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From the Superior General



Dearest Sisters,

On 13 April, we celebrated with the Church the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This year, the theme chosen by Pope Benedict XVI to commemorate the event casts special light on the connection between vocation and mission. To those he calls in every age, Jesus entrusts the proclamation of his Word, the communication of his salvation, just as he did to the Apostles: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Mt. 28:19). He also assures them of his perennial presence to help them carry out their mission effectively: "I am with you always, yes, to the end of time" (Mt. 28:20).

Every member of the Church is a missionary through the power of the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. But the Lord continues to entrust the duty of making him present among his people to persons ready to welcome the gift of a special call. These individuals, moved by love for the Lord and compassion for the "weary and helpless crowds," are striving to aid "the lowly, the sick, the suffering, the poor, and those who experience hardship in areas of the world where there are, at times, many who still have not had a real encounter with Jesus Christ."

Speaking about the call of the Apostles and first disciples, the Pope reminds us of the Apostle Paul, calling him the greatest missionary of all times. His story "brings out in many ways the link between vocation and mission. Accused by his opponents of not being authorized for the apostolate, he makes repeated appeals precisely to the call that he received directly from the Lord (cf. Rm. 1:1, Ga. 1:11-12, 15:17)." Today's world desperately needs missionaries with the heart of Paul: individuals profoundly aware of their identity as persons called and sent out by Christ through pure grace to communicate the Father's love to everyone.

At the end of his message, Benedict XVI reaffirms the urgent need to "keep alive in the faithful a committed sense of missionary responsibility and active solidarity with the peoples of the world." This requires, he says, a constant formation to prayer and discernment, the practice of welcoming others, charity, and also pastoral planning, "of which attention to vocations must be an integral part."

Spurred on by the Pope's message, I would like to suggest, dear sisters, that we return to reflection and animation on pastoral work for vocations, a very important commitment that our Congregation assumed from the outset of its journey and that it has put into practice ever since, but that must be lived with renewed creativity and great courage today due to the profound and radical changes taking place in contemporary society, which is marked by secularism and the search for instant gratification.

As was true during Alberione's time, "the great problem is vocations." But we are comforted by his words: "The Lord has sown vocations everywhere. We must be convinced that there are many vocations to the religious life.... It often depends on us: we don't recognize them or they don't correspond. So what should we do? Get discouraged? Tell ourselves: It is hopeless to work so hard for vocations"? No. Don't get discouraged. Do everything you can to carry out this apostolate always better. If vocations do not correspond immediately, pray harder and they will do so. Even if you don't find many, the ones you do find will be of better quality. The vocations that call for greater sacrifice on your part are the ones who will succeed better. Do what you can and the Lord will take care of things" (Alle Figlie di S. Paolo, 1946).

Maestra Thecla also offers us a challenge in this regard: “The harvest is abundant but laborers are few. Let us pray trustingly and constantly to the Lord of the harvest, asking him to provide these workers. Then, each one should do what she can through example, words and persuasion. Above all, let us not erect obstacles to this work. If our communities cultivate a spirit of peace, charity and zeal, then young women will be drawn to them. May we have a holy contest to see who can find good vocations. May the Queen of Apostles and St. Paul send us the candidates they know are best for us” (VPC, 171).

Urged on by the words of the Church and our Founders, and also by the concrete needs of each nation, the Congregation has time and again underscored the importance of pastoral work for vocations and the need to make it a true priority in our life. Our 2004 Interchapter Meeting said that it is often a priority only on paper and consequently that we must “make a firm decision to put it into concrete practice because it concerns the vital question of the Congregation’s future.”

The same Interchapter Assembly, which asked all the members of the Institute to “open our hearts and homes to young women,” transforming each of our communities and apostolic contexts into ambients for vocation work, also proposed that we hold a Vocation Year so as to rediscover, love and live our own vocation more profoundly and become capable of announcing the grace of the Pauline vocation through our life and words. This special Year was celebrated from 2005-2006.

Our continental meetings for our vocation mistresses sprang from the Congregation’s effort to put into practice the values of the Pauline vocation at all levels, starting with the formation of our vocation animators, to whom the Institute entrusts vocation work as a priority, while not forgetting the fact that each of us is a vocation animator. To conclude this initiative, all our circumscriptions were invited to draw up a Vocation Project and implement it as a priority.

