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***A family is the place in which
we forge relationships
by learning to speak,
pray and live with one another
despite our differences.***

cf. Pope Francis



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CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

**"TO COMMUNICATE THE FAMILY"
...AND THE PAULINE FAMILY**



The family is at the center of ecclesial reflection and at the center of the Pope's Message for World Communications Day 2015. How can we fail to remember the meaning our family of origin has for all of us, as well as the religious Family in which

the Lord has placed us? Paraphrasing the words of Pope Francis, we could say that our Pauline Family too is a place "where we learn to live with others despite our differences" (EG 66); a place where we come to understand the significance of communicating "with people who did not choose one another yet are so important to each other."

In a family, the Pope writes, we come to understand what communication truly is: the discovery and building of close bonds with one another. The family, he says, is the privileged environment in which we offer one another gratuitous love. It is the first place in which we learn to communicate with one another and forgive one another, and thus it helps us become experts in dialogue and reconciliation. "The perfect family does not exist," the Holy Father says. "But we should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness or even conflict. Instead, we should learn how to deal with them constructively."

All these statements prompt us to hone our ability to live in a spirit of forgiveness, encounter, gratuitousness and wonder—qualities that should characterize our living together in community and also our living together as the Pauline Family.

In these last decades, our awareness of being a Family has grown steadily through initiatives that have as-



sumed an institutional dimension: the annual meeting of our General Governments and periodic meetings of our Superiors General; collaboration among our various Institutes in the areas of formation and the apostolate; the formation course on the charism of the Pauline Family; various congresses and encounters; the spirit of solidarity that is manifested whenever one or another of our Institutes is in need.... Nevertheless we still have a long way to go when it comes to implementing the Founder's repeated invitation to *think, program and work from the perspective of a Family* so as to respond to the challenges of evangelization.

During this Centenary Year, let us allow ourselves to be urged on and questioned by the words of Blessed James Alberione, who in 1963 said regretfully: "We still do not understand the Pauline Family in its globality, nor in its individual parts, nor its mission in the world. It is God who wanted it...."

From the perspective of the ecclesiology of communion, we are called to understand the meaning of our Family's unity in diversity and in the specific features of each Institute so as to come to an always deeper realization that each new Institute founded by Fr. Alberione came into being "so as to complete the Pauline Family."

May the Holy Spirit help us treasure the grace of belonging to this "admirable Family"—a many-faceted and universal Family that extends across the earth. And may he enable us to respond *all together* to the challenges involved in evangelizing the contemporary world, which has truly become our "parish."

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan



BOLIVIA

BIBLICAL MEETINGS IN HONOR OF OUR CENTENARY



In keeping with the words of Blessed James Alberione: "You were born from the Word, for the Word and in the Word," the FSPs of La Paz are celebrating our Institute's Centenary of foundation by holding a series of biblical meetings. The monthly encounters, which are being held in a conference room adjacent to the book center, give special emphasis to the Letters of St. Paul and are designed to help the participants reflect more deeply on some of their themes: joy, the cross, faith, the charisms of the Christian community, the leadership role of women, etc.

The first meeting took place at the end of March and was attended by consecrated persons, the laity and friends of the book center. The good turn-out delighted our sisters and has filled them with hope for the sessions to come.

BRAZIL

NIGHT OF LIGHT



The FSPs of Curitiba (the capital of the state of Parana), joyfully celebrated the Centenary of the birth of the Daughters of St. Paul by organizing a *night of light* for young people in collaboration with the archdiocesan vocation office. The itinerary of Eucha-

ristic adoration, prayer, music, animations and reflections filled the hours from dusk to the following dawn. Especially significant moments in the program were the opening Eucharistic Celebration, a creative presentation of the history of the Congregation, the songs of Hemerson Jean, a Marian prayer entitled *Onward!*, a conference on digital communications and the Pauline charism, and a meeting between the young people and all the sisters of the community. The participants say the experience kindled new hope in them and they warmly thanked the sisters for the chance to get to know more about the very up-to-date Pauline charism, which brings the Gospel to the heart of the world of communications.

KOREA

FAITH VIA CANVAS: CATHOLIC ART AWARD



The Korean Episcopal Conference's Council for Culture was set up in 1995 "to favor the development and inculturation of religious art in our time so as to make humanity always more receptive to the Gospel and so that those who practice these arts will feel recognized by the Church as persons who carry out a true, good and beautiful service." This is the purpose behind the Council's annual Catholic Art Award, which this year was bestowed on Sr. Magdalena Kim, fsp, for her painting, *St. Peter and St. Paul*. The award ceremony was held in the MungDong Cathedral, Seoul, following a solemn Eucharistic Celebration. Sr. Magdalena, who has been painting since 1987, has so far had seven exhibitions of her works, which center on subjects such as faith, daily life and nature. One of the directors of the Catholic Art Award commission remarked that her paintings witness to a faith that is lived. The work, *St. Peter and St. Paul*, which depicts the warm embrace of the two pillars of the Church, is a symbolic representation of the Catholic Faith.

CONGO

OPENING OF THE FSP CENTENARY IN KINSHASA



The pastor, his vicar and numerous members of St. Peter's Parish, Kinshasa, joined the Daughters of St. Paul in celebrating the solemn opening of the FSP Centenary of foundation. The church literally overflowed with people, including members of other branches of the Pauline Family, friends and families of our sisters, and many other well-wishers who joyfully participated in the event.

The Liturgy was enriched by the enthronement of the Bible, carried "in state" to the altar after the singing of the Gloria, accompanied by a group of dancing FSP postulants. Auxiliary Bishop Edward Kisonga, the main celebrant of the Mass, encouraged the FSPs to live their Centenary Year as a time of grace and updating of their charism, underscoring that our Pauline communities should be characterized by three attitudes: joy, quickness and efficiency.

He reminded everyone of Maestra Thecla's words: "It might not always be possible to live in joy, but one can always live in peace." He concluded his sermon by inviting all those present to pray for the Daughters of St. Paul and thank the Lord for their dynamic presence in the Congo, in the Church and in the world of communications.

ITALY

PILGRIMAGE ON FOOT FROM CASTAGNITO TO ALBA

On Sunday, 12 April, the Daughters of St. Paul led a pilgrimage on foot from Castagnito to Alba in memory of Venerable Thecla Merlo, who was born in Castagni-



to and became one of the first followers of Fr. James Alberione, Founder of the Pauline Family. A hundred years ago (27 June 1915, to be exact) Thecla walked from her hometown to Alba to meet the Founder for the first time at the Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damian. There, she said yes to Fr. Alberione's invitation to take Christ to everyone by means of the press and the modern instruments of communication. After that meeting, she and several other young women, under the guidance of Alberione, helped to launch the Daughters of St. Paul, the first feminine branch of the Pauline Family. Sr. Thecla became the Institute's first Superior General.

