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## SEGRETARIATO INTERNAZIONALE DI COMUNICAZIONE

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## From the Superior General



**D**earest Sisters,

*One the most deeply felt needs during this time of profound and rapid transformation in every area of human life is surely that of continual formation. To neglect it would be to jeopardize the future of individuals and of institutions themselves. At the root of a certain mediocrity and consumeristic, materialistic mentality—present also in the consecrated life—lies the fact that we have not committed ourselves seriously enough to a formation destined to last a lifetime.*

*Reflecting on what is happening in our own Institute, the Document of our 9<sup>th</sup> General Chapter points out some limitations that could probably be overcome through the conscientious ongoing formation of each sister and of the Congregation as a whole. The Document says: “We notice that our communication is poor, formal, lacking in affection and marked by a scant ability to share our faith, life and times of communal festivity” (n. 15). These shortcomings are attributed to insufficient animation on the spiritual and cultural levels. But they could also spring from a feeble commitment to a self-formation that is able to “rekindle our desire to integrate action and contemplation, our relationship with God and with others; that enables us to be signs of life for the new generations and overcome through dialogue our disparities with regard to age, education, formation and mentality.”*

*Recent Church documents insist on the need for permanent formation. For example, a perusal of the Instruction, Starting Afresh from Christ, offers us challenging reflections on this subject on which many interesting studies were later based: “The times in which we are living call for a general rethinking of the formation of consecrated men and women religious, which is no longer limited to one period of life. Not only to enable them to become better able to insert themselves into a reality which changes with a rhythm that is often frenetic but also and more importantly because consecrated life itself, of its nature, calls for the constant openness of those who are called to it. If, in fact, consecrated life is in itself ‘a progressive taking on of the attitude of Christ,’ it seems evident that such a path must endure for a lifetime and involve the whole person, heart, mind and strength, reshaping the person in the likeness of the Son who gives himself to the Father for the good of humanity. [...] Thus it is important that all consecrated persons be formed in the freedom to learn throughout life, in every age and season, in every human ambient and context, from every person and every culture, open to be taught by any fragment of truth and beauty found around them. But above all they must learn to be formed by everyday life, by their own community, by their brothers and sisters, by everyday things, ordinary and extraordinary, by prayer and by apostolic fatigue, in joy and in suffering, until the moment of death” (n. 15).*

*This text echoes the thought of our Founder, who always insisted that formation is an ongoing process and that we should make the effort to learn from everyone and everything. Speaking to the FSP superiors gathered for a course of extraordinary spiritual exercises in 1960, Fr. Alberione said: “What does study mean? It means effort. Studium scientiae, studium perfectionis (study for learning, study for perfection): that is, we must make the effort to become holy. In general, this study should continue throughout our life. Everyone must do it. We must always be ready to learn new things, especially things that concern the apostolate.... Read! Study is necessary for everyone. We must utilize our first faculty—the mind. We must render an account to God for the talents we receive and the chances we are given to learn. Our Institute is*

set up in such a way that we can acquire all the knowledge we need, if we reflect. Knowledge is a gift of God, but God's gifts require correspondence. We must make the effort to ensure that God's gift to us bears fruit. May what we study help us to grow not only in knowledge but also in wisdom!<sup>1</sup>

These two texts give rise to all the coordinates and categories of permanent formation, understood as a process that involves the whole person—mind, will, feelings, spirit, body—and whose sole purpose is to help us grow in every dimension of our life, throughout our life.

But what is permanent formation? In writing this letter, I drew inspiration from a book by Amedeo Cencini<sup>2</sup> that I recommend to you. In this work, the author compares permanent formation to the breath of life, saying: "Breathing is a constant, regular act. It is silent, barely perceptible, spontaneous and automatic. We do it day and night. It is an expression of life, the rhythm that accompanies it. The same can be said of permanent formation, which accompanies every segment, every step, of the solemn march of life. It is this rhythm that enables us to carry out a steady journey to fulfill a project." This is true for all people but in a special way for consecrated persons, who need to "carefully monitor their lives because no one can think of consecrating him/herself to God if not through a journey of continual conversion during our pilgrimage here on earth."

Permanent formation is a journey, a commitment, that lasts a lifetime. It requires the person to actively and intelligently allow herself to be formed by life and throughout her life in order to follow Christ with fresh enthusiasm and passion and proclaim his Gospel clearly and competently in today's world. Without this continual self-education, it is highly probable that we will wind up forgetting our first love, abandoning the ideal that attracted us so powerfully at the dawn of our call, and slowly move toward trivialities and apathy, routine and boredom, ending up tired and disillusioned. Permanent formation should first of all lead us to grow in faith, in our relationship with God. It should enrich our faith and put it to the test each day, every day, up to the end of our life, so as to strengthen it. Permanent formation should lead us to "a gradual identification with the attitude of Christ toward the Father" (VC 65) by means of a journey that leads to "Donec formetur Christus in vobis"—the goal of every son and daughter of the Apostle Paul. In fact, for consecrated persons, formation is not only a pedagogy that prepares us to take on a specific identity and the duties connected to it. It is also a theological way of understanding and defining our consecration to God as the slow and progressive process of forming of a "new being" in us, a human heart capable of taking on divine feelings and of beating in unison with the heart of God.

