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### CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE





**LOOKING FAVORABLY  
ON THIS TIME**

Dearest Sisters,

I am writing this letter in the midst of my Fraternal Visit to the communities of southern Italy. I thank the Lord for these visits, which give me the chance to see you all personally and share a small fragment of your lives, dreams, hopes and labors.... For me, the Fraternal Visits are a time in which I sing a *Magnificat* to the Lord for all that he continues to accomplish in and through each one of us.

But there are also other reasons why I highly value my travels from city to city, country to country, continent to continent. First of all, it makes me feel like a "pilgrim" and helps me to discover, little by little, that this is our true identity. In the Acts of the Apostles, Christians were called "followers of the Way" (9:2), that is to say, those who journey together as pilgrims, living the "now" of God, serving the Kingdom and their brothers and sisters, waiting for the Lord in operative faith, overflowing with love and hope.

Instead, the biggest temptation—which we too experience—is to spend our lives either looking nostalgically over our shoulders at the past or else nourishing sterile longings for the future. We forget that "what was and what is to come do not exist. God is the One who is. Because of this, the best time is the present. In fact, it is the only time that exists—the time in which we meet the One who is" (S. Fausti).

Fr. Alberione was profoundly aware of this: he always kept his gaze fixed on "people today," on the contemporary world, with a love that bound him tightly to the people of the present generation. A few days ago, on 7 Nov. to be exact, the Pauline Agenda offered us these words of the Founder:

"People are talking about 'bad times.' Ever since 1914, I have been hearing about 'bad times.' If you wait around for bad times to become good, nothing will get done. It is only in heaven that things will finally be good, but once there we will no longer have the opportunity to work" (FSP45, p. 675).

If we do not look beyond appearances, then we can say that we really do live in "bad times." It is enough to note what is going on around us: economic crises, human rights violations, conflicts of every type, the use of violence even for religious reasons, etc. And to all this we can add the cries of wounded nature in the form of mounting natural catastrophes. In fact, in the past few weeks we have seen shocking video coverage of the disasters caused by the terrible flooding in Thailand and in vast areas of northern Italy.

What appeal is God making to us through all this? What is the "good news" he wants us to live and witness to? We must interpret "the signs of the times" wisely so as to hear his call to conversion—first of all, our own conversion. It means making the firm decision to base our existence on new criteria drawn from the school of Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life. It means making the same journey he did, living as he did, indeed, allowing him to live in us:

"I loan him my brain so that it is he who thinks in me. I loan him my heart so that it is he who loves the Father and souls in me and with me. I loan him my will because I want what he wants in me. And I not only loan him these faculties: if I am docile, it is he who lives in me" (*Meditation to the FSPs*, 1960).

In this way, we learn and witness to the fact that it is only by loving that we silence self-centeredness; it is only by sharing that we rectify injustice; it is only by bearing wrongs that we can eliminate them once and for all; it is only by giving our life that we avoid "killing" others.

Sisters, what more favorable time is there than Advent for living this metanoia? All together, let us ask this gift of Mary, the Virgin of "waiting" par excellence!

Best wishes to each and everyone of you for a good journey!

United to you in affection and prayer,

*Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato*  
Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato  
Superior General

Rome, 15 November 2011

## "PATHS OF HOPE" FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRAZIL

### REPORT ON THE FRATERNAL VISIT



The Fraternal Visit to the Province of Brazil was made from 19 August to 30 September 2011 by Superior General Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato and General Councilors Sr. Anna Caiazza, Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan and Sr. Samuela Gironi. Sr. Gabriella Santon, Bursar General, joined the group midway through the visit.

The community opened by the Daughters of St. Paul in Brazil in 1931 was the Congregation's first overseas foundation. Our presence here is situated in a socio-cultural-ecclesial situation in constant flux, marked by great potentials and equally great challenges. Brazil has a population of 190 million, 63% of which is under the age of 29. Multicultural and multiethnic, it is made up of descendents of the Indios, Portuguese colonizers, African slaves and different groups of immigrants (primarily Italian, Portuguese, German, Spanish, Polish, Japanese and Syro-Lebanese). Most of these ethnic groups arrived in the country between 1820-1970. The country continues to be marked by profound contradictions and social inequality in spite of the fact that in these last years millions of people have been able to overcome poverty thanks to government programs.

Brazil is home to the world's largest Catholic population. But even though Catholicism continues to be the official religion, it is losing popularity due to the spread of religious syncretism, nourished by a multitude of sects, which "adapt" to the needs of the people with great flexibility. The responses of the Church to the socio-economic and cultural problems of the people are often inadequate in the light of the complex situation, which is undergoing profound and rapid transformations. The fifth Latin American Bishops' Conference, which recently met in Aparecida, was well aware of this, as revealed in the fact that it declared the Church in this part of the world to be in a state of "permanent mission."

In this context, the Daughters of St. Paul feel called to make their particular contribution to helping ensure that the faith of the country's Catholics is enlightened, founded on the Word and capable of meeting the great challenges of globalization and the spread of sects.

Our Brazilian Province has 226 members (201 perpetual professed and 25 juniors) subdivided into 26 communities, including the novitiate house. The median age is 63.6. The circumscription has 5 novices (2 first year and 3 second year), 9 postulants and 13 aspirants. Nineteen Brazilian sisters work as missionaries in other countries.

The members of the communities dedicate themselves with great generosity to service of the Word. Their style of life is modest and moderate. The communities are permeated with a strong sense of belonging to the Institute, sensitivity to spiritual matters, love for the Pauline charism, fidelity to the directives of the Church and great passion for the apostolate. This deep love for the Pauline mission nourishes the prayer of our sisters, prompts them to expand their apostolic horizons and underlies all their activities.

The apostolate, which is very well organized, is subdivided into various production and service departments. The book publishing sector is extremely well developed: its catalogue contains 2170 titles and about 190 new titles are produced annually, in addition to many reprints. The publishing house also collaborates successfully with other publishers, organisms and academic institutes to produce special items. Its children's department is especially strong and its products are widely disseminated in the schools. The translation of the *Pauline Bible* is at a good point and it is hoped the text will be ready for 2015.

Also well organized are the multimedia, magazine, records (COMEP just celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation), radio and TV sectors.... In addition to publishing, the sisters carry out the Pauline apostolate through the promotion and divulgation of our products by the province's 29 book centers (12 of which are run by the laity), through formation in the areas of the Bible and communication, through a wide variety of animation activities, and through insertion in different ecclesial organisms. The province has about 600 lay collaborators.

