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.: NEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT.:.



Incontro continentale Asia-Oceania RIDISEGNAZIONE DELLE PRESENZE

Pasay City, 9 - 20 settembre 2009

14 September 2009

Dearest Sisters,

Even though we are keeping in touch with you on a daily basis through the news flashes posted on our international website, we feel the need to send you a traditional information bulletin that will allow you to follow our activities in greater detail.

Here in Manila, we are being led by the Spirit as we search for concrete ways to be testimonies of God's love and faithful servants of the Gospel in the vast geographical sweep of Asia and Oceania.

From the moment we arrived and were greeted with the exquisite hospitality of our Filipino sisters, we felt the communion of intention that binds us all so closely to one another and we continue to enjoy the fruits of our diversity, which provide us with a great opportunity to *organize the good* "with the creativity of the Spirit."

But how, we asked ourselves, do we go about seeking the will of God for our communities and our mission? In her conference on 10 Sept., Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato, Superior General, sketched out several fundamental trajectories to follow, highlighting first of all the premises that favor the redesigning process, namely:

- **acceptance of the Project, "Where the Lord Is Leading Us,"** on the part of all the members of the Institute;
- **our sisters, who constitute our greatest wealth** and who are our basic resource in a redesigning process aimed at "organizing the good";
- **personal holiness**, which must blossom into "**collective holiness**" and be converted into a program of life for our communities and for the apostolate;
- continually reinvigorated **love for our mission**;
- **awareness of our need to collaborate with one another and with others** because the mission of evangelization in the world of communications is either carried out *together* or not at all.

Sr. M. Antonietta explained that the process of redesigning our presences will lead us to re-examine our geographical boundaries and our activities so as to redimension or reinforce them, wherever this is necessary. "In reality," she underscored, "it should lead us first of all to revitalize several areas of our life, after which the process can then be extended to every other aspect and structure of our life and mission, following the pedagogy of *taking small steps*." What are the areas she is referring to? She mentioned several, along with suggestions as to how to revitalize each one:

- **our spiritual life**, because "the redesigning process must be carried out within a framework of faith and calls for a more intensive life in the Spirit—that is to say, a deeper and more intimate relationship with God";
- **formation**, so as to produce "apostles who burn with love to the point of dedicating all their energies and their very lives to proclaiming the Word of God";
- **community life**, because in today's world, which is rich in communication but poor in relationships, the witness of a truly fraternal life is both prophetic and hopeful; it is a living proclamation of the Gospel; it is mission";

- **our mission**, because “it plays a fundamental role in the redesigning process if it finds in Jesus Christ its unifying center and ‘fire,’ the Love that urges it on, that ‘compels’ and motivates us to carry out the apostolate, enabling us to share the compassion of Jesus for humanity.”

Sr. M. Antonieta concluded her talk by saying that in pursuing the itinerary of redesigning our presences we have “illustrious guides”: *the Word of God, the magisterium of the Church, Fr. Alberione and Maestra Thecla*. And she suggested that we participate in this encounter with a penetrating gaze and wise heart, ready to *listen to the Spirit and work together*.

In this spirit, on 11 Sept. we took turns presenting to the assembly a summary of the research we had previously carried out in our own circumscriptions/communities concerning the trends emerging in the socio-cultural-religious-communications contexts in which we live and work. We took note of the many different necessities, challenges and hopes that emerged in these sharing sessions, all of which confirm our need to work together to plan communal itineraries or strategies that will enable us to respond to the appeals of the Spirit and continue to be significant and prophetic presences *wherever the Lord is leading us*.

Consequently, the revitalization for which we are striving must involve every aspect of our being. This was the main theme of the reports of the General Councilors and the Bursar General on Saturday, 12 Sept., who furnished the assembly with points to reflect on in the various areas of the Pauline life: spirituality, pastoral work for vocations, formation, community life, mission, the sharing of our charism with the laity, and our economy.

Our journey over these first three days reached its culmination on Sunday, 13 Sept., with the talk of Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle of the Imus Diocese. With great conviction and clarity, Bishop Tagle sketched out the socio-economic-political-ecclesial situations of Asia and Oceania, confirming and completing the input presented in the mini-reports of our circumscriptions superiors and superiors of the communities dependent on the General Government.

