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Poland : Lublin - Meeting with Fr. Ksawery Knotz, OFM Cap (29/10/2009)



In October, the Daughters of St. Paul of Lublin, Poland invited Fr. Ksawery Knotz, OFM Cap., to give a conference in their book center on the beauty and problems of the married life. Fr. Knotz, a doctor of pastoral theology who specializes in preparing couples for matrimony, also preaches courses of spiritual exercises for couples, has written several books about the presence of God in the married life, and runs a website for married couples (www.szansaspotkania.net). In addition to all this, he

writes a column in *Magazyn Familia* (the Polish edition of the Family Magazine).

The book center encounter, open to the public, allowed all those interested to meet Fr. Knotz personally and speak with him. He spoke on the subject, "God and the Gift of Sexuality," and afterward took time to sign copies of his latest book, *Sex You Don't Know About: For Couples Who Love God*, published by St. Paul Editions. Since Lublin is a university town, most of the 150 people who attended the conference were students. Afterward they bombarded Fr. Knotz with questions—proof that they found the subject very interesting and relevant to their daily lives.

Italy : After Frankfurt - A look at our publishing situation (28/10/2009)



Interview with Sr. Natalia Maccari, International Secretariat for the Apostolate

What Paoline publishing projects are being planned for the future and how significant was our presence at the Frankfurt Book Fair?

The Frankfurt Book Fair is a very important event on the international book scene. For the Daughters of St. Paul, it was without a doubt a very exciting, invigorating and, we hope, beneficial experience. The FSPs have some common publishing projects underway on the continental level in various parts of the world that will give us the chance to reach out to new segments of the public.

In spite of the fact that rapid advances in the field of digital publishing now allow people immediate access to publications and publishing houses, the Frankfurt Book Fair is still an important event for fostering a closer and more personal relationship with book publishers from all over the world. In addition, for the Daughters of St. Paul the Fair is a place where we can dialogue with one another, search for new titles and take advantage of opportunities for formation, program-planning and collaboration.

It is also a publishing "school" because at this event we can pool our experiences, initiatives and productions and try to see what publishing projects we can carry out together, beginning with the creation stage of the process. For example, last year many of our circumscriptions were looking for children's Bibles. Every evening we would return to our home base with aching feet after having walked miles and miles of hallways at the Fair. At home, we would exchange addresses, advice, suggestions, etc., but it seemed like the Bible we were looking for so intensively just wasn't at the Fair. So, all together, we came up with the project: "THE BIBLE FOR CHILDREN," which was coordinated by SIA and supervised by our publishing house in Milan, Italy. Arriving from all parts of the world for this year's Fair, we were able to see a rough draft of the text and sample some of its pages. Integrating our FSP projects is a slow process due to our different cultures and the priorities of each circumscription but it is a path we are determined to follow. Today collaboration and communal program-planning is not simply an option for us—it is an urgent need. We have to follow this route not only so as to grow but also so as to survive.

What type of market and challenges face us? In a situation in which book publishing is no longer linked to fostering editions that promote culture but instead to editions that promote the market, what chances do our Pauline publications have of being a success?

Today our Congregation is focusing on redesigning, something that is also very necessary for Catholic publishing in general.

Broadly speaking, we can say that in spite of an increased demand for religious books, this line of publications is suffering and, as a consequence, so are Catholic book shops. We are facing a lot of problems such as:

- The fact that today a book's "life" is shorter, which means that titles are reprinted less and catalogues have to be constantly renewed.
- Religious books (and other book categories) are considered "normal" consumer products that can be chosen or not, as desired.
- People are increasingly attracted to best sellers, and the consequence of this is that sales drop when no "spectacular" titles are offered.
- It is almost impossible for us to compete with the big publishing conglomerates and purchase space in major newspapers, magazines, and instruments of communication in general.
- It is hard to persuade the big chain book stores to carry our books.
- Publishing, business and distribution policies make a huge impact on sales, and advertising is becoming more and more important for a book's success.
- Finally, there is the problem that we are "small fish" in a sea in which the law of "survival of the fittest" reigns. Perhaps our problem lies in failing to seek collaboration in defending our small area of activity. Today we must be very open to collaboration and integration.