*"Everyone should push with all her energy"*

The priorities entrusted to the new provincial government at the end of the Fraternal Visit aim at giving continuity to all the dimensions of the *redesigning process* so as to revitalize the

Pauline life and ensure a good balance among the four wheels of our “cart,” which should be supported by the Eucharist, celebrated and adored, and by the Word, meditated, shared and lived. It is necessary for the province to carry out a discernment concerning its presence in the country, leading perhaps to the closure of some communities and the closer accompaniment of others. It was also recommended that the circumscription give continuity to its *Project for the Laity*, intensifying the formation of its collaborators and cooperators.

In the area of *pastoral work for vocations*, it was suggested that the province concretize its project in this area and encourage the sisters to responsibly participate in it through their prayers, witness of life, vocation initiatives and hospitality toward young women.

The circumscription should see to it that the formation it offers its sisters and formandees is *always more Pauline and integral*, in the light of the prophetic vision of the Founder and the contemporary situation. Because of this, the governing team was invited:

- to ensure that the Juniors are well accompanied so that they will feel challenged by the great apostolic needs of the Church and world and fully take on all the dimensions of the Pauline life;
- to see to it that the young women receive a basic preparation in philosophy and theology; to draw up a plan of studies that will allow the province to rely on the help of sisters who have been suitably trained in the various areas of the Pauline life and the different expressions of the apostolate;
- to re-launch the formation project for sisters in the third and fourth stages of life and to pinpoint concrete ways to accompany the circumscription’s sick and elderly sisters.

The Pauline mission should be viewed as a whole so that initiatives can be integrated and

resources utilized to the maximum. With this in mind, the following recommendations were made:

- to “lighten” structures by integrating the province’s central apostolic sectors and to see if some of these can be unified;
- to specify the duration of the terms of office of the sisters responsible for the apostolic sectors and to carry out the necessary evaluations at the end of each person’s term;
- to favor greater interaction between the central sectors and the book centers;
- to evaluate how many lay employees are needed in our apostolic structures, taking into account our concrete economic possibilities and the continuity of our mission;
- to expand our mission by opening new apostolic centers and by finding new channels of diffusion that require fewer structures and expenses.

So as to make *the best use possible of its goods and resources*, the circumscription was advised to program the restructuring of its buildings (both residences and apostolate) in due time, giving precedence to the most urgent and necessary renovations. The province should also periodically evaluate its economic-administrative situation so as to better utilize its resources.

We are very grateful to the Lord for the journey the Brazilian Province has made over the past 80 years, for all the sisters who accompanied its foundation and development, for the gift of vocations with which the Lord has blessed it, and for the great apostolic passion and love for the charism that have always been a distinguishing feature of this circumscription.

In harmony with the goal of the Interchapter Meeting, we say to all our sisters: *Imbued with the Word, may you continue to trace out paths of hope.*

Calendar of the General Government			
26-31 December	Angola	Visit for a Specific Purpose	Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave
7-10 January 2012	Rome, Italy	Meeting of the General Gov'ts of the PF	General Government
15-25 January	Rome, Italy	Continental Meeting for the Apostolate-Economy in Europe/Quebec	Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato Sr. Gabriella Santon Sr. Anna Caiazza Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave Sr. Inocencia Tormon
20 January	Rome/Tor S. Lorenzo	Opening of the Course of Preparation for Perpetual Profession	Sr. Samuela Gironi

**MADAGASCAR**  
**THE MIRACLE OF THE BIBLE**



When the Daughters of St. Paul of Madagascar courageously accepted what they called the “titanic” request of the local Bishops’ Conference to produce an edition of the Bible in the Malagasy language, Sr. Antonieta Bruscato, Superior General of the Institute, encouraged them to accept the project, saying: “*You are capable of working miracles!*” The desire to fulfill the request of the Local Church and meet the needs of the people of this huge island-nation became a community initiative that was carried out thanks to the generous and unwavering commitment of every member of the Delegation, who assure us that “the hand of God was upon us, guiding us day and night.”

The joy of giving the people of Madagascar an edition of the Bible in their own language helped them overcome every problem and above all their fear of not being able to complete the project. Divine Providence worked in such a way that many Daughters of St. Paul from other circumscriptions also contributed to its realization. Thus the “birth” of the Bible in Malagasy was a major communitarian, congregational and ecclesial event that will give the Word of God the chance to reach the hearts of many more people of this immense island.

**BRAZIL**  
**A NEW BOOK ON THE MEANING OF SUFFERING**

Our sisters of Fortaleza recently launched the new book, *A Cruz em Paulo (The Cross in St. Paul)*, by Sr. Agda França, fsp, whose reflections can help readers rethink their experi-



ences with suffering and find meaning in it. Understanding the role of suffering in one’s life is a real challenge for Christians today. Sr. Agda offers us the Apostle Paul as a guide on this journey: he met Christ at a time of crisis in his life—a moment when he literally “fell to the ground”—and his subsequent mission was crossed and re-crossed with suffering. Inspired by Paul’s faith and wholehearted acceptance of the will of God, we too are encouraged to contemplate the cross of Love planted in our hearts in various ways through suffering.

The encounter was enriched by an enlightening conference on the part of the author who, besides reaching the people who attended the event, also spoke to the hearts of many others unable to be present thanks to Radio Dom Bosco, which transmitted the book launch and conference on one of its missionary programs.

**CONGO**  
**TODAY I AM A HAPPY AUTHOR!**



On 20 August, in Lubumbashi, at the ceremony opening the three-year period of preparation for the Centenary of foundation of the Pauline Family, one of our sisters’ collaborators, Gabriel Ilunga, offered the following testimony in gratitude to the Daughters of St. Paul:

*“My name is Gabriel Ilunga. I am a writer, sociologist and communications consultant. I am Congolese by birth and I live and work here in Lubumbashi. I met the Daughters of St. Paul when I was a teenager and from the outset of our*

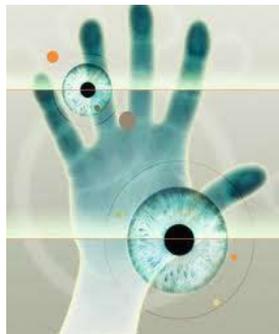
acquaintance, which then developed into friendship, they placed a lot of trust in me. I used to visit their free reading room often and I would spend hours there. The two sisters who supervised the reading room passed on to me their passion for the written word, and all the reading and reflection I did in those years helped my growth. 'Those who have learned the value of reading will be readers all their lives,' the sisters used to say.