Our 9th General Chapter urged us to work with new zeal for vocations—a commitment that was reconfirmed in the General Government’s Planning, which aims to “foster vocational awareness in our communities, in harmony with the journey of the Church.” The subsequent strategies are meant to ensure that our governments at various levels animate the sisters so that every community and apostolic sector will become a place of joyful witness to the Gospel and effective proposal of the Pauline vocation. Our Planning insists that every circumscription draw up and implement a Pastoral Plan for Vocation Work and encourages everyone to participate in various ways in vocation activities organized by the local Church and universal Church.

We all realize how urgent it is to work for vocations. Many of our circumscriptions have drawn up a Vocation Project and are implementing it. Other circumscriptions seem to be facing insurmountable problems in this regard and are finding it hard to approach young women and establish a relationship with them that could flower into the proposal of the Pauline vocation. The upcoming Synod on the Word of God and the Pauline Year offer us ideal opportunities to initiate a pastoral work for vocations centered on Christ Jesus and illuminated by the example and inspiration of the great vocations called by God down the ages.

Let us also draw inspiration from the words of John Paul II, who said: “I urge consecrated persons to joyfully witness to their radical consecration to Christ: allow yourselves to be continually questioned by the Word of God, shared in community and generously lived in service to your brothers and sisters, especially young people. A climate of love and fraternity, illuminated by the Word of God, makes it easier to say ‘yes’ to God’s call” (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 1996).

I count on the efforts of all of you. With heartfelt gratitude and affection,

Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato

The General Government



ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Appointment of Circumscription Governments

Province of Japan:

Asai Sr. M. Visitation	Provincial Superior
Imura Sr. M. Teresia	Councilor
Shimizu Sr. Mechtildis	Councilor
Nagasaka Sr. Paola M.	Councilor
Tomita Sr. M. Teresia	Councilor

Community of Macau:

Sr. Francesca Tekkinyath	Superior
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Community of Hong Kong:

Sr. Grace Lee	Superior
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Calendar of the General Government

May-June 2008

1 May -16 June	United States Toronto	<i>Sr. Antonieta Bruscato, Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan, Sr. Samuela Gironi, Sr. Anna Caiazza, Sr. Inocencia Tormon</i>	Fraternal Visit
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NEWS FROM THE CHARISM GROUP

Besides benefiting from the classes they are taking, the students participating in this year's charism course have had several opportunities to participate in significant events. Here is what they have to say about their experiences:

Our 8 days of Spiritual Exercises on *Donec Formetur*, guided by Fr. Guido Gandolfo, were the central event of our course—not because they took place halfway through the school year (Jan. 2008) but because they helped us “put to death our old nature” so as to allow Jesus Master to be formed in us. Fr. Guido helped us formulate a simple and practical project of life, accompanied by the strong recommendation to be faithful to it. He stressed the importance of practicing the *Lectio Divina* every day (meditation, prayer, contemplation, action), explaining that in this way Jesus himself will gradually replace our mind, will and heart, to the point that we can say with St. Paul: “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” Our classes on *Donec Formetur* prior to our retreat made the experience more fruitful for us and helped us better understand the thought of Primo Maestro.

Our class schedule also included a visit to each of the General Governments of the Pauline Family so as to get to know, rejoice in and share the various projects of each Institute. This sharing helped to unite us as a Family by concretizing the input we have been

receiving at school. Basically, our Family spirit is an element of our charism, through which we are shaping history moment by moment, while looking to the future. These visits also prompted us to think about how to collaborate with one another in the concrete situations of our own circumscriptions because absorbing our history from the charismatic perspective has helped us feel our responsibility to live its prophetic dimension in the Church and world of today.

A “*pilgrimage to the sites of our beginnings*” was an integral part of our course of formation to the charism of the Pauline Family.

Our visit to Alba and the surrounding area was a true “exodus” for us as we headed toward our own “holy land”—the birthplace of our Founder, of Sr. Thecla Merlo, Mother Scholastica Rivata, Fr. Timothy Giaccardo and almost all the first members of the Pauline Family. It was here that a special project, charism and “treasure” was revealed and entrusted to a “man of God,” Fr. James Alberione, who then shared this gift with his collaborators.

