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Italy : Information 2: Continental Meeting for Redesigning Our Presences in Europe-Canada/Quebec (25-01-2010)

Italy : Information 1: Continental Meeting for Redesigning Our Presences in Europe-Canada/Quebec (20-01-2010)

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.: NEWS .:

India : A New Way of Living the Religious (22/01/2010)



As part of the process of redesigning our FSP presences throughout the world, our Indian Province has drawn up strategies to help its members get to know more about the different socio-political and religious situations in the country. This knowledge has helped our sisters begin to adopt a new mentality in carrying out the Pauline mission. To give impetus to this journey, the Province organized a seminar for the provincial governing team and 21 of the circumscription's animators. The seminar was conducted by Fr. Varghese Alengaden, the founder of the Universal Solidarity Movement, whose purpose is to promote nation building and harmony among religious and ethnic groups in the country. Religious fundamentalism is steadily increasing in the multi-religious context of India. Christians there are often the victims of persecution and violence. Many times the Daughters of St. Paul are also subjected to discrimination. To meet this challenge, our sisters have developed a provincial "plan of action" that fosters a renewed apostolic thrust and a new way of living the religious life in India today.

Brazil : 13th Pan-American Book Fair (21/01/2010)



Una squadra di collaboratori, guidata da Sr Isabel Centenaro, ha partecipato alla 13ª mostra "Pan-Amazônica del Libro", che si è svolta nella città di Belém. La manifestazione ha avuto un record di presenze. Sono state circa 505 mila persone a partecipare e beneficiare della mostra. Il governo, in vista dell'evento, ha regalato agli insegnanti una sorta di "bonus-libro" di 150,00 reais (60,00€), da spendere nella fiera. Gli insegnanti hanno scelto di utilizzarlo proprio nello stand delle Paoline. Il paese ospite d'onore di quest'anno è stato la Francia, il prossimo anno sarà il continente africano.

Korea : Special Catholic Communications Award (19/01/2010)



Eighty-four-year-old Bishop Emeritus Paolo Jeong Ui-Chae, a highly-respected scholar in the Catholic Church of Korea, received the 19th Korean Catholic Communications Award for his masterful translation of the Summa Theologiae of St. Thomas Aquinas into Korean. He began translating the 40-volume work in the early 1980's and the first 14 volumes have already been printed by Pauline Editions.

The award, which is considered a very high honor by journalists, was conferred on him by the Korean Bishops Conference, which has always supported and encouraged communicators of all religions so as to help promote the recognition of universal human

values such as justice, peace and love.

Brazil : Brazilian Foundress of Pastoral Care for Children Dies in Haitian Quake (16/01/2010)



Doctor Zilda Arns, foundress and coordinator of the Brazilian humanitarian service known as Catholic Pastoral Care for Poor Children, was killed in the violent earthquake that struck the capital of Haiti and its environs this past Tuesday. She had arrived in Haiti a week earlier to participate in a series of meetings on the subject of malnutrition and was in a church with 150 other people when the quake struck, causing the roof of the building to collapse on those inside.

A pediatrician by profession, Zilda Arns was deeply concerned about the many childhood illnesses that could be prevented or decreased through simple health care practices and basic instruction. Because of this, in collaboration with the National Conference of the Bishops of Brazil, she founded Pastoral da Criança—a health-care service for poor children. The purpose of the service is to teach mothers in economically depressed areas the importance of proper nutrition and basic hygiene. Each woman is then encouraged to share what she learns with other women. Although the program is very simple, it has proved to be extremely effective.

Thanks to her efforts in this sphere, Dr. Zilda was one of the best-known people in Brazil and her humanitarian activities made her a three-time contender for the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Arns is the sister of Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, the former Archbishop of Sao Paulo. “She died the way she would have wanted,” Cardinal Arns said, “fighting for the cause to which she had dedicated her life.”