"Later, the Daughters of St. Paul helped me to get into the University of Lubumbashi, which opened the doors of the future to me. Today I am a writer and very happy with my work. Grafted onto the mighty 'tree' of the Pauline Family, I have written many articles and several books, all of which are the fruit of my membership in this Family.

"I am deeply grateful to the Daughters of St. Paul, who kindled in my heart the flame of love for God, for my neighbor and for the Blessed Virgin Mary. I would like to end this brief testimony with words of Blessed James Alberione that are especially significant to me because they are so true. He said: 'Pauline writers, the fruit of your work depends more on your bended knees than on your pen!'"

**ITALY**

**IMPORTANT DIGITAL INNOVATIONS IN THE PAULINE WORLD**



Pauline multimedia and multi-channel diffusion in Italy has taken an important step forward to help us carry out our mission of evangelizing the "global village" more effectively. The innovation consists

of the launch of e-commerce, that is, the online sale of the audio files listed in the circumscription's Pauline Audiovisuals Catalogue. This will allow our sisters to distribute high-quality FSP music files online via the Internet's busiest e-stores: I-Tunes, Amazon, OVI-Nokia, Deezer, Emusic, Musiwave, we7...) and thus give us access to a potentially vast and international audience. The launch was programmed for October-November 2011 to coincide with preparations for the Christmas season. At a time in which the world of book and music publishing is going through major transformations, this new distribution

channel is essential. We offer our sisters of Italy our best wishes for the success of this latest apostolic endeavor.

**THE SPIRIT OF ASSISI**



The Pauline book center of Perugia invited the Diocesan Ecumenical Center and other Catholic associations in the city to participate in a day of reflection and debate concerning the Inter-religious Encounter for Prayer for Peace held in Assisi on 27 October. On that occasion, Pope Benedict XVI reminded everyone that it was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this by now annual gathering, first convoked by Blessed John Paul II in 1986.

During the meeting at Perugia, our sisters presented the new book, *Lo spirito di Assisi (The Spirit of Assisi)*, edited by the St. Egidio Community and published by the SSP.

The theme of the Assisi encounter, *Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrims of Peace*, reminds all people of good will of the urgent need to be peacemakers in today's world not just on the theoretical level but above all through concrete deeds.

The encounter offered everyone a picture of hope: the leaders of the world's major religions standing alongside one another, defenseless from the human standpoint, powerful only in prayer and in their search for the Absolute. The day of prayer at Assisi made it clear that all human beings have a single and interdependent destiny and that the religions of the world have to unite so as to meet the urgent need to "globalize" justice in the face of newly emerging injustices, stemming in part from the current economic crisis.

A new civilization must be founded—one characterized by human living together based on the art of dialogue: dialogue understood as pilgrimage and risk, as recognition and genuine acceptance of the many different cultural and religious identities of the human family.

OPEN-AIR BOOK FAIR



The fifth annual “Portici di carta” (*Paper Arcades*)—a 2 km.-long book fair—just ended in Turin. *Portici di carta* is a unique and creative initiative in the crowded field of Italian book exhibits. The original intent of the event was to link the theme of books to an architectural “jewel” of the city, namely: the 14 kilometers (8½ miles) of interconnecting arcades that run through its historical center. Thus, for two days, books changed the city’s street names, becoming: Science Street, Art Street, History Street, etc., according to the contents of the book stalls lining them. The Fair also offered its visitors meetings with authors, theatrical performances, concerts and many other cultural events.

The Daughters of St. Paul, who have been participating in *Portici di carta* from the very beginning, warmly welcomed passers-by to their book stall on Spirituality Street. Four FSP Juniors (Sr. Mireya from Ecuador, Sr. Edline from India, Sr. Cecilia from Kenya and Sr. Ana Maria from Romania), who are currently inserted in our Turin community so as to deepen their knowledge of Italian, enthusiastically took part in this apostolic and cultural experience.

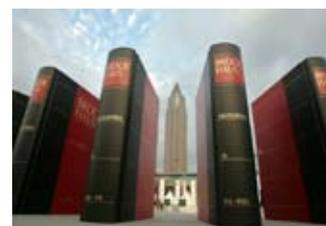
PHILIPPINES  
CELEBRATING FIDELITY TO GOD



The Circumscriptions

On 14 October 2011, the Daughters of St. Paul of the Philippines launched a 3-year period of preparation for the celebration of the circumscription’s Diamond Jubilee of foundation in 2013. The initiative opened with a solemn Eucharistic Liturgy in the Sanctuary of the Queen of Apostles in Pasay City. The preparations for this important event will focus on the theme: *Celebrating Fidelity, Counting Blessing, Reinforcing Services* and will be concretized through apostolic activities such as the diffusion of 75,000 Bibles to families, the conducting of Bible studies and *Lectio Divina* on the Word of God, Bible enthronements in homes, the publication of pamphlets on the thoughts of Blessed James Alberione, and the publication of books on the lives of the pioneer FSPs in the Philippines.

GERMANY



PAULINES  
AT THE  
FRANKFURT  
INTERNATIONAL  
BOOK FAIR

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Frankfurt International Book Fair, the world’s most important publishing event, opened on 12 October 2011. FSPs representing Pauline publishing sectors from all over the world participated in the event with books and audio visuals on the Bible, spirituality, current issues, material for children, etc. A theme that our publications—and also those of other publishers at the Fair—focused on was that of the *family*, considered as a basic cell of society. Many publishers also offered an array of historico-ecclesial titles on recently-beatified Pope John Paul II.

On 11 October, Marco Guzzi, director of the *Crocevia* (Crossroads) Series for Pauline Publications Italy, met with all the FSPs participating in the Frankfurt Fair for a formative session entitled *The Spiritual Turn of the Times: Culture, Formation and the Publishing Apostolate*.

REDESIGNING  
PAULINE PUBLISHING IN EUROPE

From 9-10 October, the sisters in charge of Pauline publishing in Europe met in Grob-



krotzenburg (Frankfurt), where, with great simplicity, they reflected together and shared ideas as to how our various communities on this continent can collaborate more concretely with one another in the publishing apostolate.