To celebrate the Centenary of the Congregation's foundation (1915-2015), more than 100 people took part in a pilgrimage retracing the footsteps of Thecla. Among the participants were young people and families from the Alba-Castagnito area, some religious from the Alba diocese, a group of young FSP temporary professed sisters from 14 different countries (Colombia, Pakistan, Philippines, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Czech Republic, Vietnam, Romania, Madagascar, Singapore, United States, Malaysia and Mozambique), who are preparing to make their perpetual profession in the Congregation, and also a group of nine prospective FSP candidates from the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

After a Eucharistic Celebration in the parish church in which Thecla was baptized, the pilgrims set out on their journey, accompanied by the mayor of Castagnito, Pierfelice Isnardi. En route, they stopped for a guided tour of the house in which Sr. Thecla was born and raised. Arriving in Alba, they visited the Church of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, where they were joined by town councilor, Leopoldo Foglino, and

from there they visited the Motherhouse of the Daughters of St. Paul.

A large Bible was carried on the pilgrimage from start to finish, borne in turn by different pilgrims, to celebrate the millions of steps taken by the Daughters of St. Paul along the streets of the world over the past 100 years. Our sisters tell us that the pilgrimage—a time of joy and fraternity, universality and faith—was an unforgettable experience for everyone.

I READ BECAUSE...



On 23 April 2015, the Association of Italian Publishers launched a campaign entitled, #ioleggoperché (“I read because...”), in which the protagonists are books and their readers. Those who sign up to participate in the initiative each receive a book, which they are to read and then share the new discoveries they made as a result of this reading. The purpose of the campaign is to promote a passion for reading among people of all ages and social groups—in fact, many students, teachers and parents have signed up for it. Pauline Multimedia International, Rome, which is promoting the enterprise, has already received numerous messages from participants saying that they find the project relaxing, pleasant and stimulating—and also that it leads to joyous discoveries. The book center’s show windows and main entrance are covered with slips of paper containing messages that can be summed up in one reader’s comment: “A good book helps us grow in values that are important for life.”

**FIDELITY TO THE
INSTITUTE’S TEACHING VOCATION**

During this year dedicated to the consecrated life and our centenary, we rejoice at



the publication of the latest volume of the Alberionian Opera Omnia Series, *To the Daughters of St. Paul*, prepared by the sisters of our International Secretariat for Spirituality.

In this volume, which covers the period of preparation for Vatican Council II, the Founder states that the Institute of the Daughters of St. Paul has reached maturity, reminds them of basic aspects of the Pauline charism, urges them to live the Pauline spirit with ever-greater awareness and fidelity, and to live and proclaim Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life with their entire being (mind, will and heart) for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. This is to be done with the maternal help of Mary, Queen of Apostles, and in keeping with the example of St. Paul.

“Teach!” the Founder declares, in a meditation he guided in 1959. “We must give the same wisdom and truths preached by the Church...using modern means: the printed word, cinema, radio, television, records, pictures...according to the spirit of the Congregation” (Med. 21). It is a ministry that pre-supposes continual progress in order to “travel the paths of the world, spreading the light of God everywhere, carrying out a ministry similar to that of St. Paul. Sow! Sow! Your seed is the Word of God” (Med. 12).

PHILIPPINES

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY IN TACLOBAN



The Daughters of St. Paul of Tacloban launched the Congregation's Centenary of foundation with a Eucharistic Celebration on Easter Sunday in Santo Nino Church in the Archdiocese of Palo. During the Liturgy, a representative of the Local Church gave a moving homily and thanked God for the presence of the FSPs in the Philippines and throughout the world. After the Mass, the sisters, their Cooperators and Lay Mission Partners visited the children who had experienced intense trauma as a result of Typhoon Yolanda. The presence of the sisters, their empathy with the sufferings of the people and the joyous proclamation of the resurrection were all visible signs of the risen Christ in the midst of his flock.

SPAIN

DELEGATION MEETING



It is always a great joy for the sisters of the Delegation to get together for their annual meeting. This year's encounter, held in the climate of the Easter Triduum and the Centenary of our Congregation, focused on getting to know the Pauline charism better and also aimed at helping the participants grow in the charismatic-spiritual heritage they received from Fr. Alberione.

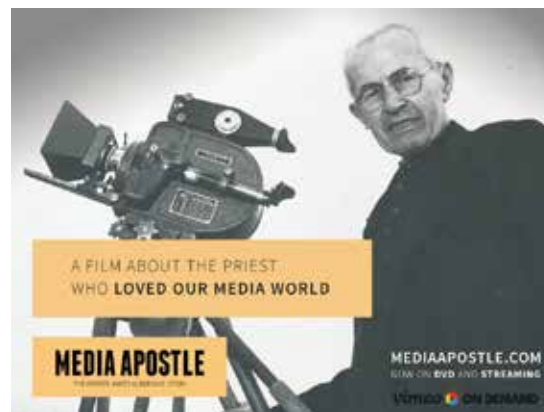
Fr. José Antonio Perez, ssp, helped the sisters translate into life experience the three programmatic phrases communicated to our Founder by Jesus Master: *Do not be afraid. I am with you. From here I want to enlighten.* The reassuring words harmonized very well with the spirit of the Triduum and the experience was intensified by the presence of the Pauline Family at the various Holy Week functions.

The Easter Liturgy was enriched by the celebration of the 50th Jubilee of Profession of Sr. Saveria Antonietti and the 60th Jubi-

lees of Sr. Rosario Gutiérrez and Sr. Rafaela Fornas. The 4-day encounter concluded with a lively exchange of ideas concerning creative ways to celebrate our Centenary of foundation.

UNITED STATES

MEDIA APOSTLE: A FILM TO SEE, AN EVENT TO LIVE!

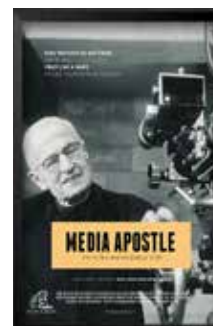


The FSPs of the United States share with us the exciting news that their new documentary film, *Media Apostle: The Father James Alberione Story*, has just been released in DVD format. Produced by Pauline Books & Media, the film

is an especially favorable opportunity to make this communications apostle and his apostolic charism known to vast audiences.

