano Laziale, Italy

Best wishes from the Paoline *Online* editorial team

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