All this makes it clear that **we need a book publishing policy**, and that it is urgent that the Church implement a pastoral plan of action in the field of reading. **We must involve the Church as much as possible in this activity.**

In the world of contemporary publishing, there are two types of publishers: those of the "old school" who try to maintain high standards by publishing material that is educational and geared to elevating culture, and the contemporary publisher-manager who is completely loyal to the demands of the market and conforms to its rules. How can the Daughters of St. Paul link the need to maintain high publishing standards in spreading the Gospel with the laws of the market?

As Pauline publishers, we have to blend the two styles. On the one hand, we must be like the "old time" publishers who view books as instruments that can transform people and society. By vocation, we are convinced that when we sell a book we are not selling only a product but offering a person a path to growth—a chance to live with greater wisdom. On the other hand, we must also become marketing professionals who work by means of well-defined projects and who are attentive to the needs of their receivers.

We live in the age of the Internet, which means it is the user who is in command. Digital communication has moved from targeting "mass" audiences to targeting the individual with his/her values, unique qualities and needs. This is our receiver/audience today.

How do we respond to these individuals, who have a strong critical sense, who can be demanding and who are often lacking trustworthy direction in life? As Catholic publishers, we have the great advantage of not belong to international networks, which means that we can think and act in a free and responsible way, according to the recommendation of Paul: "Test everything and hold on to what is good" (1 Th. 5:21). However, our problem is that we do not have enough critical skills to remain uninfluenced and unconditioned by the "rules of the market" and thus we fail to blaze new trails.

Today people seek us out not because we are Paulines or because we are nice people, but because we have what they are looking for—the right products. It is not easy to blend the two aforementioned publishing styles.

Korea : Two New Pauline Centers (27/10/2009)



Gwangju Pauline Media Center

The Daughters of St. Paul have opened a new Pauline Media Center in the heart of the ongoing formation sector of the Catholic University of Gwangju. They feel that this new Pauline presence, requested by the Archdiocese of Gwangju, will be an ideal place for teaching and sharing the Gospel through formation, animation and spiritual retreats. The Center is also equipped with an information system that will allow patrons to forward requests for publications directly to our virtual book center. Bishop Andrea Choi, who presided over the inauguration ceremony, said he hoped this new FSP Center will be an important instrument of evangelization through the media. In fact, many lay people have already asked to take

formation courses and a Media Forum has already been set up. In this time, our sisters of Korea have received many requests from dioceses asking for their collaboration. They hope to be able to satisfy as many of these appeals as possible and that this new Center will be one more way of helping people meet God. *Paulines in Seogang*

On 22 September 2009 a new FSP Book Center was opened in Seogang, a famous university in Seoul run by the Jesuits. The book center is located in a spacious, well-lit room on the ground floor of a large building near the rear entrance to the campus. In this building, the Jesuits hold formation courses, retreats and the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. Our sisters hope that this new FSP apostolic presence will open fresh paths to our mission, especially among the university's students.

Philippines : Paulines Launches Media Literacy Book at Manila International Bookfair (24/10/2009)



Paulines has participated in the 30th Manila International Bookfair on September 16–20, 2009 at SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. This year's theme, Words Without Borders speaks largely of how books can become powerful and influential tool in the works of evangelization.

One of the highlights of this event is the launching of the book: A-Z: Guide To Looking at the Media, a Media Literacy book written by Sr. Clothilde de las Llagas, FSP on September 18, 2009. The book presents how Media consumers can put into proper perspective the use of words that are commonly used in the Media world but either overused or simply misused. It tries to focus on the deeper understanding of such words in the context of the medium proper to it. The book is a primer on how to develop critical thinking skills.

Sr. Bernardita Dianzon, FSP received the Loyalty Awards on behalf of the Daughters of St. Paul who participate in the Manila International Bookfair for the last 18 years. The event was attended by local and international booksellers, publishers, writers and readers. The popular edition of Christian Community Bible which is co-published by Paulines, Claretians and Word and Life was also launched. This project is in response to the challenge of the Episcopal Commission on Biblical Apostolate of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to put a BIBLE in every home.