Macau : In the Spirit of Bethlehem (12/01/2010)



At the end of 2009, the FSPs of Macau organized a get-together with their collaborators and friends to thank the Lord with them for all the apostolic activities they were able to carry out together over the past year. After a Eucharistic Celebration in both Chinese and English, the sisters presented a brief power point program entitled, Constant Christmas.

In remembrance of the poverty of the stable in Bethlehem, the group then programmed their activities for the new year in the same spirit. Our sisters and their collaborators are determined to live Christmas on a daily basis by carrying out their services generously, making room for the Lord and opening their hearts to the needs of their brothers and sisters. To love is to give.

Malaysia : New Attacks Against Christian Churches. Bishops plead: “Defuse integralism” (12/01/2010)



Today there was another attack against a Christian building in Malaysia: the temple of Sidang Injil Borneo, located in the central state of Negri Sembilan. Yesterday, four other places of worship or religious institutions were targeted by Muslim fundamentalists. Since 8 January, nine Christian buildings in all have been fire-bombed. The chain of violence was triggered by the High Court of Malaysia’s decision on 31 December to allow the Catholic newspaper *The Herald* to use the word “Allah” for God

in its Malay language edition. The bishops of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, who are currently holding their Bishops Conference in Johor Baru, in the southern part of the Malay peninsula, said they were very concerned about the situation and did not expect that the question of the use of the word “Allah” would be followed by a reaction of this kind, with attacks against churches and Christian buildings.

They stressed the need for dialogue and social harmony so as to defuse the conflict that fundamentalist groups are trying to incite throughout the country. According to a report by Fides News Service, the bishops stressed that “meetings with civil authorities and dialogue with Muslim leaders are ongoing and will continue in the coming days. We must act in harmony and seek the necessary cooperation of the government and the high religious authorities in order to restore a peaceful environment to Malaysian society.”

Episodes like this are damaging the reputation of Islam in Malaysia, which up to now has been noted for its moderation and peaceful co-existence with other religions. In fact, groups of moderate Muslims are now taking turns guarding churches to avoid further acts of violence.

radiovaticana.org

Russian Federation : Getting to know young people in Moscow (09/01/2010)



In the last few months, our FSP missionaries in Russia have been meeting young Russian Catholics through their participation in the monthly youth gatherings organized by Archbishop Paolo Pezzi of Moscow.

The encounters have not only given our sisters several opportunities to speak about the Pauline mission to young people but also resulted in an invitation to present our charism to the members of the local Salesian Oratory. The participants watched our sisters' power point presentation with great interest and a lively interaction with them followed.

During a music festival organized by the animators of the same Oratory, Sr. Regi performed a classical Indian dance, while Sr. Roberta documented the event through her numerous photographs. These are some of the small steps our Pauline missionaries are taking to get to know the young people of Russia and they tell us they have found the doors open and the reception positive. Their next appointment will be in the Cathedral of Moscow on 2 February, to celebrate the day dedicated to the consecrated life.

It will be yet another chance for our sisters to present the Pauline mission, this time to the other religious Congregations present in the city.

Cote d'Ivoire : Gift of the Priestly (07/01/2010)



To celebrate the Year for Priests, Pauline Editions of the Ivory Coast has published the book "Eloigne-toi du rivage" ("Leave the Shore Behind") by Fr. Paulin Degni Kongo, a Patrology professor at the Catholic University of West Africa. The book is a collection of the author's reflection on the gift of the priestly life, on the Church and on inculturating the Gospel in a pluralistic society.

During December, Fr. Paulin was invited to present his book to various parishes and groups, providing him with a wonderful opportunity to help people get to know the vocation to priesthood better.

The picture shows Fr. Paulin writing a dedication to his book in the presence of His Excellency Laurent Akran Mandjo, Bishop of the Yopougon Diocese.