On the one hand permanent formation is the responsibility of each person, who feels incomplete in every dimension of life and at the same time responsible for fulfilling God's plan for her, but on the other hand it is not something that can be either improvised or left to personal initiative. Permanent formation must be planned at various levels—general, circumscription and local—but no one can make the journey for me. The Institute must create spaces, propose dynamics and set aside appropriate times for this process so as to facilitate and support the formation of every sister and enable the whole Congregation to follow this itinerary, which continually leads each of us to the source of life, that is, communion with the Blessed Trinity, the font and goal of our eternal pilgrimage. Affectionately,

Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Explanation Const.*, Studies, p. 229ff. Cf. also *Pauline "Studiosità" Today and New pathways for Pauline "Studiosità"* of Sr. M. Agnes Quaglini, in Reserved Section, Study Aids, [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org).

<sup>2</sup> Amedeo Cencini, *Il respiro della vita, la grazia della formazione permanente*, San Paolo, 2002.

# The General Government



## ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

On 6 Jan. 2008 the General Government sent out *News Flash n.1/2008* to inform our communities about the initial activities of its mandate, namely, the intense schedule of council meetings during which the governing team reflected on the situation of the Congregation and programmed its activities in keeping with the directives of the General Chapter. It was a valuable time for the members of the Government to get to know one another, share the values they want to live during this period of service and deal with situations with an eye to the future.

The Councilors were also assigned specific areas of responsibility:

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan	Vicar General and Councilor for Spirituality
Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave	Councilor for the Apostolate
Sr. Anna Caiazza	Councilor for Communication
Sr. Samuela Gironi	Councilor for Formation
Sr. Francisca Matsuoka	Councilor for Formation
Sr. Inocencia Tormon	Councilor for the Laity

The Government also drew up its *Planning for 2007-2013*. This Project, which will guide the Congregation for the next 6 years, translates the rich content of the Chapter Document into lines of action. Particular attention was devoted to defining the Plan's general objective, which gives concrete life to every value, priority, strategy, and initiative in the light of the two "golden threads" pinpointed by our 9<sup>th</sup> General Chapter, namely: faith in Jesus Christ, "which is expressed in love for one another and zeal to announce the Gospel" (CD 13), and the Apostle Paul, "our constant point of reference in rekindling our passion for Christ and for our mission" (CD 10).

Several subjects require intense discernment, such as the reconfiguration of our Secretariats, the Queen of Apostles Hospital, a redesigning of the Institute's presences, the formation of its governing teams, and the manner of holding the Fraternal Visits. The Congregation will receive more information once the General Government has finished preparing its *Iter* (Mode of Procedure) in these matters.

Another service carried out by the General Government in this time was the appointment of various Circumscription Governments. We published a list of several of these new governing teams in the previous Information Bulletin and now would like to add to it.

## Appointment of Circumscription Governments

### *Province of Brazil*

De Bortoli Sr. Eide	Provincial Superior
Konzen Sr. Ana Marlene	Councilor
Kurten Sr. Ivonete	Councilor
Soares dos Santos Sr. Josefa	Councilor
Zuchetto Sr. Adriana	Councilor

### *Province of Argentina-Uruguay-Paraguay*

Stoffel Sr. Julieta	Provincial Superior
Martinez Sr. Ana Maria	Councilor
Orizio Sr. Franca	Councilor
Romero Sr. Virginia	Councilor
Veloteri Sr. Imelda	Councilor

### *Province of India*

Vallayil Sr. Ancy John	Provincial Superior
D'Souza Sr. Matilda	Councilor

Ponatt Sr. M. Joseph	Councilor
Savarimuthu Sr. Vimala	Councilor
Thekkethotyil Sr. Liza Luis	Councilor

*Delegation of Spain*

Panzetti Sr. Letizia	Delegation Superior
Herraiz Sr. Maria Luz	Councilor
Marco Sr. Ester	Councilor
Gomez Carrasco Julia	Councilor

*Community of Lublin, Poland*

Kim Young Mi Sr. Lucia	Superior
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**Calendar of the General Government**  
February-March 2008

20-28 Feb.	Bogotá	<i>Sr Helena Arroyave</i> <i>Sr Anna M. Parenzan</i>	Meeting w/New Gov'ts
22-29 Feb.	Nairobi	<i>Sr Antonieta Bruscato</i> <i>Sr Samuela Gironi</i>	Meeting w/New Gov'ts
1-17 March	Buenos Aires	<i>Sr Helena Arroyave</i> <i>Sr Anna M. Parenzan</i>	Meeting w/New Gov'ts
5-12 March	Madrid	<i>Sr Anna Caiazza</i> <i>Sr Francisca Matsuoka</i>	Meeting w/New Gov'ts
5-12 March	Mumbai	<i>Sr Samuela Gironi</i> <i>Sr Inocencia Tormon</i>	Meeting w/New Gov'ts

**TOWARD PERPETUAL PROFESSION**

19 FSP Juniors are at Torvaianica, Italy from 12 Jan. to 20 May 2008, preparing for their perpetual profession. They have come from 11 countries (United States, Brazil, Kenya, Pakistan, Venezuela, Colombia, Poland, Philippines, Great Britain, Portugal, Madagascar) to live together a special time of deeper intimacy with Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life and thus prepare to say "yes" to him freely and definitively in imitation of St. Paul.

With the help of their formators, Sr Pina Riccieri, Sr Ninfa Becker and other collaborators (especially FSPs), they are reflecting more deeply on the meaning of Pauline consecration in the light of our Constitutions in a climate of prayer and joyous sharing.

They are convinced that the Father chose them at baptism to live in his Son among the Daughters of St. Paul and that he wants to consecrate them to himself more profoundly so that they might proclaim to all the unfathomable riches of Christ (cf. Const. 4).