Sixteen FSPs from Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Romania, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland participated in the encounter. Also present were a General Councilor and the sister in charge of SIA, the Institute's International Secretariat for the Apostolate.

After discussing their circumscriptions' respective editorial procedures, problems and prospects for the future, the participants pinpointed several priorities to pursue in common:

- to invest in formation;
- to increase diffusion, including by studying new ways to be present on the Internet and through the new media;
- to continue to hold periodic meetings for the sisters in charge of Pauline publishing in Europe so as to reflect more deeply on subjects of common interest and collaborate with one another in various ways.

These orientations could be further integrated and concretized during the *Continental Meeting for the Apostolate-Economy in Europe and Quebec, Canada*, to be held in Rome from 15-25 January 2012.

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## SPAIN

### JOYFUL VOCATIONAL WITNESSES



The Circumscriptions

In October, CONFER organized a meeting in Madrid for vocation workers on the theme: *Who Should Carry Out Pastoral Work for Vocations?* The FSPs took an active part in this event not only through their participation in the conferences but also through a large display of books, CDs and DVDs in the areas of *spirituality, the religious life, vocations, catechesis* and *testimonials*.

The effort to discover new ways of reaching contemporary youth resulted in a consensus to pursue the following lines of action:

- to try to involve young people themselves in the work of evangelizing their peers;
- to help vocation animators develop the ability to listen to young people and offer them the witness of how happy they are to have been called by the Lord to serve him.

More than 800 people from all the dioceses of Spain participated in this event.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### A PLACE IN WHICH TO THINK, GROW AND COMMUNICATE



Ever since 26 November 2010, the day on which the FSPs of Johannesburg inaugurated a conference room next door to their book center, our sisters

have been carrying out many different cultural and formative projects open to the public. These activities include book launches and many encounters on themes related to the Bible, theology and communications.

This year, during October, they held a series of talks and seminars on the impact of communications on the life of the Church. Guest speaker for this event was Sr. Rose Pacatte, fsp, from our United States province, who spoke about *The Theology and Spirituality of Communications*, kindling great interest and enthusiasm in the participants through her interactive presentations.

The creative cultural activities carried out with great apostolic passion by our sisters are designed to accompany *The Year of Faith*, which the Church will celebrate in 2012 in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican Council II.



Francesca Pratilto, fsp

## THE TENT OF THE WORD

Why speak about “tents” in the digital age? What can a humble tent possibly say to us in an era characterized by skyscrapers and cybernetics? Yet even in our own day the tent evokes a powerful nostalgia in us—a great yearning for freedom. It speaks to us of poverty, the transitory nature of things, a closeness to nature, a nomadic lifestyle and the essentials of life. The experience of living in a tent may be alien to our culture and daily life, but the images and feelings it evokes are common to all of us.

A tent cannot offer us the comforts of a house or hotel and for this reason it requires a certain amount of adaptation.

In speaking about tents, Sacred Scripture uses two Hebrew verbs that are often found together.

The first, *miskan*, means “dwelling,” while the second, *o’hel mo’ed*, means “meeting tent” (cf. Ex. 40:2, 6, 29). God chooses to accompany the journey of his people by “dwelling in their meeting tent,” thus giving them the chance to speak with him face to face like a friend (cf. Ex. 33:7-11)—a situation most fully realized in Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus himself is “God’s tent” in the midst of his people. With his birth, God “made his dwelling” (*eskenosen* = “pitched his tent”) among us (Jn. 1:14). This tent was not made by human hands and its entrance flap is always open so as to offer everyone the immense gift of meeting God.

Today, after two thousand years of Christianity, in a world that often considers God to be superfluous or extraneous to it, there is no greater priority than this: to give human-

ity fresh access to the Word, to God, who wants to reveal his love for us. To approach the Word means to become a member of the family of Jesus—a community generated by obedient listening (cf. Rm. 10:17).

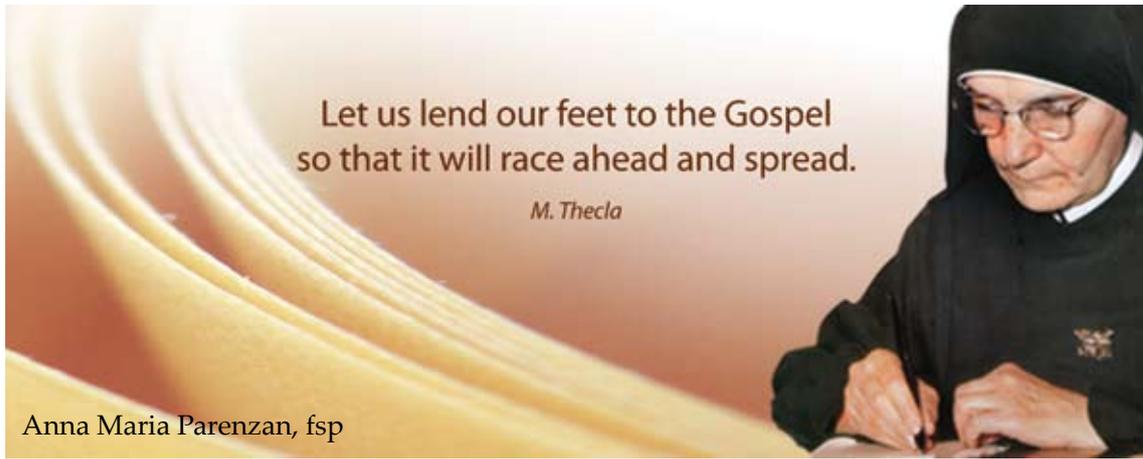
The specific duty of this community is to be a “tent” where everyone can meet the One who is Way, Truth and Life. Perhaps it is for this reason that Luke does not hesitate to describe the greatest missionary of the Gospel as a “tentmaker” (*skenopoios*, cf. Acts 18:3). Paul, a tentmaker by profession, dedicated his life to constructing “tents of the Word,” that is to say, Christian communities born of the Gospel.

As Paulines, it is urgent that we enthusiastically re-embrace and make our own the vocation to dedicate ourselves, by means of our life, to constructing tents of the Word in which the Alberionian intuition (“Come to me, all of you...”) takes on new power and light

According to the teachings of our model Paul, the tentmaker, we can call ourselves Pauline communities only if we are communities that offer life; only if we are communities in which the Word of God is lovingly nurtured and fearlessly and ardently proclaimed to everyone, without discrimination.