During our pilgrimage, our hearts overflowed with the same feelings that have filled the hearts of pilgrims down the ages. Our journey was more than a simple visit to the places associated with our beginnings. It was also a “return” to the values of our charism, which are the foundation of the Pauline vocation. We “set out” to experience the universal horizons of Paul, Alberione and Thecla, making this journey so as to “recharge” ourselves spiritually and thus be able to serve contemporary humanity with renewed thrust, in harmony with the Church and society.

In the coming days, our group will be guiding 2 days of spiritual animation in the parish of Cisterna to prepare the parishioners for the mission the FSPs of the Italian Province will be holding there this coming autumn to celebrate World Communications Day.

Our animations will revolve around this year's theme for Communications Day and the experience will be enriched by our chance to share the joy of the parishioners, who are getting ready to inaugurate their new parish church. We are especially moved by the fact that this parish is located in an area known as “the Three Taverns,” a zone where a group of Christians came out to meet Paul as he passed by in chains on his way to Rome (Act 28:5). It will be yet another chance to visit to a “Pauline” site as we carry out the mission of our Institute.



St. Lawrence Chapel



Charism group



Castagnito Chapel

The Circumscriptions



Brazil

Vocation Encounter

The FSPs of Belo Horizonte write to inform us that 7 young women—Karina, Joseane, Raquel, Cristiane, Marcia, Rita de Cassia and Alenir—ranging in age from 17-25, participated in the vocation encounter the community held at the end of March.

Our sisters joyfully say that the meeting brought the risen Christ into their midst in a fresh way and that they are more than ever convinced that the Lord will send our Institute vocations in response to our commitment to the spiritual life and the apostolate. They ask us to join them in imploring the Holy Spirit to give us new apostles who will witness to faith and love for the Pauline mission.

Course on Communications and Catechesis

In February, 46 men and women religious and lay persons attended a course on Communications and Catechesis organized by SEPAC. The participants—all catechetical workers—reflected together on the technological developments taking place in the world of communications and their impact on educating people to the Faith. One participant said the course had offered her new insights thanks to its creative methodology and language and that she will make the effort to imitate this in her own parish catechetical meetings.



Congress for FSP Book Center Managers

The event took place from 19-24 Feb. in the FSP Retreat Center in Sao Paulo. 40 FSPs and their lay co-workers joined the Provincial Government in trying to find ways to improve our Pauline presence in the Church, the way in which we run our book centers, and the quality of our productions so as to respond more effectively to the country's pastoral and cultural needs.

The meeting was coordinated by Sr. Vera Maria Bombonato, fsp, who presented a summary of the Aparecida Document and its impact on the Pauline mission. Fr. Alonso Murad then spoke about book center management and spirituality today. His conference was based on a book he wrote, which bears the same title.

D.R. of the Congo

Golden Jubilee of Foundation

The current issue of the Bulletin, *Tam-Tam-Net*, is dedicated to the circumscription's Golden Jubilee of foundation (1958-2008), which our sisters of Kinshasa, Kisangani and Lubumbashi are celebrating by means of an entire year of initiatives being carried out on the Delegation and community levels.

The Year opened with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the Auxiliary Bishop of Kinshasa, Edoardo Kisonga, who joined our sisters in thanking the Lord for the Pauline presence and mission in the Congo. He said that our



presence is a special gift to the local Church and that the apostolate our sisters carry out, in spite of the immense difficulties they have to overcome, is worthy of more praise than he could possibly offer. Today countless people in the country are still in dire need so it is necessary that the Daughters of St. Paul, following in the footsteps of their Founders, continue their mission of spreading faith, hope and love through the instruments of social communication. The Bishop then underscored the importance of the Pauline mission, especially with regard to young people, and invited the sisters to firmly believe that the Lord is always at their side.

Asked what this anniversary meant to them, Sr. Enzina, Sr. Veronica, Sr. Rosaria and Sr. Pauline emphasized the aspects of gratitude, the importance of forgiving one another, the revitalizing power of fidelity and the need to constantly strive to improve the quality of their life and mission.

France

A Month Dedicated to Religious Books

For some time now, some of France's book sellers have designated March as a month in which to promote religious and spiritual books. To guide friends and clients through the labyrinth of titles available, our book centers post on their web site monthly reviews of some of the more interesting titles. Prof. Isabelle Vissière, the Pauline collaborator who writes these articles, selects the books to be reviewed according to 2 criteria: the intellectual or spiritual value of the book's content and the "readability" of the text.