Italy : Rome – Seminar on Hermeneutics of the personal journals of Prima Maestra Tecla (1926 through 1939) (22/10/2009)



We look to Maestra Tecla as we redesign the Pauline

From October 20th to November 6th the Seminar on the hermeneutics of the writings of Maestra Tecla Merlo will take place at the General House.

In preceding seminars, the sisters, who came from four continents, sought to understand the figure of Maestra Tecla as the Mother who accompanied the beginnings and the progress of the Daughters of St. Paul and of the entire Pauline

Family. During this seminar, we want enter deeply into the contents of her spiritual journals in order to grasp her pedagogy of the Divine Master and that of the Founder, a pedagogy that allowed her to embark on a real formative journey in view of her role as mother, as "First Teacher".

Maestra Tecla "became" a superior and a faithful and wise collaborator of the Founder day by day, on a journey that was at times painful, through a constant spiritual work that brought her to full surrender, to union with the Most Holy Trinity, to the heights of Pauline mysticism. Her teaching was oriented toward one goal: the call to holiness. This holiness she saw as the unique and essential condition for the efficacy of evangelization carried out with the media of social communication: "All the apostles of the editions need to be saints; do we at least have a firm will and resolve to do this?" (VPC 76).

During this moment when the word "redesigning" rings strongly for us, it will be important to perceive in her life the true Pauline physiognomy, the design, the "dream" that the Lord has for every Daughter of St. Paul: a dream of holiness. The words of Blessed Alberione are a mandate and a program of life: "To follow the Prima Maestra is the way of sanctification and apostolate."

Philippines : Manila - Awards Conferred on FSP Authors (19/10/2009)



Two Daughters of St. Paul received the Cardinal Sin Book Award for their outstanding works during the 31st Catholic Mass Media Awards held on 14 October 2009 in Makati City. Sr. Bernardita Dianzon's book *Glimpses of Paul and his Message* was

recognized as the best work in the category of "Spirituality" and Sr. Bernardita herself was recognized as the best "Emerging Author." The work of Sr. Clothilde de las Llagas, *The "A-Z" Guide to Looking at the Media*, was also recognized as the best book in the category for "Youth and Children."

The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMTA) is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Manila. Its vision and mission is to reward, as well as to pay tribute to media products that enhance the total human development of the Filipino audience through the competent and professional use of mass media techniques, and to promote basic human values such as love for God, respect for the natural environment, and love for life.

Spain : Madrid – Spanish and Latin-American Book Fair (15/10/2009)



From 7-9 October 2009, Madrid hosted *Liber*, its 27th annual Book Fair, the largest annual display of Spanish publications in the world. More than 700 exhibitors (publishers, book sellers, literary agents, distributors, graphic arts companies, etc.) from 16 different countries participated in the event. Last year more than 12,000 people visited the Fair. Promoted by the Federation of Spanish Book Publishers, *Liber* is a meeting point for those wanting to make new contacts in the publishing sphere and

discover the many possibilities offered to Spanish books on the global market. Spain, in fact, is the fourth largest exporter of books in the Ibero-American world.

For a number of years, San Pablo and Paulinas Publishing Houses have managed a joint stand at the Fair, where they welcome book distributors and promote their publications. As usual, representatives of the SSPs and FSPs of Latin America also participated in this year's event, where they were able to examine the latest titles, establish new work relationships and reinforce bonds of friendship and collaboration with other Catholic publishing companies. Unfortunately, this year the world economic crisis had strong repercussions on the Fair.

Twelve Daughters of St. Paul from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay, Santo Domingo, Rome and-for the first time-Portugal participated in the *Liber* exhibit this year. Once again, our sisters took advantage of the opportunity to reflect on the need to collaborate with one another, uniting their energies and resources. After all, isn't this too a part of the redesigning process we are seeking to implement?

