



Ariccia, 5 February 2015

**Rev. Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan**  
**Superior General**  
**Daughters of St. Paul**

**Dear Sr. Anna Maria and Sisters,**

We still have very vivid memories of the solemn conclusion of the Centenary of foundation of the Society of St. Paul and the Pauline charism, culminating in the audience with Pope Francis in Paul VI Audience Hall. On that occasion, the Pope confirmed the validity and timeliness of the Pauline mission and encouraged every Pauline to continue to follow the trail blazed by our Founder, Blessed James Alberione, with our gaze fixed on vast horizons.

Today these words—which continue to resound vigorously in the assembly hall in which the SSP is holding its 10<sup>th</sup> General Chapter—offer us a wonderful chance to share this experience once again with you, at the dawn of your Congregation’s Centenary of foundation. We want to assure each Daughter of St. Paul of our prayers, asking the Lord that your thrust toward the “masses” as well as toward the “existential peripheries” of humanity might continue to inspire your life and mission.

May St. Paul’s motto—“I do everything for the sake of the Gospel” (1 Co. 9:23), the theme of our Chapter activities—also be the power-idea for this jubilee year of the Daughters of St. Paul. The words of Fr. Alberione in the book, *The Apostolate of the Editions*, are very eloquent. He said: “Paul was a tireless apostle. He made himself ‘all to all’ up to the point of martyrdom: everywhere, with all people, using every means...in spite of poor health, long distances, mountains and seas [to be crossed], the indifference of the intellectuals, the aggressiveness of the powerful, the mockery of the hedonistic, the chains [he bore]....”

And our Founder’s faithful disciple, Venerable Maestra Thecla, echoed this sentiment, saying: “Apostles are needed, but genuine apostles whose hearts are filled with love for God.... Let us lend our feet to the cause of the Gospel—so that it will race ahead and reach every corner of the earth.... Our apostolate is to do good, so let us feel a holy ‘torment’ for souls!”

In the footsteps of Blessed James Alberione and Venerable Maestra Thecla, let us welcome the invitation of Pope Francis, who urged us to proclaim

Christ and his Gospel to everyone, saying that this is the most authentic and necessary charity we can offer people today, who are hungering for truth and justice.

Grateful to divine Providence for the amazing things he has done with and among the Daughters of St. Paul over the past 100 years, we ask him to bless us all, enable us to interpret the signs of the times and, in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, take the Gospel to everyone, without being afraid of entering “pagan” territory, as the culture of communications often appears to be.

*The Chapter Delegates  
of the Society of St. Paul*