## The Circumscriptions



### Albano

#### **Televised Eucharistic Celebration**

Sat 2000 is the broadcasting station of the Italian Bishop's Conference. Its programs are aired on many local stations throughout the country via satellite on Sky Channel 801.

Sr. Rosaria Aimo writes: "From 14 January to 5 February 2008, we reached out from Albano to all the world through a daily Eucharistic Liturgy broadcast from our hospital chapel, the 'heart' of our community. This chapel was sanctified by the prayers of Prima Maestra Thecla, many other FSPs and countless other women religious, who offered God the precious gift of their sufferings along with their religious consecration. John Paul II prayed in this chapel and Pope Paul VI celebrated Mass here. Primo Maestro also celebrated the Liturgy here whenever he came to Albano to enlighten and form our sisters to help them better carry out their service of caring for the sick and evangelizing them. From the phone calls we constantly receive from Italy and abroad, we realize that many people take advantage of our hospital to re-forge themselves not only physically but also spiritually, reassuring us that the hospital is offering a valuable service to countless people of every age and walk of life.



"We did not immediately respond to the request to broadcast a daily Liturgy from our chapel because it seemed to be asking a lot of our sisters, many of whom are elderly, and the rest of whom carry out a demanding apostolate. So we asked the Pauline Family in the Albano-Rome area to collaborate with us and all said a very generous "yes." Thus we had the joy of praying together during this period, each community taking a turn at guiding the Liturgy. It was a great gift to celebrate together the Conversion of St. Paul, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the day dedicated to religious (2 Feb.) and the anniversary of Prima Maestra's death (5 Feb.), all of which fell within this time frame!"

### Argentina

#### **Radio Solidaridad Enters Homes for a National Festival**

This year too, the FSPs who run Anatuya's *Radio Solidaridad* offered the public live coverage of Santiago's 38<sup>th</sup> Festival of Traditions, thus enabling thousands of families to participate in the event "long distance."

Held in Santiago's Fr. Suarez Amphitheater, the week-long Festival—a cultural event featuring Argentine music and folklore—attracted huge crowds of people, who enthusiastically cheered the performances of the country's top musicians: Jorge Rojas, Leo Dan, Facundo Toro, Roxana Carabajal, Sergio Galleguillo e Los Amigos, Néstor Garnica and many others.

For about 4 hours every evening, the radio staff, composed primarily of lay collaborators, furnished their listeners with interviews with the performers and selections of their work, together with other information about the Festival, including many surprises.

This year *Radio Solidaridad* also sought to expand its audience by setting up an Internet website ([www.amradiosolidaridad.com.ar](http://www.amradiosolidaridad.com.ar)) so as to reach even those outside the station's broadcasting range. The radio invited the public to participate in the Festival by sending in comments and pictures to be posted on its website. Those in charge of the web site are now working hard to post a picture gallery and the input they have received.

## **Brazil**

### ***SEPAC's First Annual Course***

In mid-January, SEPAC launched its first annual specialization course on the theme *A Theoretical-Practical Approach to Culture and the Instruments of Communication*. The course, held in the Institute's headquarters in Sao Paulo, has attracted 59 students from 14 regions of the country. The Province's 9 postulants, 1 novice and 3 of its local lay collaborators are also taking the course, which is being held during both the academic year and vacation periods so as to facilitate wider participation.

## **Canada**

### ***Montreal's Pastoral Animation Hall***

Lucie Gravel, the lay woman in charge of programming the activities carried out in the FSP pastoral animation hall attached to our Montreal book center writes to tell us that this past Autumn 1500 people attended the programs offered in the hall. Each meeting allows time for the participants—who come from every walk of life and religious background—to become acquainted, share their experiences and enjoy a snack together.

Ms. Gravel sends out information about these encounters via email to more than 3,800 people. She writes: "Your book center is not like other book centers and the people realize this. God is its heart: a humble, concrete and hidden God. Sure, a few people criticize, but this is part of the challenge of spreading the Gospel. You sisters are carrying out a highly spiritual work that is expanding as you try to live your charism in new ways." Ms. Gravel also writes that on 24 Jan. 50 members of the local Committee for Community Development met in our hall and she is sure many of them will later return to attend other programmed events. "Many people come into your 'Church and I'm sure this pleases God very much,' she concludes. "In my opinion, this hall has a great future."

## **Korea**

### ***An Agenda for the Pauline Year***

The Daughters of St. Paul of Korea are carrying out an interesting vocation initiative designed to involve young women in the celebration of the Pauline Year. They have prepared an agenda on Paul's *Hymn to Love* (1 Co. 13), which presents the twelve aspects of this virtue in a simple and appealing way. The different facets of love are drawn from thoughts of Sr. Thecla Merlo in harmony with the hymn. The agenda encourages the young women to do something concrete each month connected to the subject proposed.

### ***The Formation of Media Forum Leaders***

One of the many activities of the *FSP Media Spirituality Center* of Korea is the formation of media forum leaders. The Center organizes courses on various subjects such as how to understand media languages, how to produce multimedia prayers and film forums, how to use screenplays more effectively, etc. Seven courses, each lasting six weeks, are being held every Monday from January to September 2008. Sr. Noela Kim, who is in charge of the program, has set up a blog (<http://cafe.daum.net/imageforum>) to provide participants with information and updates about it and allow them to share their ideas and experiences.

At the end of the course, each participant will receive a book that contains the methodologies used in media forums (*WITH.com*). The person is also eligible to participate in the monthly film forums organized by the *Media Spirituality Center*.