The film's originality lies in the fact that it is *an event to be lived*. In view of this, our sisters have set up a special website (www.mediaapostle.com) where visitors can find a lot of background information and many details about the film and the Pauline Family.

Requests can be made for a "Pauline Day" featuring a viewing of the documentary, a meeting with the Daughters of St. Paul, a time of Eucharistic Adoration according to the spirituality of Blessed James Alberione, and a conference on the importance of the media and their use in today's world. *Media Apostle* is a film that can be used with great fruit in catechesis, youth ministry, schools, formation to the media, the evangelization of adults, days dedicated to dialogue, retreats, and also to celebrate 26 November—the Memorial of Blessed James Alberione, an apostle of our times.



CHRIST THE WORD IN WORDS

MARIANGELA TASSIELLI, FSP



In her dissertation for a Baccalaureate in Theology from the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy, Naples, Sr. Mariangela Tassielli courageously tackles “the new languages of faith so as to understand more dynamically the mystery of Christ in the thought of Fr. Carlo Molari.”

Taking as her starting point her own experiences as an evangelizer (including evangelization via the Internet) and her theological studies in these past years, the author asks herself how to communicate the wealth of the Faith to others. As a Daughter of St. Paul, she focuses special attention on the world of communications, an area that makes it necessary to continually renew the message proclaimed. This leads the author to reflect more deeply on the languages of communication in order that they might express the truths of faith in such a way that people will be attracted by their perennial newness.

Her research is carried out in line with the thought of Fr. Carlo Molari, an Italian theologian who has dedicated many years to studying faith and the many languages used to express it. In her dissertation, the author seeks to also pinpoint possible lines of pastoral action with regard to evangelization, catechesis and preaching in general. Her objective was not an easy one and she herself admits the limitations of her work in this heretofore unexplored territory.

The dissertation is divided into three chapters that examine: *The languages of faith and recent developments in the fields of linguistics and anthropology* (Chapter 1); *The revelation of God-made-man: experience and language* (Chapter 2); *Is God always the same? Theological-pastoral perspectives* (Chapter 3). It is precisely these three perspectives that, if correctly understood, can

direct people to a faith that is truly incarnated in today’s world. The author’s research is enriched with an appendix in which she offers examples of how one can meet God through silence, words and, in particular, through music. She concludes by saying that “in prayer, words are a means through which we meet the Word so that it can speak to us today and offer us salvation.”

We hope that Sr. Mariangela will be able to continue her deeper reflections in this area and that her example will encourage other Paulines to also reflect on the subject, thus helping us to constantly “refresh” our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus.

CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT IN BANKS

SR. METILDA ROSE SUSAI, FSP



Credit Risk Management in Banks: A Study with Reference to South India Bank: This is the title of the thesis submitted by Sr. Metilda Rose Susai in July 2014 to Gauhati University, India, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master’s Degree in Commerce. In a rapidly expanding world marked by financial and economic crises that leave people with little certainties, credit institutions find themselves faced with many risks, the primary of which is credit. Credit management, writes Sr. Metilda, is a very important issue not only for financial institutions but also for all those in the business world because of the risk that one’s trading partner might not fulfill his/her obligations on the due date, thus jeopardizing the business practic-

es of the other partner. Because of this, prudence in granting loans is becoming increasingly necessary on the part of banks.

Sr. Metilda begins her thesis by stating the scope of the study (how banks manage their credit risk) and the methodology she used to collect her data (a questionnaire). Chapter II provides the reader with an overview of India's banking industry and then focuses on South India Bank—a private sector bank—so as to understand its credit risk management practices, which can then be applied to other banks. In Chapter III, the author discusses credit risk management in greater detail. She devotes Chapter IV to analyzing and interpreting the data she collected, while Chapter V contains her findings and recommendations concerning the issue. Her thesis is enriched with an appendix containing the questionnaire used to collect data and also many charts and graphs.

The author's assessment is that South India Bank has achieved remarkable progress in the area of credit management, proving its competence not only in terms of increased profit but also in providing excellent customer service.

The thesis concludes with several recommendations to the banking system at large, such as: to establish a system that helps identify problem loans ahead of time when there are still options available for remedial measures; to establish external credit rating agencies to obtain true information from clients; to use modern credit evaluation techniques, and to set up an information technology system to enhance communication and obtain accurate data in a timely manner.

ITALY

CHRIST, MASTER OF HUMANITY



The official hymn of the upcoming 5th Congress of the Church in Italy (9-13 November 2015) was written by Sr. Anna Maria Galliano, fsp, and set to music by Msgr. Marco Frisina.

Msgr. Frisina says: "In setting this hymn to music, I tried to respect the structure and key points contained in Sr. Anna Maria Galliano's rich text. I wanted the refrain to be simple but solemn, culminating in the acclamation, 'Lord Jesus.' The text of the verses is more complex: several structural elements recur in them and I tried to respect that. After an initial address to Christ under his more significant titles, the phrase 'we pilgrims' recurs and I wanted to emphasize this because it is precisely we, the children of our time on our journey through history, who are called to take the Gospel to the streets of the world. We turn to the Lord because we are eager to share with him this marvelous adventure of witness and proclamation."

Calendar of the General Governemnt

7 April - 30 May	Italy/Switzerland	Fraternal Visit	Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan and General Councilors
10-14 April	Great Britain	Visit for a Specific Purpose	Sr. Gabriella Santon
3-7 May	Mexico	Visit for a Specific Purpose	Sr. Gabriella Santon
28 May –18 June	Rome	Charism Tour	Sr. Karen M. Anderson



A CHURCH THAT IS POOR AND FOR THE POOR

*We are all called to be poor,
to strip us of ourselves;
and to do this we must learn
how to be with the poor,
to share with those
who lack basic necessities,
to touch the flesh of Christ!
The Christian is not one
who speaks about the poor, no!
He/she is one who encounters them,
who looks them in the eye,
who touches them.¹*

– Do you understand, Stephen? Listen to what the Pope says: “We are all called to be poor.” All of us, without distinction, without hesitation. How beautiful!

– You’re supposed to be poor? Like me? To live on the street like me? To live in an abandoned building? I warn you—there isn’t any heating, and no water for washing either. Get out of here! You don’t have the courage to do this!