When God rests his hand on a person who is seeking him, then a “new time” of gratuitous, unselfish, spontaneous and joyous love miraculously begins.

Every Pauline community is called to become a “tent of the Word” for all people: adults, teens, children, senior citizens, families.... Each of our communities should be a sacred space that offers everyone ready “access to God.”



## THE PEOPLE IN HER HEART

Returning to Rome from her trips abroad, Maestra Thecla spoke enthusiastically about the customs, climate and natural beauty of the countries she visited, but at the same time she always underscored the sufferings and moral miseries of the people. "If only those multitudes of people could know the Lord!" she exclaimed.

Aware that indigenous Daughters of St. Paul could approach their own people more effectively, she encouraged the sisters to work hard for vocations. "Let us always be generous," she urged them. "In this way the Lord will send us vocations because there is so much good to be done in the world."

Her presence, her illuminating words and above all her profoundly missionary heart had the power to infuse the sisters with the joy and courage they needed to make sacrifices in view of a heavenly reward.

She took a special interest in *Così*, a weekly magazine for young women published by the Daughters of St. Paul to combat the spread of pornographic reading. She told the periodical's editorial staff: "Make sure this magazine is beautiful! It should be so appealing to young women that they will abandon the empty magazines they are reading. *Così* should provide them with the formation they need to become good wives and mothers. Society today needs people who are Christians through and through." And she sought to help the small editorial team in every way possible, even going so far as to put at its disposition a variety of gifts that could be used as prizes for various contests sponsored by the magazine, or as awards for its most faithful subscribers. She was always delighted to receive a copy of each new issue when it rolled off the press.

As far as apostolic activities were concerned, her word was final. When the sisters would consult her about financial problems linked to

various projects, she would say: "If the initiative does good, then go ahead. As for the [economic aspect], don't get agitated. If we have faith, divine Providence will help us. Our first goal in the apostolate is not profit but to do good to people."

Prima Maestra was always ready to use the most up-to-date instruments for the apostolate, even if these were costly. Sr. Rosaria Visco recounts:

M. Thecla's zeal for the cinema apostolate led her to support the production of a series of short catechetical films. A total of 52 of these were made and then dubbed in various languages. The whole initiative was far from easy but she never lost heart and she strongly urged everyone to persevere. Knowing that Primo Maestro was an ardent advocate of this project, she often said: "If Primo Maestro wants it, then that is a sign that it is the will of God. After all, we are apostles of communication so we must use these means to proclaim Christ to the people!"

We should not forget that although the catechetical films were produced by the Society of St. Paul, M. Thecla did not make distinctions because both Institutes were striving for the same goal.

Sr. Assunta Bassi confirms:

When problems came up in the apostolate, I would often discuss them with M. Thecla and I can say that she was never doubtful or concerned about things that could have been a source of anxiety on the human plane. When considering an initiative or a suggestion, she would always ask me: "Will it do good? Is it what Primo Maestro wants? Is he in agreement with this?" If I could say *yes* to these questions, then she had no doubts at all and would declare: "Then do it! We must do good with the press! We must disseminate the books that do the most good. We must make Jesus Christ known!" These were statements she often repeated.

## AN ALL-CONSUMING PASSION: COMMUNICATIONS



The fifth daughter of Celeste and Sabino Duarte, I was born on 18 June 1949 in a little town on the slopes of the Monchique Hills, a very beautiful corner of Portugal. Our family was a big one—seven children, plus many cousins living in the same area. Numerous though we were, my father often said that no child of his would ever lack love and this was true. In fact, our family atmosphere was saturated with affection. Mealtimes were always festive occasions for us. Even though Dad barely knew how to read, he was a born leader and he distributed the family work load very fairly among us.

I attended school only up until the fourth grade because at that time very few children from the rural areas were able to continue their education beyond the elementary level. We were a farm family and life was hard. With great effort, we managed to eke out a bare existence from the land.

The atmosphere at home was rich in faith. My whole family prayed together, especially the rosary, which we recited every day. At the age of seven, I began to attend catechism classes in the parish and I also participated in the Catholic Action movement.

When I was a teenager one of the coordinators of our local CA group said that a girl had to start praying to the Lord 20 years in advance to obtain the grace of having one of her sons become a priest. Since I was already dreaming of getting married one day, I immediately began to pray for that intention. It

never entered my head that God might want *me* for himself!

It wasn't easy for me to understand and accept the Lord's call to the religious life. During a 3-day retreat I made during Lent 1968, I felt his pressing invitation to live in greater intimacy with him. That summer, at a parish-run summer camp, I began to carry out a serious vocational discernment. Luckily suitable accompaniment was provided. Afterward, I returned home and resumed my studies. When I finished school, I left the clean, pure air of the countryside in order to find a job. I sold periodicals at a newsstand in town so as to continue my education, taking a two-year accelerated course that would enable me to earn my high school diploma.

That diploma was my priority and everything else took second place, including my uncertainty about what I wanted to do with my life. I made new friends, became involved in the local Catholic Action group and even got engaged.... But at a certain point I began to experience once again the interior restlessness and dissatisfaction—the sense of incompleteness—that I had felt before and that no person or thing could satisfy. I became convinced that the Lord was calling me to be a missionary. I talked about it with my spiritual director, who said bluntly: “The missionary life—yes, that is good, but in your own surroundings and near your family. You don't have to leave your native land to be a missionary.” However, I wasn't so sure about that. I became more and more certain that I would never be able to devote myself to the domestic life.

The love I felt burning within me could not be limited to a husband and family exclusively. So at the age of 25, after a fierce struggle with myself, I made the decision to give myself to God. It had taken me a long time to reach this point but in compensation I never wavered in the least once my decision was made.

I am very grateful to the Lord for waiting so patiently for me to accept his invitation and even more for his presence in my life. Today I understand more than ever the meaning of the phrase I heard way back at my entrance into the Congregation: *the grace of a vocation*.

Why did I become a Pauline? Out of an all-consuming passion for communications. At the time when I made my decision to become

a religious, I was working as a telephone/telex operator in one of the best hotels in Algarve. I was fascinated by the fact that I could sit in a small room and communicate with the whole world. It was an indescribable emotion—a true passion. I felt as if I had been sent to an immense number of people and that I carried them all within me, and this feeling has never left me.