## **Germany**

### ***"Co-Workers for the Sake of the Gospel"***

At the end of December the FSPs of our three communities of Germany met with Sr. Letizia Panzetti, who presented to them the Project "Co-Workers for the Sake of the Gospel." The meeting took place in three stages: a presentation of the Project's motiva-

tions, based on the Chapter's choices concerning our collaborators; an outline of the Project itself so as to understand what it involves, and a personal reading of the Project, followed by clarifications and comments. In the light of the challenges and priorities facing the entire Congregation in this area of our life, our sisters then sought to identify their own specific challenges and priorities, pinpointing two in particular: the spiritual-professional preparation of their lay co-workers, together with our own formation so that we will not be afraid of collaborating with them, and the preparation of aids to facilitate the communication of our spirituality and mission to the laity. At the end of the meeting, each FSP community compiled a list of its collaborators and other people interested in our mission and set up a team for the laity on the Delegation level, specifying the roles and duties of its members.



**Great Britain**  
***Initiatives for the Pauline Year***

To celebrate the year dedicated to St. Paul, our sisters of this Delegation are carrying out a number of projects in their book centers and others in collaboration with the local Church. They are preparing study aids and audiovisuals for children and teens, and are holding encounters in parishes and schools during Lent. Recently, they also helped to animate a retreat held in a Catholic school, where they spoke about St. Paul, interviewed the students and offered them suggestions for reflection and prayer on various passages of the Apostle's letters.



**Italy**  
***Communications Week***

To celebrate the 42<sup>nd</sup> World Day of Social Communications, the FSP-SSP commission in charge of animating Communications Week has prepared a booklet that sketches out the initiatives planned and the various aids that have been prepared to implement them, one of which is an "Alberione Contest" for schools. The booklet also offers information and concrete guidelines concerning the activities planned for the Communications Festival to be held in Bresca from 28 April to 4 May 2008, emphasizing the importance of this event, which revolves around the theme chosen by Pope Benedict XVI for WCD: *The Media: At the Crossroads Between Self-Promotion and Service. Searching for the Truth in Order To Share It with Others.*

***Three Days with Youth and a Blog***

During the Christmas holidays, an enjoyable meeting for young people was held in Rome on the theme: *Light Shone in the World*. The purpose of the encounter was to help the participants listen to God and human beings so as to build bridges between the two. The event consisted of a well-organized prayer/evangelization program, in which the young people enthusiastically participated, striving to determine what they could do to bring the light of God to the world. We are sure that the Divine Master, whom the young people felt truly present among



them, will reveal to each one of them his plan for his/her life. We are also sure that these young people will now translate into simple but concrete daily actions the commitments they made in these days.

In mid-January, Sr Mariangela Tassielli, fsp, initiated a blog to keep in touch with the young women our sisters meet through their pastoral work for vocations. The blog offers these young women reflections, prayer aids and the chance to exchange ideas with the FSPs and with one another. It is also a place where they can concretely experience the Pauline apostolate as a way of proclaiming the Gospel through today's new technologies. In its first 15 days of life, the blog was visited by more than 3,000 people. It's address is: <http://cantalavita.wordpress.com/>.

### **Madagascar** ***Reading Festival***

This cultural event, which brings together the chain of collaborators involved in offering the public a book (authors, publishers, book sellers, libraries), is truly a festival in Madagascar, where it has been celebrated annually for the past 19 years. The initiative was launched by France's Department for Culture and took root in Madagascar through the French Embassy there. Our sisters in Antananarive and in Tulear participate in the event by visiting the local schools. Thanks to the collaboration of their principals and teachers, this year the children were also able to enjoy a guided tour of our two Pauline centers, where they inspected window displays and observed how books for various categories of people (adults, children, etc.) had been arranged to attract attention and interest.



Naturally, the tour ended in the children's section of each store, which this year was given the place of honor. Our young guests were invited to each choose a book and sit down to read it in a specially-prepared corner of the Center. After 5-6 minutes of reading, they were each invited to share what they had read with the others and then return the book to its place on the shelf. The children were very excited about this experience and all expressed the desire to repeat it. We hope they left our Centers with an even stronger love for reading and you can never tell: there may even be a few budding authors among them!

### **Peru-Bolivia** ***Reflecting and Programming Together***

The FSPs of this Delegation met in Lima to reflect together on the directives of the General Chapter and program their journey for the next 6 years in the light of the many challenges and needs our mission faces in contemporary society. Our sisters from the communities of La Paz, Cochabamba, Lima and Arequipa were all present for the occasion and the fact of being together gave them new courage to reflect on how to meet the serious problems around them, especially in Bolivia, a nation in which Hurricane Nina recently carved a wide path of destruction. We are close to our sisters and entrust them to the Lord, who always guides our steps with fatherly love.



## **Pakistan**

### ***Hope and Hard Work in Spite of Serious Problems***

Our sisters of Pakistan live in hope even though “each day the situation gets worse” and so they pray together: “Please God, grant the gift of peace to our country so that we may continue your mission of spreading the Gospel of truth and love by our adherence to your wisdom and good will.” The signs the Lord gives our sisters, who are “a minority among the Christian minority in a male-dominated Islamic republic,” urge them to continue to work hard for vocations, involve the laity more fully in the Pauline mission and expand their apostolic horizons.