Stephen—“Christ-in-the-flesh”—is right. We aren’t able to hoist a backpack and follow him. We aren’t able to strip ourselves of the security of a bed, of a roof over our heads, of our next meal.... We aren’t able to leave everything to spend as much as one night under the stars. Not even for the love of their Creator or for love of this drunk and smelly human relic, so as to become living witnesses of a love that gives itself completely. The Pope seems to be asking us to embrace the vocation to leave

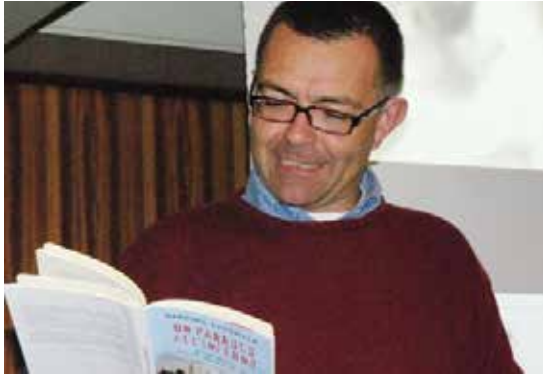
our possessions behind and make a gift of ourselves to others, just like the first Francis did.

“How I would like a Church that is poor and for the poor!” the Pope exclaimed as he began his pontificate. He said that all of us together are the Church: that means you and me. There’s no other route, he declared. Some months later, in *Evangelii Gaudium*, he called the option for the poor “a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one” (n. 198). That means we must allow ourselves to be evangelized by street people like Stephen, Manuel, Rosario and Valentina—that we must immerse ourselves in their wretched lives. But in order to do this, we must look them in the eye, hug them, listen to them and welcome them as dear brothers and sisters. It also means that they will save us. These people on the peripheries of human existence must become—or should already be—the new “core” from which we set out.

It is hard, very hard—very, very hard—to do this completely. Luckily the Pope prefaced his words by saying, “We must *learn* to....” Stephen and his band have a lot to teach us. Like the time one of them fainted on the street and the others gathered around him to hug and caress him maternally—gestures we wouldn’t normally expect of people in their situation—competing with one another to find him clean clothes and then take him to the hospital....

“The poor are the first to practice solidarity!” the Pope said. “Poverty today has had a makeover and among the poor different expectations are growing: they aspire to be leaders, they organize themselves, and most of all

¹ Pope Francis, Assisi, 4 October 2013.



they practice the solidarity that exists among the suffering, among the least.”² Pope Francis seems to be well aware of what is going on in our urban peripheries. The poor of the world—a class of people that has always existed—do not want us to bend over them from our complacent contexts and shed tears for them. Pope Francis, and all those who range themselves along with him on the side of the poor, well knows that “we must de-institutionalize poverty, become intimate with it to the point that perhaps we even scandalize others; become intimate with it to the point of feeling that we too are among the poor and are challenged by it, including being challenged by our own poverty. We must de-institutionalize poverty, liberating the cry for fraternal justice on the part of a humanity that is loved and viewed as a friend; whose condition is shared.”³

And this is because there is no poverty in the abstract; instead, there are people who are poor, who live in wretched circumstances. There is no social degradation in the abstract; instead, there are individuals who have been thrown away like human “garbage.” But if the aid that reaches those reduced to begging for what they should receive by right is only a trickle in comparison to the need, it is due to a “dirty” economic, social and financial system,

² Pope Francis, *Address to the Federation of Christian Organizations for International Volunteer Service (FOCSIV)*, 4 Dec. 2014.

³ Fr. Virgilio Colmegna, “*Reti della carità*,” in *Tavolo*.

as the Pope has said over and over again—a system that marginalizes the excluded, who have every right to protest. “The hungry,” he said, “ask for dignity, not alms. They ask for the right to citizenship. They ask that justice be put into practice: not only in the legal sense, but also in terms of contribution and distribution.”⁴

Thus he invites the Church and all its members to listen to the cry of the poor: “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society” (EG 187).

And the option for the least of the world cannot take any other form than solidarity, “sharing one’s clothes with them,” in recognition that “the universal destination of goods are realities which come before private property” (EG 189). It means being a Church that knows how to transform herself, little by little but with prophetic courage, from a Church *for* the poor into a Church *with* the poor, to the point of becoming a Church *of* the poor—a Church made up of all of us: not impoverished, not reduced to misery, but finally free.

⁴ Pope Francis, *Address to FAO*, 20 November 2014.

VOICES OF FAITH

STORIES OF WOMEN IN THE HEART OF THE VATICAN

After last year’s success, the second edition of the *Voices of Faith* storytelling event was held in the heart of the Vatican. The event brought together talented Catholic women from around the globe to share their inspiring experiences in reaching out to the world’s poor and marginalized. With great skill and firm faith, these extraordinary women recounted their stories, allowing everyone to glimpse the feminine contribution to the Church’s work of accompanying the poor, upholding human dignity and promoting equality. Among the guest speakers were human rights advocates, policy makers, academics and visionaries—many of whom have faced adversity and seemingly insurmountable challenges in carrying out their work. As part of the event, the “Women Sowers of Development” prize was awarded by Caritas International and Voices of Faith in recognition of projects that highlight women’s contribution to guaranteeing food and improving the conditions of life in families and communities. To learn more, visit:

www.voicesoffaith.org.

REMEMBERING PRIMA MAESTRA THECLA



When I entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul in 1957, the Institute was experiencing a great influx of vocations and was under full missionary expansion. At that time, the community of Rome had more than 400 members and its various buildings within the Antonino Pio compound, together with the impressive Queen of Apostles Sanctuary, made it seem like a little city in itself. The various apostolic sectors throbbed with life and fervor. It was wonderful to gather together in the Sanctuary to pray. The Founder, with his powerful charismatic spirit, supervised everything and at his side was Maestra Thecla, of whom he said: “You will have other Prime Maestre but she alone is the Mother of your Institute.”

It was not easy to spend time with Prima Maestra personally. With daughters scattered throughout the world, she was often away from Rome, visiting FSP communities in Italy and abroad. When she was home, she would give us conferences in our big community room. As a speaker, she was not gifted with great eloquence but her words went straight to the heart thanks to the interior spirit that permeated them. Shy and unsure of myself as I was, I never dared to approach Prima Maestra and open my heart to her. I contented myself with her maternal smiles and words of encouragement whenever I would run into her on the paths of the Antonino Pio compound.

After my religious profession, I was assigned to the Salerno community. I had been there only a few weeks when the local superior announced that Prima Maestra Thecla would be coming for a visit. Shortly after her arrival, Maestra Thecla asked to see me and with a gaze overflowing with goodness and affection said that she had come to Salerno precisely to see me and ask me if I would be willing to go to the United States as a missionary. I was speechless—flattered that she had made a special trip to Salerno just to talk to me—and her proposal filled me with enthusiasm. Riding high on the tide of that enthusiasm, I said yes to her request. It took a year-and-a-half for me to receive a visa for America: I left by ship for Boston on 31 January 1962, accompanied by another FSP missionary, Sr. Innocenza

Cellini, who was headed for the same destination. During the long sea trip, I spent a lot of time looking at the endless, rolling waves and thinking about the new land toward which I was headed.