Focusing in greater detail on Asia, Bishop Tagle first of all reminded us that this continent is not only a geographical entity but also a human environment characterized by a wide variety of cultures, languages, traditions and religions. It has a thousand “faces” and profound values, but it is also marked by dramatic situations of injustice, discrimination, violence against women and children, wars, refugees and environmental destruction. In spite of the fact that Jesus was born in Asia, it is the part of the world with the least amount of Christians today.

Bishop Tagle provided us with a fascinating overview of the multiform situations of the countries in this part of the world, where, since 1974, the Catholic Church has been pursuing the routes of **dialogue** and discipleship in proclaiming Jesus Christ and where she is striving to carry out a prophetic role that includes the denunciation of everything that suppresses the human being.

What should the Daughters of St. Paul do in the face of these great challenges to the Church’s mission of evangelization? Here in Manila, the time is right for us to begin sketching out the coordinates of a Project for redesigning our presence on the continental level....

Dear sisters, we felt your supportive and prayerful presence in our work these days. Your messages of encouragement and hope fill us with joy and consolation. Heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you.

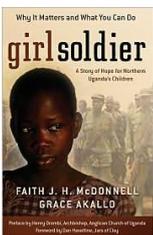
We want to remind you to visit our website www.paoline.org where, under the heading “redesigning,” you can find the program of our meeting, the names of the participants, the texts of the talks to which we have been listening, and other resources such as pictures and daily updates. All this can help you follow our activities more closely.

Our warmest best wishes to all of you!

Sr. Joanna Coleiro and Sr. Samuelia Gironi

.: NEWS .:

United States : Hollywood - New Film on the Horror of Child Soldiers (15/09/2009)



Sr. Rachele Fassera's story has been made into a movie entitled "Girl Soldier," featuring Uma Thurman in the role of the Comboni Missionary who courageously tracked a band of guerrillas into the forest of Uganda to plead for the release of a large group of girls abducted from her school.

The picture of the little nun with a dirty veil and habit, her hands raised in a sign of peace to the soldiers, has now been immortalized in this new Hollywood production.

The independent film, directed by Will Rae, tells the story of Sr. Rachele's heroic attempt to

rescue the young girls kidnapped from the school in which she was the Vice-Principal. The facts date back to 9 October 1996 when members of "The Lord's Resistance Army" abducted 139 girls between the ages of 13-15 from St. Mary's Boarding School in Aboke, Uganda, one of the best schools in the region. Sr. Rachele succeeded in restoring 109 of the girls to their families.

The sad story of these girls, destined to become soldiers and the sex slaves of the guerrillas, is recounted in the book "Girl Soldier" published in 2007, written by Grace Akallo, one of the girls abducted in 1996, who is now 26 years old.

Since child abduction is a daily occurrence in Uganda, it is to be hoped that the film will call attention to this heart-rending drama.

Portugal : "Caritas in Veritate" a Best Seller! (14/09/2009)



Caritas in Veritate was one of the titles most read in Portugal in July 2009. In fact "My Books" Gazette reports that Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical made the best seller list: it was one of the top 10 books sold that month!

United States : California - Activities of the Pauline Center for Media Studies (13/09/2009)



On 25 July, in Culver City, California, twelve catechists and pastoral ministers from seven states of the USA, plus Singapore and Italy, completed the requirements for the Advanced Certificate in Media Literacy from the Pauline Center for Media Studies.

This is the sixth group to complete the catechist specialization certificate that is recognized by the archdioceses of Los Angeles and San Francisco and the dioceses of San Diego, Orange and Oakland. The course runs for six days and includes lectures, seminars, a tour of Sony Studios and a Movie Bible Night. Since the California branch of the Pauline Center opened in 2006, 54 participants have completed the course. The next one is planned for July 2010.

The Pauline Center for Media Studies is a project of the Daughters of St. Paul. Its purpose is to develop and encourage media literacy/media mindfulness within the context of culture, education and faith formation.

Italy : Rome - Meeting for the FSP Juniors of Europe (11/09/2009)



From 25-30 August, the FSP Junior professed sisters of Europe gathered for their annual meeting, which was held in the beautiful hills on the outskirts of Rome known as the "Colli Romani."