Since she has been working as a book center volunteer, Prof. Vissière has come to realize the abundance of Christian thought made available through publishing houses such as Bayard, le Cerf, Desclée de Brouwer, Edizioni Sant-Agostino, Mediaspaul and Nouvelle Cité and has discovered high-profile authors such as Anselm Grun, Enzo Bianchi and Maurice Zundel. In the course of her work, she calls attention to original and innovative texts, whether indigenous or foreign, and presents a great variety of authors—Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Jewish and Muslim—who foster ecumenical reflection and inter-religious dialogue.

India

Pauline Vocation Promoters' Meeting

For the past two years, the members of the Pauline Family in India have been making an effort to work together for vocations. A recent initiative in this field was a meeting for vocation promoters. One of the participants, Sr. Michelle, writes: "It was a joy and a privilege to be a part of the Pauline Vocation Promoters Meeting. The input sessions were enriching and the coming together rekindled a spirit of love and unity, reinforcing our commitment to work together for vocations as one Family."

During the input sessions, guest speaker Fr. Ratnaswamy discussed several important themes. In his conference on *Prayer*, he said we should imitate Jesus, who spent time in prayer before calling his disciples. He pointed out that unless the Lord calls the person all our work will be in vain and reminded us that personal life witness plays a very important role in our vocation work. On the subject of *Understanding Motivations*, he highlighted different character traits and emphasized that people who want to embrace the consecrated life should be emotionally balanced and be able to interact well with others. Fr. Ratnaswamy's talk on *Interviews* dealt with questionnaires and data about the candidate and his/her family, which needs to be collected so as to help us get to know the person better. And his final conference, on the *Characteristics of Mature/Immature Persons*, explained the character traits and personalities of individuals who come from healthy homes as opposed to those who come from broken families or difficult backgrounds. He concluded with 6 practical ways of inviting candidates to join the Pauline religious life: be a friend to the person; organize programs for them; be a joyful religious; treat the candidates already in formation with love and respect; give youth something "the world can't give them" and integrate all levels of being a religious.

Italy

Presentation of the Book "My Name Is Thecla" in Alba

Our sisters of Alba participated with great joy in the two presentations of the book *"My Name Is Thecla"* by its author, Maria Luisa Di Blasi. The encounters, organized by the Italian Province, were held on 8 March in the Motherhouse and 9 March in Castagnito. Both days were lived in a spirit of praise and lively interest in the woman we call "Prima Maestra." The two encounters were different but complementary. In Alba, participants included not only FSPs but also representatives of the various Institutes of the PF, the pastor of Divine Master Parish and some of its parishioners, employees of our sisters, as well as friends and collaborators, all of whom helped to make the gathering a true "family occasion." At Castagnito instead, the event was solemnized by the presence of various civil and religious authorities: the mayor and a town councilor, the pastor and a representative of the diocese, teachers, members of Prima Maestra's family and local residents, all of whom manifested great pride in the recognition of "their" Thecla. Based on the experience of those who have already read the book, we are sure that it will be welcomed and read with great benefit by many people.

"Pauline Communications and Culture Award" 2008

One of the events organized this year by the PF in Italy to celebrate World Communications Day was the presentation of the 2008 "Pauline Communications and Culture Award" on 22 April in memory of Ilaria Alpi, an Italian journalist who was killed in Somalia in 1994. The event was held at the Lateranese University, which coordinated the event in collaboration with the Communications Office of the Italian Bishops' Conference and our own Pauline Center for Communications and Culture.

The event opened with a welcome by Dario Edoardo Vigano, President of Redemptor Hominis Institute. The theme for Communications Day was then addressed from various perspectives by guest speakers Domenico Pompili, Director of the National Communications Office, journalist Francesco Giorgino, Maria Antonia Chinello from the Auxilium University and Norberto G. Gaitano from Holy Cross University. All the talks were founded on the premise that those who present information must strive to offer the truth and all the speakers invited the media to promote this service as a priority. Acting as moderator of the event was Sr. Cristina Beffa, fsp, Director of the Pauline Audiovisual Department.

The encounter, one of the many initiatives organized by the FSPs and SSPs on the national level for Communications Week, helped to prepare the participants to live World Communications Day more profoundly.