Italy : Rome - Presentation of the FSP Edition of the Liturgy of the Hours (14/10/2009)



Saturday, 9 October. During the celebration of the Second Synod for Africa and in the context of the Year for Priests, Paulines Publications, Africa, presented His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and the Synod Fathers with its latest publication: an African edition of the 4-volume Liturgy of the Hours in English. Representing the publishing house, which is located in Nairobi, Kenya, was Sr. Teresa Marazzan, its director, and Fr. Rinaldo Ronzani, the editor of the text. At the end of the presentation

all the Synod Fathers received a set of the new Breviary gratis, for which they were deeply grateful. Even the members of the Synod who did not speak English expressed their desire to have a copy of this beautiful new edition.

Now, for the first time in history, the Church of Africa has its own Liturgy of the Hours, which includes the feasts of all the Africans who have been canonized and beatified-the Church of Africa's greatest gift to the universal Church! This new edition of the Breviary was requested by the Bishops of AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences of East Africa) and produced by the Daughters of St. Paul of East Africa with the help of the Bishops of Kenya. The text was approved in February 2009 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The Daughters of St. Paul sincerely hope that this new edition of the Liturgy of the Hours will be an instrument for the spiritual renewal of the priests and the Church in Africa.

Germany : 61st Frankfurt International Book Fair (10/10/2009)



From 14-18 October, a multitude of book lovers will be flocking to Germany to participate in the *61st Frankfurt International Book Fair*, the world's largest book exhibit.

The FSP trademark will be represented at the event by sisters representing our publishing houses of Italy, Spain, Portugal, England, the Czech Republic, Brazil, some of our Spanish-speaking circumscriptions of Latin America, Africa, India and Japan.

As always, this annual Fair is a golden opportunity for sisters from our FSP publishing houses throughout the world to get together so as to strengthen the bonds of sharing and collaboration among us. It will be an intense week for them, made up of meetings, the search for promising new titles and the effort to establish new contacts. It will also offer our sisters many occasions not only to promote our products but also to witness to our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel in many different languages and cultures. Anyone who wants to visit the FSP stand will find it in pavilion n. 5.1, B 939.

Czech Republic : Prague - Visit of Pope Benedict XVI (05/10/2009)



Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Czech Republic from 26-28 September was a very important event for that country. Large crowds, which were nevertheless very orderly and deeply recollected, flocked to meet him wherever he went. This was especially noticeable during the Eucharistic Liturgies at Brno and Stara Boleslav, and during the Vespers service with priests and religious in the Cathedral of Prague. The good outcome of the papal visit was due in part to the intense preparations that preceded it, with many individuals working together to resolve various logistics problems. The entire papal itinerary was broadcast live by all the country's national and Catholic TV and radio stations—something that amazed everyone, given that 70% of the population is made up of non-believers. Spiritual preparation for the Pope's visit was also excellent: it consisted of pastoral letters to the faithful and a novena booklet that was used in all the country's parishes and communities. In response to a request on the part of the National Commission for Pastoral Work among Youth, the Daughters of St. Paul produced a visual aid based on the aforementioned novena and inspired by the weekly Sunday Liturgy service, E-nedele (see <http://www.paulinky.cz/E-nedele>). The aid was also posted on the extremely popular web site for young people (www.signalny.cz), which enabled the program to reach even more teens and young adults. In honor of the papal visit, the Signaly server team, in partnership with the Daughters of St. Paul, held a contest in which the prizes were various FSP publications.

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Comunicazione – Giving Life to Life, M. Agnes Quaglini (19/10/2009)

Families and Communities that Communicate

With almost excessive frequency and morbid interest, the media today are focusing the limelight on families with such severe problems that their members perform paradoxical and heedless actions that devastate the entire family circle. As individuals, citizens and Christians, we cannot help but question ourselves about these events and about the responsibility of society in their regard because we are all responsible for the people who live alongside us.

Today we are becoming many small “islands”—individuals who live solely for themselves and their personal interests. Perhaps we are willing to expand our circle of interest to include a few friends, but for the most part we tend to ignore the people who live not only in our town or neighborhood but even in our own condominium. We turn a blind eye to all the situations in which serious financial difficulties, stress, illness, depression, solitude, etc., are causing evil to mount by generating conflict and brutal behavior.