In this tranquil setting, our young sisters reflected on the theme, *"In the Spirit of the Beatitudes: the Evangelical Counsels, Our Quality of Life and the Fecundity of Our Mission."*

Even though they came from different countries (Italy, Romania and Poland), the members of the group felt closely united to one another and made a wholehearted contribution to sharing ideas concerning *"the world as a web of relationships decisive for the mission of the consecrated Pauline.... In a web, no single part is more important than the others: what is essential is that all the parts work well together."*

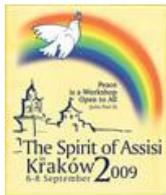
Brazil : Santa Maria - A Mission of Sharing and Witness (07/09/2009)



From 6-9 August, about 50 men and women religious, including young members and students from 30 different Institutes, gathered in the city of Santa Maria (DF) to participate in an evangelization mission organized by the Brazilian Religious Conference. Srs. Joana Puntel and Roseane Barbosa contributed to the event as representatives of the Daughters of St. Paul.

The purpose of the mission was to proclaim the Good News to people hungering for God and for justice by walking alongside them in their daily struggle to improve the condition of their lives. In the heat and dust, on the streets and in individual homes, the missionaries experienced the weariness and discomforts that countless families face on a daily basis. Their passage through the city and their witness to the Faith helped many individuals renew their pact of love between God and his people on their march to the Promised Land. The Daughters of St. Paul will now continue to their presence and mission in this Local Church by working together with a group of young people who are just setting out on their journey.

Italy : The Church - The Spirit of Assisi in Krakow: Faiths and Cultures in Dialogue (05/09/2009)



Many leaders of the world's great religions, heads of state, and men and women active in the area of culture have accepted the invitation of the Sant'Egidio Community and of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz to participate in an International Meeting of Religions for Peace. The encounter, entitled, The Spirit of Assisi in Krakow, will be held in the aforementioned city from 6-8 September 2009.

Thus, on the seventieth anniversary of the beginning of World War II, Krakow, the hometown of John Paul II, the city in which the great Pope received his human, cultural and spiritual formation, will be transformed into a crossroads of humanity's great religions.

A very significant part of the program will be a pilgrimage to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on Tuesday, 8 September (broadcast live on the Internet). The pilgrimage is meant to be an act of reconciliation and peace, emphasizing a radical rejection of violence and war as a way of resolving international conflicts. The whole encounter-speeches, images, video clips, the pilgrimage and press reviews-can be accessed on the website www.santegidio.org.

South Africa : Johannesburg - Presentatio of the Encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" (01/09/2009)



Aware of the importance of the new encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, the Daughters of St. Paul of Johannesburg invited Fr. Anthony Egan, sj, to present its content in a conference held in their book center on 22 August. About 40 people participated in the event.

Fr. Anthony, an expert in sociological and political matters, presented *Caritas in Veritate* as a "manifesto," a meditation and a challenge.

He considered it to be a manifesto (a declaration of principles, policies and objectives) concerning the integral development of the person because the document underscores the urgent need for a new approach to development-one equipped with appropriate rules governed by ethical values and centered on the person rather than on profit. As a meditation and reflection, the encyclical helps us re-examine our place in the cosmos, not as individuals but as communities united to all the other species on earth and to our environment, in which we build our relationship with God. In this regard, declared Fr. Egan, two columns of modern Catholic social thinking are central to the encyclical, namely: solidarity and subsidiarity. For this reason all human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, have inalienable rights and must be treated with dignity and equality.

Spain : Madrid - Our Renovated Book Center Re-Opens (28/08/2009)



On 20 August, the Feast of St. Bernard and the day on which the Society of St. Paul (and consequently the Pauline Family) was "born" in 1914, the FSP Book & Media Center of Madrid, now completely renovated, re-opened to the public. A renovated apostolic center is "new," "born again"-and Paulinas Madrid is no exception. It is much brighter and more colorful than the old book center, with large windows that convey a wonderful feeling of

space and depth. Our sisters are very proud of the fact that everyone who crosses the threshold is struck by the fact that the center is both elegant and functional.

The completion of this renovation project marks a step forward in the Delegation's efforts to improve the quality of its apostolic activities and provide the people of Madrid with the warm welcome and competent service for which their book centers are rightly known.

We entrust this renewed apostolic outlet to St. Bernard, the "godfather" of the Pauline Family, asking him to help it enrich our Pauline story with every grace and good.

Japan : Ancient Pilgrim Songs on CD (24/08/2009)



Cancionero de los peregrinos (Songs of the Pilgrims) is the title of a very original CD produced by the Daughters of St. Paul of Japan. The new release contains a collection of the hymns sung by Medieval pilgrims on their way to the Shrine of St. James of Compostela in Galicia and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Montserrat in Catalonia, Spain.