Their Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi book centers are the central points from which they abundantly disseminate the Christian message by means of books, CDs, cassettes, films and mini-media. People often come from far away to purchase material and so our sisters try to carry out book center initiatives that promote diffusion. Recently, the FSPs of Rawalpindi hosted an inter-school painting competition on the theme, *Sports for Peace*. Bishop Anthony Lobo distributed trophies to the three winners out of the 8 participating schools. All the contestants received value-formation books, while the teachers received the book “Virtues and Values.” The President of the Christian Youth Sports Ministry provided the group with a snack to conclude the day.

The book “Virtues and Values” was also presented by Sr. Meena during a seminar in Lahore attended by 20 teachers, and by Sr. Tomasina in another seminar in Karachi, in which 40 Christian teachers from different schools participated.

## **Czech Republic**

### ***Promoting the Pauline Mission***

The FSPs of Prague have just published an attractive catalogue entitled “Katalog 2008.” Leafing through the booklet, one immediately notices the creativity of this small Pauline publishing house and, at the same time, the growing interest in the public for products centered on current events, formation and spirituality. Up to now, our sisters of Prague have published almost 100 books, 5 CDs, 22 DVDs and many visual messages. The Katalog includes a 4-color insert entitled “Jako Pavel” (*Like Paul*), which presents the Pauline spirit and apostolate to the public so as to capture their interest and motivate them to participate in the Pauline mission. Three thousand copies of the second issue of “Jako Pavel,” which focuses on St. Paul and the Pauline Year, were printed. Our sisters have received interesting feedback regarding this simple instrument, which they feel helps to involve a greater number of generous laity in their mission to disseminate and consolidate the proclamation of Christ in the Czech Republic.

## **Romania**

### ***Ecumenical Pastoral Work for Vocations***

From 14-16 Dec., the FSPs of Romania visited the city of Slobozia to coordinate a spirituality encounter for young people seeking discover the Lord's plan for their lives. Twenty-two young men and women (17 Catholics and 5 Orthodox) ages 18-25, from Slobozia and several nearby towns participated in the event, which was animated by 7 representatives of different vocations: the consecrated life, the priesthood and family life. The theme of the meeting, *Mary Invites You to Her House*, was inspired by the encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, 41, which presents Mary as the teacher of the *Lectio Divina* and the model of how to welcome the Word of God into our daily life. Further inspiration was drawn from Fr. Alberione, who honors



Mary as Queen of Apostles. The entire experience was enriched by 2 special events: a meeting with Fr. Dragos of Slobozia's Orthodox Church dedicated to Our Lady of the Annunciation, followed by a meeting with the owners and clients of a nearby Italian-Romanian pizzeria. Fr. Dragos introduced the young people to the mysteries of Marian icons from an ecumenical perspective and afterward both the animators and participants in the encounter reaffirmed that they wanted to pursue an "ecumenical journey" so as to foster greater knowledge between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. The festive encounter in the pizzeria offered the young people a wonderful chance to share with the diners their joy at being Christians. At the end of the 3-day session, all the participants said they wanted to continue their journey of faith so as to enter always more deeply into the world of the Spirit.

## Russia

### *First Cultural Meeting in Our FSP Book Center*

25 Jan. was a memorable day for the FSPs of Moscow because on that day they held their first cultural meeting in the book center: a small step forward for the apostolate and one that involved hard work and some risk. They presented their new Russian translation of *"The Confessions"* of St. Augustine—a project they undertook because the language of the earlier translation was outdated and the text filled with typographical errors. Sr. Joseph Marella, fsp, opened the encounter by explaining the reason for this new edition and then introduced Prof. Leonid Haritonov, who translated the text from Latin, and Prof. Natalia Trauberg, the most famous Russian translator of the works of G.K. Chesterton and C.S. Lewis. St. Augustine is well known to both Catholic and Orthodox Russians, who deeply appreciate his fluid prose and artistic rhetoric, both of which the translator sought to carry over into his translation. The many people who attended the encounter followed the presentation attentively and asked numerous questions about both the text itself and the technicalities involved in translating it. The evening concluded with a reading of several passages of *The Confessions*, including the famous account of Augustine's conversion. Given the success of the meeting, our sisters are now planning other encounters on subjects such as psychology, music and faith.



## United States

### *75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Foundation*

On 20. Jan. the FSP community of Los Angeles commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of our Institute in North America with the arrival of the first FSP missionaries in New York (28 June 1932) and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of foundation of our first community in California. The Mass was celebrated in St. Augustine parish church by Fr. Marcos, ssp, who focused his homily on the theme of the Sunday readings: God's call and our response, modeled on that of Jesus and Paul. About 175 people participated in the Mass, which was followed by refreshments in our Book & Media Center. The day was made memorable by the presence of many members of the Pauline Family and Pauline Cooperators, as well as lay collaborators, friends, family members and media professionals. To accompany the refreshments, the sisters also presented a Power-Point program on our history so that their guests could learn a little more about us.



## **Sudan**

### ***New FSP Foundation in Juba***

After 25 years of civil war, southern Sudan is experiencing a time of peace. During the long war years, many citizens fled to nearby countries, while the Church sought to make her presence felt at home in the limited ways available to her. Immediately after the peace treaty was signed, Bishop Taban extended an invitation to all religious congregations to come to Sudan to help rebuild the moral and spiritual lives of the people, who were returning to a ruined and desolate land.

The Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul accepted this invitation and now two FSPs are collaborating with the local Church in the work of evangelization and human promotion through the instruments of social communication.