At that time, the provincial superior of our United States circumscription was Maestra Paula Cordero, who had a boundless esteem and veneration for Maestra Thecla. For her, every desire of Prima Maestra, even if unexpressed, was an order. In the meditations she guided for the community and in her conferences to us, Maestra Paula constantly spoke about Prima Maestra—her words and example, virtues and teachings. You could say that the entire atmosphere of the Boston community was impregnated with this veneration. Naturally, this made an impact on me. After the death of Prima Maestra, Maestra Paula’s esteem for her became even more evident. Every time a problem arose in one of the apostolic sectors, she would invoke the help of Prima Maestra in a voice that rang throughout the room: “Saintly Prima Maestra, pray for us!” While I was in Boston, I was asked to translate into English a good part of the enormous quantity of letters that Maestra Thecla and Maestra Paula had written to each other over the years. The resulting picture of their beautiful friendship revealed to me an aspect of Maestra Thecla with which I was less familiar: that of friendship.

After 26 years in the United States, I returned to Italy and was assigned to the Generalate community to work in the International Secretariat for Spirituality. One of the first jobs assigned to me by Sr. Antonietta Martini, at that time the head of the Secretariat, was to prepare for printing the conferences given by Prima Maestra Thecla to the Daughters of St. Paul: a text that was published in 1993 under the title *Un cuor solo un’anima sola (One in Mind and Heart)* (CSAS). This job, which required great patience and careful editorial work, took a long time to complete but it enabled me to penetrate the thought and spirit of Prima Maestra and unite myself even more closely to her. I felt her presence alongside me. I prayed to her frequently and I am sure that she obtained many graces for me from the Lord.

Today I often recite the prayer for her beatification but at times when I pause to contemplate her picture on the front of the holy card, I can feel her whispering to me: “Don’t be so concerned about praying for my beatification. Pray instead that all the Daughters of St. Paul might become saints. It was for this intention that I offered my life.”

Sr. Monica Mary Baviera
fsp

IT WOULD TAKE A BOOK TO TELL MY STORY!



Back in 1987, when Sr. Maria Cevolani was Superior General, she asked me to go to the Congo (or Zaire, as it was then called) for a year. When I arrived in Kisangani, I found myself in the midst of a huge, damp rainforest, which, combined with the intense heat, encouraged the spread of malaria. I also found myself surrounded by great poverty: people who had to struggle to earn enough money to eat one meal a day (or even one meal every other day). They were all simple and very religious and—wonder of wonders—always smiling! I discovered that the Congolese people had music in their blood—they were always dancing! What a joy it was for me to see children only two or three years old joyfully dancing with the adults during the Sunday Eucharistic Celebrations. Inculturating myself in the Congo required a great spirit of adaptation and at first I didn't find it easy. But now I dearly love Kisangani—a city in which I lived for three different periods in my 20-year-mission in the Congo. There, I witnessed many different kinds of suffering and great injustices toward the poor.

Today, with almost a million inhabitants, it is the country's third-largest city. Even though our little community carries out the Pauline apostolate very simply, it is a valuable and even essential resource in the zone, which covers thousands and thousands of square kilometers. I recognized how precious and necessary our apostolate is when I saw how many teachers, catechists, and people of every age and class turned to us to satisfy their needs. Many of these people undertook 3- or 4-day bicycle trips, or 2-day walks just to reach us. Missionaries, local priests, inhabitants of remote villages—people from everywhere dropped into our Pauline Book & Media Center—an obligatory stop on their trips to the city. Books, music, religious articles: everything in the Center was precious to them and it made me more keenly aware that it was for this reason that we were there in the first place, and also why we were all very determined to stay despite the continual threat of war and the scarcity of personnel in our little community. To illustrate how important our apostolate is in this part of the country, I want to recount an incident that made a deep impression on me: I had only been in the Congo

a short time and I had ordered a book for one of our customers. Even in that brief time I had learned the lesson that in Kisangani you order a book and when it gets there, it gets there—it's useless to count the days...but several months later it finally arrived. When I told the woman that her book was in, she was overjoyed. But then she confided to me: "Now I have to make a decision. I can either buy the book or buy a pair of pants, which I really need because the pair I'm wearing now is the only one I have." She pondered a moment, then said with a smile, "I'm going to get the book because it's here today and if I decide to wait, someone else might buy it and I've been waiting for it for such a long time!" She left the book center, package in hand, with a big smile on her face. Why do I remember this incident so vividly? Because it helped me understand more profoundly what it means to be a Pauline apostle in a frontier zone. It is we who help the people of those difficult areas nourish their minds and hearts—without us, they have no one! When I arrived in Kisangani, the Local Church was made up almost exclusively of foreign missionaries—many of them survivors of the political change-over that took place in 1964 and that produced a host of martyrs, both consecrated persons and lay people.

When I returned to the city in 2006, I saw with joy that the Local Church was flourishing. Of course there were problems, but people were moving ahead with great hope in their hearts. When Maestra Assunta Bassi was still alive, I would always visit her whenever I returned to Italy (during the final stage of her life, she was a member of our James Alberione community of Albano). On my last visit, she greeted me with the challenge: "Well, Carla, are you tired of Africa yet?" I was taken aback for a moment and then replied, "No, Maestra Assunta, not yet! I've lived through terrible experiences of war, ransackings, anguish and fear. The big dream of the people there is peace."

Maestra Assunta nodded and commented: "You were asked to go to the Congo for a year but you've been there quite a while now." I didn't answer her verbally but the smiles we exchanged said it all. In harmony with Blessed James Alberione and Maestra Thecla, I felt that I had been sent to the poor, to the simple people, to politicians and intellectuals—in short, to everyone—so as to nourish their minds by offering them the bread of the truth so that each person would be able to make the right choices—the decisions necessary for living well.

Carla Dugo, fsp

THE MOOD? THE WHISPER OF A LIGHT BREEZE



Giant Global Graph is a name coined by the inventor of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee, in 2007, to help distinguish between the nature and significance of the content on the existing World Wide Web, and that of the next-generation web, or “Web 3.0.” The concept refers to the changes that took place on the WWW after the appearance of the Semantic Web and the strengthening of social networks. A graph is an abstract representation of the social relations determined by the users by means of their interactions on the Web.