The hymns-in Latin, Spanish and Old French-infused courage and comfort into the wayfarers during their long and arduous journeys. Besides allowing us to savor the beauty of the music in itself, these ancient songs help people today relive the unique historical-religious environment of Christian pilgrims during the Middle Ages.

The hymns are sung with deep emotion, artistry and professional expertise by the "Ecclesial Ensemble" of Tokyo, founded in 1991. The Ensemble specializes in performances that feature the use of original instruments from the ancient music traditions of England, Spain, Germany and other European countries. The Ensemble has held concerts in churches throughout Japan and has produced 7 CDs to date.

Brazil : Sao Paulo - Our Sisters Award Their Collaborators (21/08/2009)



In 1999, our Province of Brazil initiated what has by now become the beautiful custom of presenting their long-term employees with a special award in recognition of their service to the Congregation.

The award, a sign of our sisters' esteem and gratitude toward their collaborators, consists of a granite plaque for 25-30 years of service; a marble plaque for 20 years of service; an acrylic plaque for 15 years of service, and a wooden plaque for 10 years of service. The awards are presented each year on 15 June, the anniversary of our Institute's "birth." Since 1999, 470 Pauline employees have received this special recognition.

This year, 51 plaques were presented during a beautiful Eucharistic Celebration in which all the FSPs and the staffs of the various departments involved participated, followed by a festive time of fraternity and refreshments.

The awards symbolize the journey made by our employees: a journey characterized by commitment, self-offering and-at times-also struggle and suffering. But above all it is a journey marked by hope and personal fulfillment.

The picture that accompanies this article is of Valter Souza Macedo and Domingos Ferreira de Araujo, who work in the FSP central stock room in Sao Paulo.

:: MEDIATEK ::

Audio Gallery - Conference Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle: The Continental Meeting for Asia-Oceania (16/09/2009)

Video Gallery - Opening Greetings of sr M. Antonietta Bruscatto: The Continental Meeting for Asia-Oceania (13/09/2009)

:: BULLETINS ::

Italy : Called to Eternal Life (04/09/2009)

Figlie di San Paolo

Sr. Eugenia M. Marta Rocchetto, di anni 81 - 02.07.2009 Lugano, Svizzera

Sr. M. Amabile Giuseppina D'Addario, di anni 75 - 11.08.2009 Roma, Italia

Sr. Ausilia Margherita Aimasso, di anni 98 - 21.08.2009 Alba, Italia

Sr. Gilde Micheletti, di anni 87 - 25.08.2009 Albano IV Nov., Italia

Genitori di Sorelle

Sr. Gemma Ria Lourdes Dela Cruz (Papà Romulo) della comunità di Pasay R.A., Filippine

Sr. Pushpa e Rosely Cheeramkunnel (Papà Joseph Varkey) delle comunità di Juba, Sud Sudan e Mumbai, India

Sr. Elena Lim (Mamma Ponciana e papà Ciriaco) della comunità di Pasay DM, Filippine

Sr. Giuseppina Bianco (Mamma Maria) della comunità di Albano R:A., Italia

Sr. Elsy Paruthappara (Papà Abraham) della comunità di Mumbai, India

Sr. Maria Alexandre De Oliveira (Papà Joaquim) della comunità di São Paulo SP, Brasile

Sr. Mary Lea Hill (Mamma Luella) della comunità di Boston, USA

Famiglia Paolina

Sr. M. Giovannina Anna Gramaglia pddm, di anni 65 - 29.06.2009 Roma RA, Italia

Don Mario Graziano Manca ssp, di anni 75 - 13.07.2009 Alba, Italia

P. Emilio Mario Stefanoni Berra ssp, di anni 75 - 20.07.2009 Puebla, Messico

Don Hipolito Aberion Trongco ssp, di anni 48 - 06.08.2009 Makati, Filippine

Fr. Amos Schibuola ssp, di anni 71 - 12.08.2009 Roma, Italia

Fr. Giovanni Cipriano Caneva ssp, di anni 84 - 13.08.2009 Alba, Italia

Fr. Giuseppe Rosario ssp, di anni 82 - 14.08.2009 Albano Laziale, Italia

Sr. M. Filippina Angela Brisindi pddm, di anni 87 - 16.08.2009 Palermo, Italia

Sr. M. Matelda Assunta Zuin pddm, di anni 78 - 23.08.2009 Albano Laziale, Italia

Sr. M. Imelda Maria Caterina Cattapan pddm, di anni 88 - 24.08.2009 Cinisello Balsamo, Italia

Best wishes from the Paoline *Online* editorial team

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