Juba is a disaster area. The destruction was so complete that almost no buildings were left standing. Returning citizens are living in huts, even in the city. Construction work is underway everywhere. This gives people hope for the future in spite of the fact that life is hard. Archbishop Paolino Lukubu offered the FSPs a room near the Cathedral to use as a book center. It is a good-sized space but needs refurbishing and a storage area. Above all it needs a good supply of books and AV's to meet the needs of seminarians, catechist, students and the general population.

Juba is not the only diocese in the country begging for the FSPs. 7 other dioceses in southern Sudan have requested our presence. Our two missionaries are currently setting up their book center and house (pictured here) so as to be able to offer the Word of God to everyone.

The country's situation is still very uncertain and insecure so this new foundation requires the moral and spiritual support of the entire Congregation as it strives to blaze a trail that will help to bring peace and development to the entire population.



## **CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE**

### ***Daughters of St. Paul***

- Sr. M. Bruna Altema Agnese Rantucci, age 87 - 15.12.2007 - Albano TM, Italy
- Sr. M. Domenica Adele San Martino, age 88 - 31.12.2007 - Rome AP, Italy
- Sr. Alfonsa Francesca Rittà, age 86 - 31.12.2007 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. Adriana Anna Maria Monti, age 98 - 04.01.2008 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. Augusta Bernardini, age 87 - 19.01.2008 - Rome AP, Italy
- Sr. M. Clotilde Caterina Gianusso, age 91 - 23.01.2008 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. Margherita M. Rosina Gergolet, age 86 - 25.01.2008 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. Teresa Gai, age 82 - 30.01.2008 - Rome AP, Italy

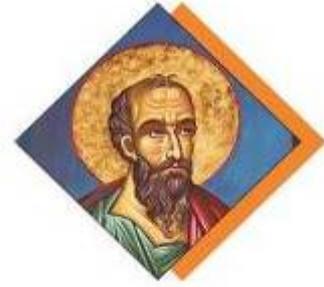
### ***Parents of Our Sisters***

- Sr. Maria Luisa Mereu (Mother, Maria) of the TM community, Albano, Italy
- Sr. M. Amabilis Suzuki (Mother, Minoyo) of the Sapporo community, Japan
- Sr. Mary Manje (Mother, Pauline) of the Kampala community, Uganda
- Sr. Rosa Thodukayl (Father, Joseph), of the New Delhi community, India
- Sr. M. Teresa Ramos (Mother, Ana) of the Johannesburg community, South Africa

### ***Pauline Family***

- Sr. M. Giuseppina M. Elisabetta Pratilto, pddm, age 102 - 31.12.2007 - Albano, Italy
- Fr. Antonio Alessandro Tacconi, ssp, age 83 - 09.01.2008 - Santiago, Chile
- Sr. Veritas Iolanda Ferro, sgbp, age 71 - 05.02.08 - Albano, Italy

# The Pauline Family



## MESSAGE OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE PAULINE FAMILY

*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

We are writing to you from Ariccia at the end of our annual meeting of the General Governments of the Pauline Family, which offered us a golden opportunity to reflect together, share ideas, search for the things we hold in common, program and...dream. In a word: to grow as an “admirable Family”—a gift we should live to the maximum so that the Pauline charism can be fully expressed. In the opening prayer of our meeting, Fr. Silvio Sassi, Superior General of the SSP, reminded us that our charism is “a closely interwoven balance of holiness and apostolate, as witnessed to by our Father St. Paul.”



### ***Pauline Formation: A Common Point of Departure***

This harmonious and balanced interweaving sheds new light on the reflections initiated by our General Governments in 2005. Taking *young people and the Pauline charism*, as well as the sphere of formation, in particular the *formation specific to the PF*, as our point of departure, we compared this reality with what Fr. James Alberione said to the individual Institutes of the Pauline Family, so as to then pinpoint *the essential values and principles common to us all*.

Our work during this 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Governments revolved around a summarized text prepared in advance (*Pauline Formation: A Common Point of Departure*) and gave rise to *guidelines for formation according to the thought of Fr. James Alberione*. These guidelines will now be studied more deeply and integrated so as to draw up a *common platform* for the formation projects of our Pauline Congregations.

### ***Information from Our Various Congregations***

The serene and fraternal climate in which we carried out our reflections and exchange of ideas was intensified as a result of the information we shared with one another concerning the initiatives our Institutes have carried out or plan to carry out in the near future. This “tour” of the Pauline world through our various activities and projects filled us with enthusiasm and enabled us to share the problems and hopes linked to each initiative.

Significant moments always evoke nostalgic memories of those who are no longer with us—something that was true also of this meeting. With deep emotion, we remembered Br. Francesco Chessa, SSP General Councilor, and Sr. M. Franca Riba, PD Bursar General, both of whom had shared a part of our journey. We are sure that they are now interceding for our Institutes and for the unity of the PF, which they had deeply at heart.

### **The Pauline Year**

The imminence of the Pauline Year (28 June 2008–29 June 2009), a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank the Lord, urged us to exchange an abundance of ideas concerning initiatives to carry out as a Family. In addition to the many projects that have already been programmed in our different circumscriptions, numerous others were proposed. We chose several of these on the basis of our concrete possibilities of carrying them out together.

First of all, we are thinking of organizing a *PF pilgrimage* to the tomb of the Apostle Paul in Rome. This pilgrimage could be preceded by a time of prayer and reflection and could take place in conjunction with the International Seminar on St. Paul, which the SSP plans to hold in April 2009.

Another possible initiative could be the *celebration of the Feast of Blessed James Alberione* (26 November 2008) in the Basilica of St. Paul, a site very dear to our Founder.