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Magistero - Message of the Holy Father for the 44th World day of Communications (23/01/2010)

The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The theme of this year's World Communications Day - *The Priest and Pastoral Ministry in a Digital World: New Media at the Service of the Word* - is meant to coincide with the Church's celebration of the Year for Priests. It focuses attention on the important and sensitive pastoral area of digital communications, in which priests can discover new possibilities for carrying out their ministry *to* and *for* the Word of God. Church communities have always used the modern media for fostering communication, engagement with society, and, increasingly, for encouraging dialogue at a wider level. Yet the recent, explosive growth and greater social impact of these media make them all the more important for a fruitful priestly ministry.

All priests have as their primary duty the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, and the communication of his saving grace in the sacraments. Gathered and called by the Word, the Church is the sign and instrument of the communion that God creates with all people, and every priest is called to build up this communion, in Christ and with Christ. Such is the lofty dignity and beauty of the mission of the priest, which responds in a special way to the challenge raised by the Apostle Paul: "The Scripture says, '*No one who believes in him will be put to shame ... everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*' But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? (*Rom 10:11, 13-15*).

Responding adequately to this challenge amid today's cultural shifts, to which young people are especially sensitive, necessarily involves using new communications technologies. The world of digital communication, with its almost limitless expressive capacity, makes us appreciate all the more Saint Paul's exclamation: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel" (*1 Cor 9:16*) The increased availability of the new technologies

demands greater responsibility on the part of those called to proclaim the Word, but it also requires them to become more focused, efficient and compelling in their efforts. Priests stand at the threshold of a new era: as new technologies create deeper forms of relationship across greater distances, they are called to respond pastorally by putting the media ever more effectively at the service of the Word.

The spread of multimedia communications and its rich "menu of options" might make us think it sufficient simply to be present on the Web, or to see it only as a space to be filled. Yet priests can rightly be expected to be present in the world of digital communications as faithful witnesses to the Gospel, exercising their proper role as leaders of communities which increasingly express themselves with the different "voices" provided by the digital marketplace. Priests are thus challenged to proclaim the Gospel by employing the latest generation of audiovisual resources (images, videos, animated features, blogs, websites) which, alongside traditional means, can open up broad new vistas for dialogue, evangelization and catechesis.

Using new communication technologies, priests can introduce people to the life of the Church and help our contemporaries to discover the face of Christ. They will best achieve this aim if they learn, from the time of their formation, how to use these technologies in a competent and appropriate way, shaped by sound theological insights and reflecting a strong priestly spirituality grounded in constant dialogue with the Lord. Yet priests present in the world of digital communications should be less notable for their media savvy than for their priestly heart, their closeness to Christ. This will not only enliven their pastoral outreach, but also will give a "soul" to the fabric of communications that makes up the "Web".

God's loving care for all people in Christ must be expressed in the digital world not simply as an artifact from the past, or a learned theory, but as something concrete, present and engaging. Our pastoral presence in that world must thus serve to show our contemporaries, especially the many people in our day who experience uncertainty and confusion, "that God is near; that in Christ we all belong to one another" (Benedict XVI, *Address to the Roman Curia*, 21 December 2009).

Who better than a priest, as a man of God, can develop and put into practice, by his competence in current digital technology, a pastoral outreach capable of making God concretely present in today's world and presenting the religious wisdom of the past as a treasure which can inspire our efforts to live in the present with dignity while building a better future? Consecrated men and women working in the media have a special responsibility for opening the door to new forms of encounter, maintaining the quality of human interaction, and showing concern for individuals and their genuine spiritual needs. They can thus help the men and women of our digital age to sense the Lord's presence, to grow in expectation and hope, and to draw near to the Word of God which offers salvation and fosters an integral human development. In this way the Word can traverse the many crossroads created by the intersection of all the different "highways" that form "cyberspace", and show that God has his rightful place in every age, including our own. Thanks to the new communications media, the Lord can walk the streets of our cities and, stopping before the threshold of our homes and our hearts, say once more: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me" (*Rev 3:20*).