The exchange of information and documents among Web users that was common in the 1990’s is not central to the logic of the Giant Global Graph. Instead, what is fundamental to it is the value that this information takes on in the relations cybernauts weave among themselves. In short, a search for meaning has been grafted onto what was previously a simple exchange of information.

For the new generations in particular, to insert oneself into a relational fabric as profound and deep-rooted as the one created by the Web means also confronting the fundamental questions of life and its meaning, which should be coherently grasped through

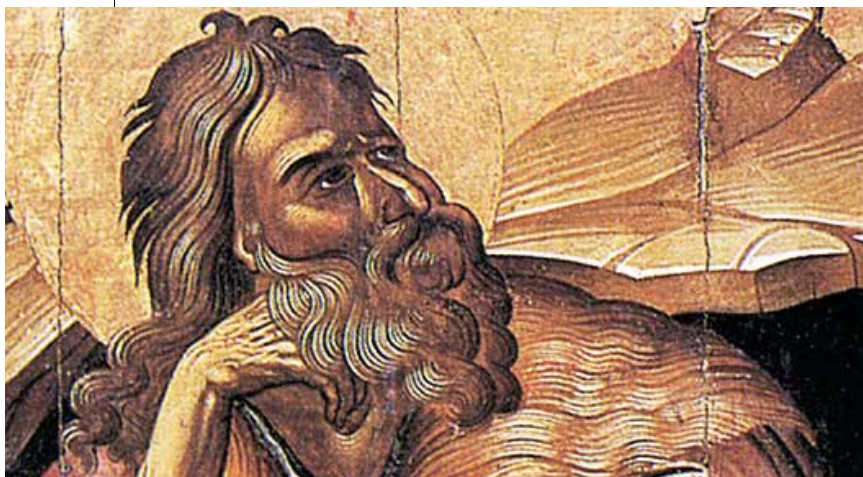
the logic of the Web. As Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, a pioneer in pastoral work utilizing digital technologies, explains: “The Internet is a dialogue that allows people to share spiritual goods according to the logic of the market.”

The rules of the game, therefore, require people to operate according to demand-supply strategies even when dealing with spiritual realities. But one often has the impression that there is an overabundance of pastoral proposals online that are not based on specific requests from users. The Internet can be transformed into a “portal of faith” if it becomes first of all a place of credible witness in response to the prejudices and criticisms that encrust digital relationships.

When using digital technologies, the “mood” (interior state) of a social network professional should not be strident. Instead, he/she must humbly enter a network that is already hyper-sensitive due to the lack of physical presence. Therefore, one’s mood should be “the whisper of a light breeze,” as Pope Benedict XVI recommends in his message: *Social Networks: Portals of Truth and Faith; New Spaces for Evangelization*, harkening back to how God revealed himself to the prophet Isaiah.

On the other hand, how can we avoid the unrealistic idea that online interaction—even when characterized by religious content or testimonies to faith—is automatically equivalent to a work of evangelization? The most intriguing strategy for responding to this ambiguity today seems to be a blend of digitally-mediated relations and physical meetings. One responds to an online request by suggesting an in-the-flesh meeting; one engages in a real-life experience and then maintains contact through email

or social networks. It is an interesting route to explore, but it presupposes a certain physical proximity between the one who makes the pastoral proposal and the one who accepts it in the hope of establishing as complete a relationship as possible in all its dimensions, including the digital.



Fr. Marco Sanavio

*Social Communications Director
Padua Diocese, Italy*

KOREA:

PODCAST SUDOWONCHANKBANG



The FSPs of Korea, in collaboration with the SSP, commemorated the Year of Consecrated Life and our FSP Centenary Year by launching the program *Podcast SudowonChankBang*.

The program is aired three times a month and can also be followed on *Facebook*, podcast transmission *Podbbang* and *iTunes*.

In her presentation of the new program, Sr. Gemma said: “We want to bring God’s love to the world through the new forms of communication.”

A podcast is an audio or visual program (a conference, performance, etc.) in digital format available for download free of charge over the Internet. The podcast *SudowonChankBang*, hosted by Fr. Ignazio Hwang, ssp, and Sr. Gemma Kim, fsp, presents books, music and films. The two hosts share various experiences with their audience, interpreting reality from a Gospel perspective.

The program is aired three times a month and can also be followed on *Facebook*, podcast transmission *Podbbang* and *iTunes*.

INDIA:

SOLIDARITY RALLY IN AZAD MAIDAN



About 10,000 people recently gathered in Azad Maidan (South Mumbai) to participate in a rally protesting the brutal treatment of Christians in India over the past few months, most recently in the form of attacks on churches and schools in New Delhi. The purpose of the rally, which was organized by the *Bombay Catholic Sabha* and *Indian Christian Voice* associations, was to decry the waves of violence steadily mounting against Christians in India and at the same to promote peace and solidarity among the country’s many minority groups. Auxiliary Bishop of Mumbai, Angelo Gracias, said he was deeply concerned about the government’s silence with regard to the atrocities that are taking place in many parts of the country. The Pauline Family in

India turned out in large numbers to support the rally, actively professing their faith and taking a stand for the protection of the rights of the weak and defenseless. During the rally, twelve speakers from different groups and religions addressed the crowds, raising their voices to reawaken consciences to the need to safeguard the rights of the country’s many minorities.

AUSTRALIA:

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARY



On 25 April 2015, Australia celebrated the centenary of ANZAC—the anniversary commemorating all the Australian and New Zealand military personnel who died during World War I. Our sisters chose this very moving and significant National Remembrance Day to celebrate not only the memory of these heroic soldiers but also the Institute’s Centenary of foundation, the 60th anniversary of our FSP presence in Australia and also the Golden Jubilee of religious profession of Sr. Bernadette Muscolino and Sr. Maria De Vitis.

Members of the Society of St. Paul, of the Pious Disciples and of the Good Shepherd Institute joined our sisters in a joyful Eucharistic Celebration in which everyone gave thanks to God for leaving the Pauline Family a wonderful heritage born out of the farsightedness and courage of James Alberione and the strength and wisdom of Thecla Merlo, who shared his vision and dream. It was she who inspired, guided and sent out the first Daughters of St. Paul to the four corners of the globe, ready to face—with Gospel in hand—the many challenges and risks awaiting them.

Besides praising God for the Congregation’s 100-year history, other touching moments during the Eucharistic Celebration were the sisters’ grateful remembrance of the many sacrifices of the first FSPs who arrived in Australia in 1955 and for their two pioneer Jubilarians.

WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PASTORAL WORK FOR VOCATIONS



To celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life launched by Pope Francis, an International Conference on Pastoral Work for Vocations was recently celebrated in Rome, Italy. The event, organized and hosted by the Chicago-based National Religious Vocation Conference, brought together national vocation and religious leaders from many countries of the developed world. The National Religious Vocation Conference, a Catholic association with headquarters in the United States, has been promoting vocation work for the past 27 years. The purpose of the meeting was to share vocation-related information, identify common needs and challenges and explore future areas for worldwide collaboration in promoting vocations to the consecrated life.

FEMININE CULTURES: EQUALITY AND DIFFERENCE



It is necessary “to study criteria and new ways so that women will feel that they are not guests but full participants in the various areas of social and ecclesial life.” Pope Francis addressed these words to the members of the Pontifical Council for Culture, whom he received at the end of their plenary assembly dedicated to the theme, *Feminine Cultures:*

Equality and Difference. Among other things, the Pope called for a more capillary and incisive feminine presence in different areas, in such a way as to involve women more directly in pastoral duties, the accompaniment of individuals, families and groups, and also in the area of theological reflection.

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD 2015



This year, Pax Christi International has granted its Peace Award to the *Women, Peace and Security Collective for Reflection and Action (Colectivo de Pensamiento y Acción Mujeres, Paz y Seguridad)* in Colombia for “making visible and encouraging the essential contribution of women to peace-building in their country and for their work to promote an ethical transformation of Colombian society as the path towards sustainable peace.”

Established in 1988, the award, which is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund, honors contemporary individuals and organizations who take a stand for peace, justice and non-violence in different parts of the world.

Founded in October 2011, the *Collective* is a women’s network that brings together women from different social and professional backgrounds (religious, ex-combatants, indigenous, Afro-descendants, journalists, academics, human rights defenders, union leaders, etc.), as well as organizations committed to a revolution in ethics as the basis for sustainable and lasting peace in Colombia.

Through this award, Pax Christi International also wants to acknowledge “the pivotal role women play worldwide in conflict transformation and peace-building at the local, national and international levels.”

The Peace Award Ceremony will take place on 16 May 2015 in Bethlehem, Palestine, during the celebration of Pax Christi International’s 70th Anniversary of foundation.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

DON CAMILLO MUSEUM



A very interesting way of remembering the post-World War II period in Italy is through a visit to the museum in Brescello (Reggio Emilia) dedicated to Don Camillo and Peppone, the protagonists of a series of Italian films of worldwide renown. All five movies, featuring Fernandel as Don Camillo, the parish priest, and Gino Cervi as Peppone, the town's communist mayor, were filmed in this town. Since its opening in 1989, millions of people from all over the world have visited the museum, which conserves many relics linked to the production of the films such as Peppone's bicycle, Don Camillo's cassock, the tank that appeared in one of the films, etc. The famous "talking statue of Christ" is now kept in a side chapel of the local church, while the bell that fell on Peppone's head now hangs from a beam under the arcade along Via Giglioli.

NIWANO PEACE PRIZE

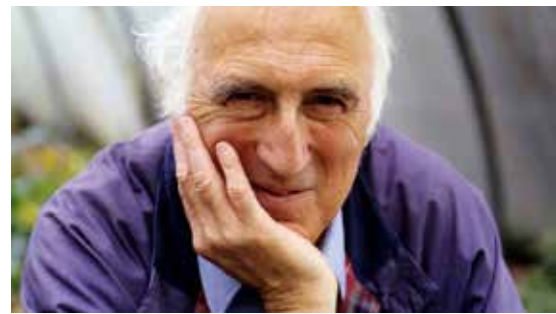


The 32nd *Niwano Peace Prize* has been awarded this year to Esther Abimiku Ibanga, a Nigerian pastor and activist for women's rights, in recognition of her efforts to promote women's empowerment and peaceful co-existence. Pastor Ibanga founded the *Women Without Walls Initiative* (WOWWI) in an effort to end the violent and senseless killings of women and children in the state of Plateau, Nigeria. Since its establishment, the organization has become a strong coalition of women's groups beyond ethnic and reli-

gious divisions and is the first to have among its members women leaders from all tribal groups, including Christian and Muslim. To achieve its goals and objectives, the *Women Without Walls Initiative*, under the leadership of Pastor Ibanga, has taken steps to increase the role of women through education, skills building and micro finance. The organization has represented women in international conferences and forums in various countries, including Rwanda, South Africa, Austria and the United States. Pastor Ibanga also recently presented a document to the UN entitled, *Preventing and Tackling Violence and Criminal Atrocities against Minorities*.

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JEAN VANIER RECEIVES TEMPLETON PRIZE



The Templeton Prize, one of the highest international recognitions for persons in the religious field, has been awarded this year to Jean Vanier, the Canadian Catholic philosopher, theologian and author who founded the first *l'Arche* community and the *Faith and Light Movement*. The two support networks have been assisting the mentally disabled for over 50 years. "People with mental disabilities make us more human," Vanier said. "They are beautiful people, people of the heart!"

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

WORLD POETRY DAY



World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on 21 March, the first day of Spring. Instituted by UNESCO in 1999, the day is

meant to recognize the privileged role poetry holds in the promotion of intercultural dialogue, communication and peace. *“Poetry is the universal human song, expressing the aspiration of every woman and man to apprehend the world and share this understanding with others through the arrangement of words in rhythm and meter. There may be nothing more delicate than a poem, and yet it expresses all of the power of the human mind, and so there is nothing more resilient. Poetry is as old as humanity itself, and as diverse—embodied in traditions, oral and written, that are as varied as are the human face, each capturing the depth of emotions, thought and aspiration that guide every woman and man”* (from the UNESCO Director-General’s Message for 2015).

RADIO AL SALAM: A RADIO FOR PEACE AT THE SERVICE OF IRAQI REFUGEES



The aim of *Radio al Salam*, launched in Erbil, Iraq on 5 April 2015, is to give voice and comfort to the refugees in the northern part of the country, regardless of religious affiliation. In fact, the masses of refugees in this region come from many different ethnic and religious groups (Christian, Muslim, Kurd, Zaidi Shiite, etc.)—all forced to abandon their homes because of the Jihadist offensive of the Islamic State. “This radio station is for all those who have been driven from their homes, for all refugees,” said Fr. Pascal Gollnisch during the inaugural transmission. Fr. Gollnisch is a member of the *Ouvre d’Orient (Window on the East)* organization, which, together with the Raoul Follereau Foundation, is supporting this initiative. “As the name suggests,” the French missionary continued, “*Radio al Salam* is a radio station for peace. Its purpose is to give concrete help to the daily lives of the displaced.”