The *website alberione.org* could offer visitors various materials for study, reflection and prayer that can be freely downloaded. It would be a good idea to make the most of all the aids we produce in the course of the Pauline Year. With this in mind, we invite all our circumscriptions to enrich the website's data bank with their contributions so as to offer not only the PF but also others the chance to study the life and works of the Apostle Paul more deeply.

Again in view of getting to know Paul and make him known to others, it would be wonderful if we could organize meetings aimed at a deeper study of the Pauline Letters on the Family level in our circumscriptions.

And we cannot forget young people because Paul has something to say to them about discovering their vocation in life. As the PF, we could organize *meetings*—in parishes and in the spheres of youth ministry and vocation work—to *help young people get to know how Paul met the Lord and how he communicated the Gospel*.

### **Our Next Meeting**

Our gratitude to the Lord for the gift of the Pauline Year to all Christians and in a special way to the Pauline Family also took concrete form in our resolve to study and reflect together on Paul, as he was presented to us by our Founder. In view of this, the General Governments of the Pauline Family unanimously agreed that our next meeting will take the form of a Seminar, to be held here at the Divine Master Retreat House from 7-11 January 2009 on the theme: *Fr. Alberione: Interpreter of St. Paul to the PF*.

Dear sisters and brothers, in the experience of fraternity and communion that we shared in these days, we felt the presence of each of our communities, each person entrusted to our care, and each expression of our many-faceted mission.

We took leave of one another and we take leave of you with prayerful best wishes in harmony with today's liturgy (cf. 1 Jn. 5:5-13; Lk. 5:12-16), namely, that during this very important year the Pauline Family, in keeping with the example of St. Paul, will continue to be a place of life, testimony and communication of the Life that the Father, through the power of the Spirit, poured out on the Son and all those who believe in him.

With deep affection in Christ, our Master and Pastor,

*The Participants in the XXVI Meeting  
of the General Governments of the Pauline Family*

# Communications



## GIVING A VOICE TO...ALL

In 2008, the Declaration of Universal Human Rights will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This important event in the history of the international community should not be restricted to a simple commemoration but should trigger profound reflection and also an examination of how human rights throughout the world are being promoted and protected. It should also pave the way for further progress in acknowledging and safeguarding human rights by intensifying information and education in this field and increasing concrete acts that foster these rights thanks to the collaboration of political and cultural institutions, information/communication organisms, schools and civil society.

We often ask ourselves about the future we are moving toward in our always more globalized world. Is globalization good or bad? Does it offer the world's population greater freedom and a higher standard of living or does it threaten human beings because it fosters cultural leveling, reinforces consumerism and threatens to eradicate the unique cultural features and identities of peoples and a wealth of local traditions?

The Pope has repeatedly voiced his worry about uncontrolled globalization, which inevitably results in the prosperity of a few at the expense of the many. On different occasions he has expressed his fear that human beings risk failure in their efforts to build a new political and economic world order and a new humanism.

It is important to understand and help others understand that we have a common destiny. Good or bad, globalization has truly welded us into a global village but unfortunately it has not increased solidarity among peoples. Insecurity and uncertainty, which have become a part of our daily life, can lead to the fragmentation of individuals, families, religions and societies. We must reflect anew on how we communicate. Information must go beyond a simple transmission of news and seek to grasp what is going on behind the scenes, thus allowing people to be as objective as possible in evaluating situations.

We must give prominence to issues such as peace, social justice and freedom of expression in both the secular and religious spheres. The instruments of communication and all professional communicators must do their best to give proper weight and coverage to the individuals, nations, cultures and movements that are striving to bring about the rebirth of society. It is urgent that we learn how to choose information and spread it. We must make informed and conscious choices, the fruit of a well-balanced, selfless lifestyle that is attentive to the needs of others and far removed from the tendency to waste the earth's resources and chase after passing trends, fashions and idols. We must learn how to use the various media to offer content and programs that emphasize the great ideals of peace and solidarity.

We must give a voice to those who have none, underscoring and safeguarding the dignity of the human being and therefore his/her rights. We must denounce every form of violence, abuse, injustice, corruption and war. We must give space to young people and help them take a lead role with regard to important issues. We must encourage new ways of looking at things, of promoting projects and of fostering alternative lines of action. We must give a voice to new thoughts but also to the ordinary citizens of the world such as women, who are often oppressed. Let us make their hopes, fears, feelings of solitude and yearnings for good known to all.... And let us never forget to give a clear and joyful voice to Christ, in a spirit of faith, hope and love, because it is he who casts light on the world's future.

*Sr. M. Agnes Quaglino*

## Studies and New Editions



### ***Il mio nome è Tecla (“My Name is Thecla”)***

This new book about M. Thecla, by Maria Luisa Di Blasi, was released on 5 Feb., the date of her birth to heaven. In the Preface, we read that remembering one’s mother is not only a simple sign of devotion, a gratifying gesture, a new emotion, but also a duty.... We feel the need to remember Prima Maestra, to speak about her, to follow the trail she blazed for us, to become better acquainted with the spiritual and apostolic legacy she left us, and to revitalize our lives in the light of her teachings.

Maestra Thecla possessed an outstanding character: she was a humble and courageous person, steadfast in prophetically pursuing the goals pointed out to her by the Founder. Often it was only a faith that could “move mountains” that kept her striving toward always higher goals, toward new frontiers from which to disseminate the Word of God and multiply the fruits of light and salvation for all. Her daughters, her writings, her voluminous activities, her frequent trips to the world’s continents, where tiny FSP communities were sending down the roots of the Pauline charism, all bear witness to this.