In my Message last year, I encouraged leaders in the world of communications to promote a culture of respect for the dignity and value of the human person. This is one of the ways in which the Church is called to exercise a "diaconia of culture" on today's "digital continent". With the Gospels in our hands and in our hearts, we must reaffirm the need to continue preparing ways that lead to the Word of God, while being at the same time constantly attentive to those who continue to seek; indeed, we should encourage their seeking as a first step of evangelization. A pastoral presence in the world of digital communications, precisely because it brings us into contact with the followers of other religions, non-believers and people of every culture, requires sensitivity to those who do not believe, the disheartened and those who have a deep, unarticulated desire for enduring truth and the absolute. Just as the prophet Isaiah envisioned a house of prayer for all peoples (cf. *Is 56:7*), can we not see the web as also offering a space - like the "Court of the Gentiles" of the Temple of Jerusalem - for those who have not yet come to know God?

The development of the new technologies and the larger digital world represents a great resource for humanity as a whole and for every individual, and it can act as a stimulus to encounter and dialogue. But this development likewise represents a great opportunity for believers. No door can or should be closed to those who, in the name of the risen Christ, are committed to drawing near to others. To priests in particular the new media offer ever new and far-reaching pastoral possibilities, encouraging them to embody the universality of the Church's mission, to build a vast and real fellowship, and to testify in today's world to the new life which comes from hearing the Gospel of Jesus, the eternal Son who came among us for our salvation. At the same time, priests must always bear in mind that the ultimate fruitfulness of their ministry comes from Christ himself, encountered and listened to in prayer; proclaimed in preaching and lived witness; and known, loved and celebrated in the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

To my dear brother priests, then, I renew the invitation to make astute use of the unique possibilities offered by modern communications. May the Lord make all of you enthusiastic heralds of the Gospel in the new "agorà" which the current media are opening up.

With this confidence, I invoke upon you the protection of the Mother of God and of the Holy Curè of Ars and, with affection, I impart to each of you my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 24 January 2010, *Feast of Saint Francis de Sales*.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

Comunicazione - Give a soul to our presence in the New Media: Comment on the Message for World Day of Social Communications, 2010 (29/01/2010)

Give a soul to our presence in the New Media: This is the effort that Pope Benedict XVI asks of priests– and consequently, of every Christian – set out for the deep among the innumerable intersections of cyberspace. It is not enough to be present in the world of communications, a quality presence is needed, since the witness has to be such, even when he uses the various functions on the keyboard that will enable him to remain anonymous or camouflaged. The necessity to practice the charity in truth is here re-proposed (we are indebted to Don Alberione for this response). A priest who carries his people in his heart feels for the people of his times, and every apostle today who works in the culture of communication must make this response his own.

The Message for the World Day of Social Communication has a very broad range. The Pope has the courage not to let himself be slinger on the risks – notwithstanding the fact that he has defined them well – and he wishes to launch his priests out toward the other shore, so that they can enter into this new history, into the broad horizons that have opened for evangelization, a pastoral field that holds interest for whoever wants to make the Word of salvation spread. The attention that he offers to the proposal of a dialogue with those who are farthest from God is interesting: the Internet, which closes every distance, can become the profane space, before time, that shows forth the face of Christ.

The challenge of evangelization in the new media is in play here: how will we meet it?: Above all with a personal and communitarian encounter with Christ: prayer and the sacraments; then with a serious formation that rests secure on a sound theological base. Finally we cannot ignore technical competence. To each is left the creativity to seize the singular opportunities that modern communications present. It would be well to add: not alone, but with the community, placing the fruits of each one's experience together to mature a response that is professional, able to enter with full confidence and at a high level into the forum brought into being by the current means of communication.

don Roberto Ponti, ssp

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Video Gallery - Redesigning our Presences FSP in Europe: Interview with David Sassoli, a member of the European Parliament (2010-01-19)

Video Gallery - Redesigning our Presences FSP in Europe: Interview with Fr. Bartolomeo Sorge, sj (2010-01-19)

Audio Gallery - Redesigning our Presences FSP in Europe: Interview with Sr. Anna Caiazza, FSP General Councilor (Radio Vaticana - *Allargare gli orizzonti*) (2010-01-17)

Best wishes from the PaolineOnline editorial team

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