I entered the Congregation in August 1974 and made the first stage of my formation with two other young women who had entered ahead of me. Because I had been accustomed to an independent lifestyle, it was not easy to learn a new one. A few months later, only two of us candidates were left. I heard the sisters speak about groups of 40, 50, even 80 novices and I was envious because I too wanted to be a part of a large community. After three years of carrying out the propaganda apostolate, my co-novice and I were sent to Brazil and there my dream was realized. For four years, I was part of a large group of FSPs from many different countries: Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and Portugal. The experience surpassed my dreams and even today I remember it vividly.

I returned to Portugal in 1983 and immediately ran into a major problem. I discovered that it was necessary to re-adapt myself, almost begin all over again, above all when it came to my new activity: running the circumscription's publishing sector.

The Daughters of St. Paul had arrived in Portugal in 1950 and had immediately begun to publish books, some of which were very successful. But they carried out the publishing apostolate sporadically, along with many other apostolic activities, so it moved ahead mainly through the good will of the sisters rather than as a result of apostolic planning. In Brazil, I had been assigned to the publishing department so that I could organize this apostolate in my own circumscription when I returned home.

The period following my re-entry was difficult. I had to take responsibility for projects and contracts; get to know the laws of my country concerning printing and the dissemination of printed material; find authors, translators, collaborators; contact typographies; produce a book catalogue and distribute it.... My "office" was my bedroom, but my dreams went far beyond that small space.

Those dreams finally "flew out my bedroom window" and were realized when a small building on our property consisting of 8 mod-

est rooms was set aside for the publishing apostolate. There was finally enough space for editorial offices, administration work and even a storeroom! At last the sector could expand to welcome its first two collaborators.

That was a beautiful time, characterized by intense passion for the apostolate. Sr. Dulce Tramontina arrived from Brazil to take charge of graphics work and she was soon joined by Sr. Delfina Repetto from Italy. Pauline publishing in Portugal was entering a whole new stage of development, requiring many adaptations. The humble but persevering efforts of our small sector resulted in editions that gained the respect and trust of the public and of local Church officials. As time went by, our publishing projects expanded to include mini-media and a variety of CDs. In planning our initiatives, we allowed ourselves to be guided by the Gospel, the needs of the people and of the Church, and current events, striving to view everything from the pastoral perspective, as our Founder had recommended so strongly.

Over the years, I also carried silently in my heart another dream: to collaborate with our sisters in the missions. I knew for a fact that places we cannot reach personally can be reached through the instruments of communication. My dream was to send books and other material to our sisters in Africa and I never gave up this dream, even though at that time it seemed impossible to realize.

But in 2003, the year in which Fr. Alberione was beatified, this dream too became a reality thanks to the new apostolate building constructed by our circumscription. Today, from this building, we can carry out the Pauline mission not only for the benefit of the people of Portugal but also for the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa.

In 2005 we had the great joy of publishing the *African Bible* in Portuguese as a joint project with our sisters of Mozambique and Angola. The introductions to the various books of the Bible and the explanatory notes were taken from the edition published by the FSPs of Nairobi, Kenya.

I am very happy with my life. If I were to go back in time, I would repeat everything I've done up to now—only I would do it better!

I am profoundly grateful to God, to my family and to the Congregation. We truly have an inexhaustible charism!

*Sr. Eliete Maria Duarte, fsp*

**ITALY**

**UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN US...**



The month-long course of spiritual exercises inspired by Fr. James Alberione's spiritual-apostolic experience recorded in the text *Donec Formetur Christus in vobis* opened on 23 October.

The course, which is being held for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, offers participants an intense immersion in the "overflowing riches" of the Pauline spirituality. As in previous years, this session too has a strong international flavor since members of the Pauline Family from seven different countries are participating in it, including—for the first time—two Annunciationists.

**PLUNGING INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE PAULINE CHARISM**



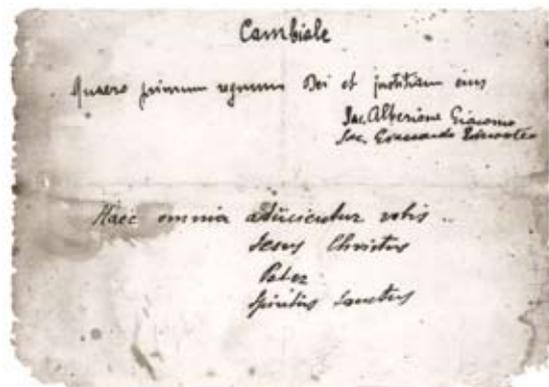
The 2011-2012 course on the Pauline Charism officially began on 27 September in the bedroom of Blessed James Alberione, now preserved as a museum. We hope this new academic year will give its 19 participants the chance to experience for themselves what our Founder felt.

The students, who come from all over the world (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Ko-

rea, Philippines, Japan, India, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Rwanda and the island of Tonga), represent 6 branches of the Pauline Family tree. For the first time, a member of the Jesus the Priest Institute is participating in the course.

A spokesperson for the group testified to everyone's feelings, saying in heartfelt tones: *"We want to live this first year of preparation for our Centenary as a 'favorable time' of grace by striving to get to know our specific charisms and helping one another through mutual acceptance and the sharing of ideas. We truly feel that we are a single Family and it is as the Pauline Family that we want to get to better know our mission and the apostolate the Lord has entrusted to us!"*

**A NEW MUSICAL VERSION OF THE PACT FOR THE PAULINE CENTENARY**



The new musical version of the *Pact* or *Secret of Success* that the Intercongregational Commission for the Celebrations of the Pauline Family asked Fr. Paolo Lanzoni, ssp, to compose was performed for the first time in honor of the Paulines making their perpetual professions during the Eucharistic Celebration for the Feast of Blessed Timothy Giaccardo. To favor the dissemination and use of the new hymn in all the Institutes of the Pauline Family, its rendition by the Paulus Choir has been posted on the [www.alberione.org](http://www.alberione.org) web site. The lyrics, a revised version of the *Pact*, faithfully preserve the content of this prayer, so dear to the hearts of all Fr. Alberione's sons and daughters. Both words and music are easy to follow and well adapted to assembly usage. The motivation behind this initiative was the desire to contribute to the preparations for the Centenary of the PF by bringing up to date, in a spirit of creative fidelity, a prayer rooted in the beginnings of our Family, presenting its meaning afresh in the context of the Third Millennium.

## WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

THEME FOR WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2012



*Silence and the Word: Path of Evangelization:* this is the theme chosen by Benedict XVI for World Communications Day 2012, which most countries celebrate on the Sunday before Pentecost (in 2012, 20 May). Commenting on the Pope's choice of theme, a representative of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications said, "It is clearly the desire of the Holy Father to associate the theme of the next World Communications Day with the celebration of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops which will have as its theme: 'The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.' The extraordinarily varied nature of the contribution of modern communications to society highlights the need for a value which, on first consideration, might seem to stand in contradistinction to it. In the thought of Pope Benedict XVI, silence is not presented simply as an antidote to the constant and unstoppable flow of information that characterizes society today but rather as a factor that is necessary for its integration. Silence, precisely because it favors habits of discernment and reflection, can be seen primarily as a means of welcoming the word."

### WORLD MISSION DAY 2011

The month of October, dedicated to the missions, finds its high point in the celebration of World Mission Day, which this year fell on 23 October and revolved around the theme: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn. 20:21). In his message for this day, Pope Benedict XVI reminded everyone that "the universal mission [of the Church] involves everyone, everything and always. The Gospel is not the exclusive possession of those

who have received it. It is a gift to be shared, good news to be passed on to others. And this gift-commitment is entrusted not only to some, but to all the baptized." He then went on to say that evangelization is more than ever urgent in our secularized age, in which many people live as if God did not exist. World Mission Day offers us, as Paulines, a precious opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocation as communicators of the Gospel to the whole world.



### THE POPE PROCLAIMS A YEAR OF FAITH



Speaking about his decision to proclaim a "Year of Faith," Pope Benedict XVI said the purpose of the Year is "to give new impetus to the mission of the whole Church to lead people out of the desert in which they often find themselves, to the place of life, of friendship with Christ." He also said he would prepare a special Apostolic Letter to illustrate the meaning of this year, which should be celebrated from a missionary aspect: as a year of outreach to the people of our time in the spirit of the new evangelization. The Year will begin on 11 October 2012, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II, and will end on 24 November 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Pope explained that the Year will be "a moment of grace and commitment to a more complete conversion to God, to strengthen our faith in him and to proclaim him with joy to the people of our time. Blessed John Paul II already clearly indicated the new evangelization as an urgent need. In the wake of the Second Vatican Council and in the footsteps of Pope Paul VI, who launched its implementation, John Paul II vigorously supported the Church's mission *ad gentes*, that is to say, to all the peoples and places where the Gospel has not yet put down roots."

**WINDOW ON THE WORLD**

**2004 NOBEL LAUREATE  
WANGARI MAATHAI DIES**



Environmentalist and political activist Wangari Maathai died of cancer on 25 Sept. 2011 at the age of 71. Her death was announced by the Green Belt Movement, the environmentalist organization she founded, which up to now has planted more than 40 million trees in a battle to slow down the deforestation of Africa.

In 2004, Maathai became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize—Stockholm’s recognition of her tireless efforts in the areas of sustainable development, nature conservation, defense of the rights of women and children, and insistence on greater transparency in government. In the last years of her life, Maathai dedicated her time and energy to striving to help transform Kenya into a multiethnic, democratic society, for which she was slandered, persecuted, arrested and beaten.

**MIDDLE EAST:  
A LIGHT OF HOPE**



Richard Martin, the owner of a British-based design and marketing company, is the founder of *Children of Peace*, a non-partisan, multi-faith, multi-cultural non-

profit organization that focuses on building friendship, trust and reconciliation between Israeli and Palestinian children and their respective communities. The unique feature of the aid agency is that it assists projects for children aged 4-17 in areas such as the arts, health, education and sports, without making any distinctions with regard to nationality, religious affiliation, ethnic group, culture or sex.

The idea behind *Children of Peace* is to offer local communities in Gaza, Israel, Jordan and the West Bank a completely new approach to resolving the area’s many conflicts. Its hope is that if Jewish, Muslim, Bedouin, Christian and Druze children can get to know and interact amicably with one another by studying and playing together in an atmosphere free of distrust, fear and prejudice, then they can help to break the spiral of violence in which the adults of the region are trapped, paving the way for a new era of peaceful and equitable co-existence.

**NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED  
TO THREE WOMEN**



The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded jointly to three courageous women: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia; Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist, and Tawakkul Karman, a Yemeni human rights activist. Sirleaf is the first woman president of an African country; Gbowee is an activist for peace, and Karman works to defend women’s rights and promote democracy in Yemen, a country which in the last few months has been troubled by serious socio-political conflicts.

The prize was awarded to the three “for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in the peace-building process.”

As Daughters of St. Paul, we rejoice at this recognition of the particular contribution women can make to civil and societal progress in the contemporary world.

## WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

OUR WEBSITE HAS BEEN RENEWED!



Here is some information about our website, [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org), which has been completely renewed graphically and structurally. The site has been redesigned so as to make it easier to navigate, give its various sections greater visibility, offer its visitors updated information and make the latter easier to access.

Greater space has been given to the section "Daughters of St. Paul in the World," which now places at the disposition of navigators an abundance of material concerning the Congregation. In addition, a greater effort has been made to help visitors get to know Sr. Thecla Merlo, Co-Foundress of the FSPs. In view of this, a special "mini-site" has been set up containing documentation (writings, film clips, pictures) that reveal her personality and activities. This material is available in different languages.

Below is a brief rundown of the website's homepage.

The **masthead** displays the areas of service and the navigation instruments (*accessible version, map of the website, feed rss, languages, search engine, reserved area, webmail, newsletter, links*).

The **left column** contains the main navigation menu (*who we are, our locations, the Pauline mission, the Pauline spirituality, General Government, news, prayers, multimedia gallery, documents, events, sites for the week*) and also highlights content useful across the board:

- the data bank of our *international catalogue*
- instant search of the data bank concerning the *FSPs throughout the world* according to websites, communities and vocation ani-

mators (this section and been completely redone graphically and structurally to facilitate the search for and visualization of specific data)

- the *PaolineOnline Information Bulletin* and *our deceased (Called to Eternal Life)*
- the link to the site on the *Centenary* of the Pauline Family

The **center column** offers visitors a new, dynamic space entitled *Today's Focus*, which highlights different categories of material (videos, documents, photos, audio and written texts) drawn from the website itself or from external sources.

This is followed by a *news* section, divided into three subsections:

- *News about the Pauline life*
- *News about the General Government*
- *News Flashes*

Each subsection has its own archive and search engine for advanced searches.