A faithful interpreter of the thought of Fr. Alberione and a woman filled with the wisdom of God, which she derived from an intense prayer life and open dialogue with everyone, Maestra Thecla led our young Congregation with a firm but maternal hand, deep insight, a broad vision of the future and, above all, an unshakeable faith in the plan of God, which little by little was being revealed. The trail she blazed offers new itineraries even today to those of us who want to follow in her footsteps, that is, to welcome the Word of God into our lives and accept its invitation to follow the Lord generously and with great apostolic thrust, focusing our attention on what is going on in the world and in the Church so as to grasp the changes that influence human thought, lifestyles and relationships, and thus how we communicate. In this way, we will come to understand the experiences of human beings and help them transform these experiences into pages of salvation.



This book was written by a lay woman who approached the figure of our Prima Maestra from the perspective of a woman and believer, seeking to respectfully and lovingly peer into her soul so as to grasp the seeds of humanity and holiness present there, as well as M. Thecla’s ability to guide others wisely and surely. We hope that the book will reveal our Mother to us in a new way, help us better grasp the precious heritage she left us, and urge us on to joyously and enthusiastically participate in her spiritual and apostolic dynamism so as to be “salt of the earth and light of the world” for everyone.

### ***Common Ethics: Points of Convergence and Points of Divergence***

This second number of “*Quaderni di comunicazione e cultura*,” reprints some of the more significant talks of the Congress organized by our Italian Province for the managers of our Pauline Cultural Centers, held in Rome from 30 June–2 July 2007. The 50-page periodical also contains summaries of the Congress’s reflections on the relationship between the FSPs and the cultural project of the Italian Church, as well as talks of the guest speakers that can give rise to a deeper study of the subject of ethics from different perspectives, such as that of the laity, the Protestant world and Jewish thought.

# News from the Church and World



## **Message for World Communications Day**

The Pope's message, published 24 Jan., has already circled the globe. Presenting it to the press, Bishop Claudio Celli emphasized that the media have become an integral part of every aspect of human experience. The extraordinary progress made in this field has offered humanity many new opportunities to do good, "while at the same time raising hitherto unimaginable questions and problems." The Pope cautions us to be wary of a communication that has lost the anchor of ethics and "eludes society's control," ignoring the inviolable dignity of the human being. It is therefore essential that the world of social communications, and Catholic-inspired communications in particular, staunchly defend the person and fully respect human dignity. The dimension of ethics is central to the debate concerning the pro's and con's of modern communication and must become a point of reference for the Catholic media.

"Our media must have 'something more,'" Bishop Celli said in his presentation, "because the human being is not our sole point of reference. Human beings are seeking the truth and that truth is a person, Jesus Christ. Thus Catholic-inspired media should be open to all people, to every person. Consequently, the media must pay close attention to what dwells in the human heart—every human heart, even those farthest from God—because all human beings, at their core, long for the divine."

## **Podcast on the Word of God.**

The Dominican Friars of France have launched a podcast on the Word of God. Each week all those interested can download a free soundtrack that will enable them to listen to the readings of the Sunday Liturgy. The 10-minute broadcast, which alternates readings and music, is of good quality and very clear. The project is the result of the Friars' successful Lenten program entitled "Spiritual Exercises in the City," which offers people the chance to participate in meditations and Vespers via the Internet because, the Dominicans say, the Word of God is meant to be proclaimed and heard.

## **Radio Program for Youth Evangelization in Cambodia**

To educate young people and encourage them to take the Gospel to others; to proclaim the love and God and Gospel values to thousands of other young people: these are the objectives of a new radio program launched by the Cambodian Church to celebrate World Youth Day 2008, to be held in Sydney, Australia. The program, called "I Need You," is aimed at teenagers and is being aired thanks to the collaboration of a Protestant radio station. The program is hosted by two young people who hold interviews with guest speakers such as psychologists and theologians, and who keep in direct contact with their listeners by inviting them to call in if they have any questions, comments or feedback.

## **Vatican-Sponsored Congress on Woman**

A Congress on the theme of "Woman and Man: Humanity in Its Entirety," was held in Rome from 7-9 February 2008 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Mulieris Dignitatem*. The purpose of the initiative was to promote woman by "helping people get to understand the feminine world, taking as a starting point an anthropology that emphasizes the value of the human being and the rapport between men and women." After sketching out the history of woman's presence in the Church, guest speakers discussed the connection between Christ's attitude toward women and the attitude manifested by the early Christian community in this regard. This was followed by a workshop on the subject, *Christianity and the Promotion of Woman*, in which participants sought to analyze concrete feminine contributions to the Church and world. A second workshop was entitled, *Contemporary Problems and Cultural Trends*. 260 people from 49 countries, 40 Bishops' Conferences, 28 Movements and 16 Catholic Women's Associations participated in the event, as well as feminine leaders from various educational and cultural spheres.

## **China's National TV Presents the Life of the Catholic Community**

On 21 January 2008, the international channel of China's national TV station dedicated 15 minutes to a presentation of the life of Catholics in the country. The news coverage, which focused on daily life in the Catholic communities of Beijing, Shanghai and Chong Qing, aired footage of a Eucharistic Celebration, a parish choir during both practice and performance, and the faithful receiving communion. The program also described life in the seminary and featured a brief interview with Bishop Li Jing, Auxiliary Bishop of the Ning Xia diocese, who was consecrated on 21 December 2007 with the approval of the Pope. The coverage concluded with a presentation of a Catholic publishing house in Shanghai.