

## To All the Sisters

### 100 Years... *in the footsteps of Alberione and Thecla*

In keeping with the invitation of the Founder, who always pointed us toward vast horizons, we are striving to bring everyone the Gospel of joy and peace through the various forms and languages of communications. Sisters from all continents, we speak the language the Spirit has placed on our lips and in our hearts through the charism he bestowed on us. It is:

- a language of faith, by means of which we entrust ourselves, day after day, to the grace of the *Pact*;
- a language of love, which makes us “all to all,” like Paul;
- a language of joy, which proclaims the Good News of the Gospel to the contemporary world;
- a language of gratitude, which contemplates the amazing things God has done;
- a language that makes the most of the discoveries of progress to point out the “luminous path of life” to everyone.

Our Centenary offers us the opportunity to celebrate the memory of the marvels the Lord continues to work through our poverty and littleness. Contemplating the international and universal face of our Congregation, we see how much the Pauline charism has been enriched by the contribution of such a diversity of cultures! We note the continual developments in the field of technology, which give an always new face to our mission and which challenge us to always start afresh, with the faith that marked our beginnings. We think of the strength and courage of our sisters: especially those who live in perilous socio-political situations, and those who dedicate themselves without reserve to the Lord through illness and advancing age, transforming themselves into “living Gospels.”

On our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation, Blessed James Alberione said: “Now you have reached all the continents. Your words resound everywhere. Continue to move ahead, raising your voice ever more. Teach!”

The words of Pope Francis also urge us to be a Congregation that “goes forth” to bring the consolation of God to the people of today, offering them a message that touches hearts, warms lives and reawakens society.

Our dream can continue to *soar aloft* thanks to the signs of the future among us:

- our desire to give new impetus to the ***mystical and prophetic dimensions of our charism***, so as to truly be, as Blessed James Alberione said, “apostles aflame with love for God thanks to your intimate spiritual life—apostles moving ever onward; bearers of Christ”;
- the rediscovery of the ***teaching nature*** of our Institute;
- a more vibrant awareness of the role of the ***Pauline laity***. We are coming to understand what the Founder underscored in 1958: “Don’t you think we need to leave behind us persons who will continue the apostolate? By yourselves, you work too hard. I hope you will strive a little harder to find [other] apostles.”

Lent is approaching. During this season, let us make a concrete commitment to becoming *communities that attract others*, that have their gaze fixed on the world, that witness to an alternative way of behaving and living, that have rediscovered what it means to go forth to everyone in a style of dialogue and daring springing from our charism, that make the most of the grace of being a part of the Pauline Family. Let us truly believe that the Lord is with us and that *from here* he wants to continue to irradiate the light of the Gospel, just as he did at the origins of our Institute.

We are affectionately close to our Pauline brothers as they celebrate their General Chapter. Let us support them with our prayers, solidarity and daily self-offering.

With warmest best wishes to all of you,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General