We cannot remain indifferent to all this suffering and, when we hear the latest tragic report on the news, limit ourselves to saying, “True, those people live in our neighborhood but we barely know them,” or else, “They always seemed to be normal people, who took care of their family and said hello whenever we passed by...” And all the while, within the hearts and minds of these “normal” people, stress and anxiety were mounting to the point that they finally exploded, targeting their loved ones in ways that are becoming all-too-sadly familiar to us.

Where was the civil society when all this was going on? Where was the church community? Where were we, who lived on the same floor of their apartment building or in the house across the street, or at any rate close enough that we should have seen the warning signs that something was wrong if we had bothered to pay attention? It is important to find ways to improve the context in which we live. It is important to pay attention to the needs of others and, if required, to take supportive or preventive measures that can help resolve or at least improve negative situations. Civil structures must do their part, as must the Church and parish, through their different charitable works, but this does not absolve us from the need to make our own contribution, given the fact that we are all children of the same God and thus responsible for our brothers and sisters, especially those in our own immediate vicinity.

Improving the Quality of Our Relationships

We can do this by giving consistency to our relationships—improving their quality by establishing amicable bonds that foster mutual communication and trust. Naturally, this should be done with due respect for the privacy of others, but nevertheless our ways of communicating with them should open channels of mutual understanding, fraternity, esteem and serene interaction.

The ecclesial community began in a convivial setting, that of the Last Supper, during which all the participants shared the same Bread and Cup and spoke intimately with the Lord. Getting together with others for even so small a thing as to share a homemade dessert or the fruit of our own garden; to celebrate a birthday or anniversary; to sympathize with another's loss of a loved one or his/her family problems—all these can be favorable occasions for getting to know one another better. They can help people rediscover serenity, give us a chance to say something positive or to notice a hidden need and help direct the person concerned toward places where he/she can receive support.

Support Structures and the "Good Neighbor" Policy

Often local government offices, or the parish, or religious or private associations offer a variety of services designed to help individuals and families with problems. In many instances, these services are not standardized or impersonal but rather tailored to the need of each person or situation. Centers of assistance provide inquirers with information about their activities and about the resources and support structures available in a person's area, including how to access and take advantage of caregiving and health services. It is important to become familiar with these services and help others to tap into them without fear, especially at critical times in life. This is a way of showing true love for our neighbor.

The purpose of social service centers is to help people in need so no one should feel embarrassed about contacting them. There are many of these organizations, such as Caritas, centers for the handicapped, for drug abuse, etc.—all offering various forms of assistance to those who request it. Many of these centers welcome volunteer help, which could give a completely new dimension to what we choose to do with our free time.

But let us return to an examination of our relationship with our neighbor.

A kind act or the right word at the right time can infuse a disheartened person with fresh courage and perhaps even save his/her life. Not to mention the importance of personal and shared prayer, perhaps centered on the Sunday Liturgy of the Word. Prayer is a valuable source of light, hope and consolation.

If even just one person is helped, then the efforts of the entire community are worthwhile. Perhaps one day the success of our efforts will come to light, or perhaps we will never see their results. But whatever we do for our neighbor is written in heaven, in the Book of Life. The Lord said: "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me." Even just thinking about this fills us with joy and strengthens our bonds with all the members of the human family.

Making an Effort To Communicate

We are all called to "give life to life," that is, to safeguard life wherever it is threatened. If we were to become a community that truly communicates—a unified, fraternal community that lives in a spirit of dialogue and communion—then perhaps we would all feel a little less isolated and together we might succeed in infusing new life in places where it is dying, and in casting light on the paths of people who are walking in the dark.

We are not islands: God created us to be a community so that we could help one another discover the important values of solidarity, mutual support, love and friendship. The media today, both small and large, should foster in every way possible our obligations to the human family by helping us establish genuine relations with others. They should offer people concrete examples of what is being done in this regard so that others will take hope and, seeing the good fruit, be motivated to do the same.

All communication, including our own, must be geared to telling everyone in a clear and effective way that God's plan for our lives is always a plan of love. For all. Each person should feel called to be a channel of this love, taking on his/her shoulders the problems and pains of others and striving to live a humanistic spirit that brings hope, justice, solidarity and genuine love to all people, especially those around us.

Best wishes from the PaolineOnline editorial team

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