The **right column** offers special interest information:

- the *Thecla Merlo* bannerhead, which gives the navigator access to the new mini-site
- the *MediaCenter*, which contains videos, audio material and pictures
- an area entitled *Sites for the week*, which provides a preview of the homepages of the sites targeted and reference links
- a space containing the latest material from the *Documents* and *Prayers* sections.

The renewed website, which will go online on 26 November, the Feast of Blessed James Alberione, can be accessed via [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org).

The problems and glitches that always go hand-in-hand with the launch of a new initiative will doubtlessly arise in this case too and as of now we apologize for the inconveniences this might cause. We ask your patience and assure you that they will be dealt with, little by little, as they emerge.

Anyone who wants to help improve the website by informing us about these dysfunctions should please contact us at the following email address: [sicom@paoline.org](mailto:sicom@paoline.org).

Happy navigating to all of you!

Cecilia Mazzocchi, Seed  
Emiliana Park, fsp

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
RELIGION TODAY FILM FESTIVAL**



Launched in Italy in 1997, *Religion Today* is an annual film festival dedicated to promoting interreligious dialogue through films. An itinerant festival, it was held this year in the city of Trent from 14-26 October 2011 and revolved around the theme: *Poverty: A Problem or an Opportunity?*—tackling the subject from not only its social dimension but even more from its cultural, spiritual, ethical and theological aspects, since these involve religion more directly and could be an opportunity for deepening interreligious dialogue.

**THE WORLD OF INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY IN MOURNING**

Over the last few months, the world of information technology has lost three of its most illustrious representatives.

*Roberto Busa, sj,  
pioneer in computational linguistics*



“If you navigate the Internet, it is thanks to him. If you use a pc to send emails and write texts, it is thanks to him. If you are reading this article, it is thanks to him.” With these words, the *Osservatore Romano* paid homage to Fr. Roberto Busa, who paved the way for hypertext. Born in 1913, Fr. Busa was one of the precursors in the usage of computers for linguistic, literary analysis and bibliographic research. He published his *Index Thomisticus* (a tool for performing text searches within the massive corpus of Aquinas’s works) with the technical collaboration of IBM. The project, begun in the 1940’s, eventually produced in the 1970’s the 56 printed volumes of the *Index Thomisticus*. In 1989 a CD-ROM version followed. Fr. Busa died on 9 August 2011.

*Steve Jobs: the Talent of “Mr. Apple”*

A brilliant innovator, Steve Jobs was only 56 when he died on 5 Oct. 2011. A complex personality, he was one of the lead players and symbols of the Silicon Valley personal



computer revolution—a technological revolution, certainly, but also a revolution of customs, mindsets and cultures.

“By making computers personal and putting the Internet in our pockets, he made the information revolution not only accessible, but intuitive and fun,” President Barak Obama said in a statement following the death of Jobs. “He was brave enough to think differently, bold enough to believe he could change the world, and talented enough to do it.”

*Dennis Ritchie,  
the Father of Unix and “C”*



Dennis Ritchie died on 12 Oct. 2011, a week after Steve Jobs. He was 70 years old. Less well known than Jobs, Ritchie was nevertheless one of the most creative minds in the world of digital technology. An

American computer scientist, he helped shape the digital era by co-creating, with long-time colleague Ken Thompson, the C programming language and the UNIX operating system, both of which led to enormous advances in computer hardware, software, and networking systems and stimulated the growth of the computer industry.

**USING THE RADIO TO SAVE  
EX-CHILD SOLDIERS**

“Robert, we love you! Come home!” This is just one of the many messages broadcast by Radio Wa, the Catholic radio station of the Lira Diocese, located in northern Uganda. The messages are aimed at children who were captured by the *Lord’s Resistance Army* (LRA) and forcibly trained as soldiers. If they succeed in escaping their captors, many of these children do not return home. Because of this, Radio Wa is ready and willing to transmit to these ex-child soldiers the affectionate messages of their families. The station’s broadcasting radius reaches even heavily-forested parts of the country and as a result more than 1500 escapees have returned home, heartened by the hope of rebuilding their lives in a new and better way.



Foto: Emmanuel Alves, fsp

### DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Sr. Mary Nazarene Prestofillipo, age 91 - 14.09.2011 - Boston, USA  
Sr. M. Letizia Concettina Di Michele, age 92 - 21.09.2011 - Caracas, Venezuela  
Sr. M. Fides Leontina Scurti, age 85 - 27.09.2011 - Rome, Italy  
Sr. Timotea Tai Hee Park, age 59 - 12.10.2011 - Seoul, Korea  
Sr. Giuseppina Adelina Gagnolati, age 89 - 26.10.2011 - Alba, Italy  
Sr. M. Sofia Eiyu Yokoyama, age 81 - 07.11.2011 - Tokyo, Japan  
Sr. Gaetana Silvia Seffino, age 97 - 10.11.2011 - Albano GA, Italy  
Sr. Paola M. Alberta Giaconi, age 91 - 22.11.2011 - Alba, Italy

### PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Sr. Domina Yun (Father, Man Su (Joseph), of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea  
Sr. Roseane Gomes Barbosa (Father, Julio Coelho) of the São Paulo IA community, Brazil  
Sr. Mary Bernardine Sattler (Father, Bernard) of the Redwood City community, USA  
Sr. Cecilia In A Kim (Mother, Jin Seang Anna) of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea  
Sr. Annette Margaret Boccabello (Mother, Margaret Ann), of the Boston community, USA  
Sr. Bernardetta Tomoko Koo (Father, Masanori Paolo) of the Tokyo-2 community, Japan  
Sr. Laura Rhoderica Brown (Mother, Jane) of the Boston community, USA

### PAULINE FAMILY

Fr. Lorenzo Stefano Costa, ssp, age 83 - 18.09.2011 - São Paulo, Brazil  
Sr. M. Guadalupe M. Belén Andrade Reyes, pddm, age 50 - 26.09.2011 - Mexico City, Mexico  
Fr. Francesco Gavino Campus, ssp, age 77 - 20.10.2011 - Albano Laziale, Italy  
Sr. M. Angelica Bruna Merli, pddm, age 93 - 22.10.2011 - Cinisello Balsamo, Italy  
Sr. M. Josephine Antonietta Sumobay, pddm, age 74 - 12.11.2011 - Antipolo, Philippines