It is estimated that more than 2 million refugees have poured into northern Iraq since the Jihadists launched their offensive.

YOUTUBE KIDS



An app entitled *YouTube Kids* made its debut in the United States. Launched by Google, the app is a special version of YouTube designed for children. In fact, by using *YouTube Kids*, children can no longer click onto inappropriate Internet sites. The app is free of charge and available for devices that run on smartphones and Google’s Android mobile operating system. The graphics feature kid-friendly design, with big, bulbous icons and minimal scrolling.

YouTube Kids also includes features for parents, such as a timer they can use to limit how much time their children spend watching videos. Once the timer ends, the app ceases to function, forcing the viewer to move on to something else. But a big question remains: what advertising policy is Google planning to adopt to generate revenue by displaying ads in a venue geared for children? It’s still a mystery!

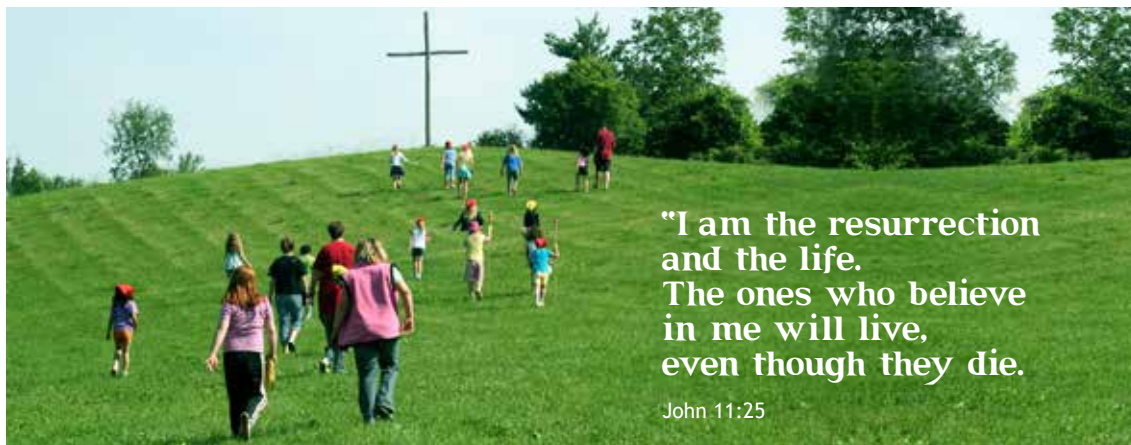
JUBILEE WEBSITE NOW ONLINE



The website for the Jubilee of Mercy is now on line: www.iubiliaemmisericordiae.va. Web navigators will find there the talks of Pope Francis about the Extraordinary Holy Year, which will begin on 8 December 2015, plus video clips and pictures related to it.

The portal’s homepage bears the motto of the Jubilee: *Merciful like the Father*, accompanied by the Papal shield and the logo of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which has been assigned the task of organizing the event.

The site, which can be accessed in Italian, French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish, provides links to the main social networks, as well as to *Twitter* and *Facebook*, giving navigators the chance to keep up to date regarding the news, services and reflections aired by Vatican Radio and *L’Osservatore Romano* concerning preparations for the Jubilee and events taking place in the Church throughout the world.



DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Sr. Assunta Maria Cantone, age 84 - 18.02.2015 - Albano, Italy
Sr. M. Anunciacion Hernandez Zendejas, age 80 - 27.02.2015 - Mexico City, Mexico
Sr. M. Regina Augusta Carducci, age 80 - 18.03.2015 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. M. Alberta Macrina Bozza, age 84 - 02.04.2015 - Naples, Italy
Sr. Gemma Maria Valente, age 95 - 19.04.2015 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. M. Lucis Maria Ossa, age 88 - 23.04.2015 - Bogotà, Colombia
Sr. Maria Gracia Aurora Salazar, age 83 - 25.04.2015 - Cucuta, Colombia

PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Sr. Rosette Thomas Kurichullil (Father, Thomas), of the community of Mumbai, India
Sr. Teresa Beltrano (Mother, Rosa), of teh community of Reggio Calabria, Italy
Sr. Shamim Inayat (Father, Hussain), of the community of Karachi, Pakistan
Sr. Noela Kim Kyoung Hee (Father, Jae Il Augustinus), of the community of Kwangju, Korea
Sr. M. Preethi Edathattel (Father, Varkey Varghese), of the community of Mumbai, India
Sr. Emily Aleyamma Karikattil (Mother, Rachel), of the community of Kolkatta, India
Sr. Mary Jerome Conner (Father, John Leroy), of the community of New Orleans, United States
Sr. Virginia Helen and Sr. Regina Frances Dick (Mother, Helen Mary) of the community of Boston, United States
Sr. M. Brigina Gonzalez Hernandez (Mother, Maria), of the community of Monterrey, Mexico

PAULINE FAMILY

Fr. William Ignatius Staniszewski, ssp, age 77 - 24.01.2015 - Canfield, United States
Br. Lucinio Lopez Lucio, ssp, age 83 - 05.02.2015 - Madrid, Spain
Sr. M. Augustina Giuseppina Carolina Cerri, pddm, age 89 - 09.02.2015 - Sanfrè, Italy
Sr. M. Maurilia Lucia Chiavazza, pddm, age 83 - 21.02.2015 - Sanfrè, Italy
Fr. Attilio Cecilio Monge, ssp, age 86 - 26.02.2015 - Rome, Italy
Fr. Luigino Giuseppe Melotto, ssp, age 74 - 27.02.2015 - Rome, Italy
Sr. M. Clea Pierina Taricco, pddm, age 87 - 27.02.2015 - Sanfrè, Italy
Fr. Piergiorgio Ambrogio Beretta, ssp, age 81 - 06.03.2015 - Alba, Italy
Br. Nicolò Basilio Brezza, ssp, age 91 - 17.03.2015 - Alba, Italy
Sr. Luigina Angelachiara Ferreri, sjbp, age 87 - 23.03.2015 - Albano Laziale, Italy
Sr. M. Francesca Lucia La Perna, pddm, age 92 - 30.03.2015 - Albano Laziale, Italy
Fr. Elio Anselmo Baron Toaldo, ssp, age 82 - 01.04.2015 - Alba, Italy
Br. Sergio Timoteo Manuelli, ssp, age 80 - 12.04.2015 - Rome, Italy
Fr. José Valentin Juan Velandia Castelblanco, ssp, age 69 - 13.04.2015 - Quito, Ecuador