Nigeria

First Pauline Cooperators in Lagos

The first members of the Pauline Cooperators Association of Nigeria made their promise on 10 Feb. 2008 in St. Leo's Church (Ikeja), Lagos. After the Mass, the 6 new Cooperators gathered with their families and friends at the FSP residence for refreshments. Other friends and benefactors were also present for the celebration. The FSP postulants entertained the group with a song and two drama sketches. The occasion was preceded by a Novena to St. Paul, open to all, and a retreat for the members who were making their promises. Prior to making their promises, the new Cooperators underwent a 2-year formation period during which they studied more deeply the vocation of



the laity in the Church and world, the identity and spirituality of the Pauline Cooperator and the apostolate. Writing about the experience, one of the new Cooperators, Ifeoma Iwu, says: "For me, it was a wonderful journey: a journey that deepened my faith as a Catholic; a journey that prepared me to serve God within the Pauline Family; a journey that gave me the opportunity to be part of the vision of Bl. James Alberione; a journey that led me to discover St. Paul. It was a period of spiritual growth and maturity.... I pray that we may sincerely reflect his light and become true light for the world."

Pakistan ***Courageously Rebuilding***

We already told everyone about the terrorist attack that seriously damaged our FSP book center in Lahore. Many religious communities in the area hastened to help our sisters salvage what they could from the ruins, and friends and cooperators rallied around to assist them in the work of rebuilding. Our Bursar General immediately sent an initial financial contribution to begin reconstruction, which is now underway. Our sisters of Pakistan are very grateful for the solidarity that has been manifested in so many different ways and that reaffirmed the conviction that we are a true family, whose members share not only the joys but also the problems that at times strike our individual communities, especially those in areas troubled by unceasing social, religious and political conflicts. Let us continue to pray that the leaders of the world's nations will strive to promote and implement projects that will foster fraternity and peace.



Spain ***New Book Center in Granada***

"If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no grounds for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me. Woe to me if I did not proclaim the Gospel!" (1 Co. 9:16) These words of St. Paul challenge every Daughter of St. Paul, prompting us to undertake new apostolic initiatives. One of the most recent of these, the opening of a new book center in Granada, was made possible through the generous collaboration of young pastoral workers from a nearby university campus. The new center is being managed by these members of the laity, under the supervision of an FSP, who trained and organized them according to Pauline criteria. Granada is a crossroads of different peoples and cultures. Due to its world-renowned university, it is also a city overflowing with young people. Our book center, located in the heart of the city, hopes to be a place of evangelization and cultural-ecumenical activities—a place where everyone can find not only books and supplementary aids but also a warm welcome and helpful orientations for life. This objective is shared by our lay co-workers, who are enthusiastic about participating in the Pauline mission of joyfully spreading the Gospel.



United States ***Spanish Broadcasting Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary***

With deep gratitude to God, our sisters of the United States recently celebrated 15 years of evangelization to the Spanish-speaking world through radio programs prepared by Sr.

M. Ruth Reyes, who has been in charge of the initiative since its beginning on 14 Dec. 1992. Sr. Ruth still recalls the joy she felt when she heard the first installment of the 5-minute Spanish program “*Saints of yesterday who continue to offer inspiration today*” aired on a U.S. radio station. The programs were first recorded on cassettes, then on CDs, and today are transmitted by Pax Net via satellite to over 100 radio stations located not only in the U.S. but also in Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Spain and Sweden.

Sr. Ruth says the broadcasts help people get to know our Institute and its book centers, and that they also foster the vocation apostolate.

Our Founder, Fr. Alberione, always urged us to keep in step with the advances taking place in the world of communications and with this in mind our sisters, with the help of Dr. Rafael Ortega and other generous collaborators, are beginning to use new digital technologies such as the MP3 format and FTP system, which can help them reach every part of the world even more quickly. The radio stations that broadcast our sisters’ programs are all very grateful for the service provided by the Daughters of St. Paul and for the quality of the material, through which the Gospel is proclaimed ever-more swiftly and effectively.



CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

Daughters of St. Paul

- Sr. Emilia Menale, age 74 - 19.02.2008, Rome AP, Italy
- Sr. M. Fidelis Lina Puebla Lobo, age 72 - 28.02.2008, Madrid, Spain
- Sr. Raffaella Cappai, age 86 - 17.03.2008, Albano TM, Italy
- Sr. Mary Caroline Tessa, age 84 - 19.03.2008, Boston, USA
- Sr. Maria da Conceição Carneiro Azevedo, age 64 - 22.03.2008, Lisbon, Portugal

Parents of Our Sisters

- Sr. Lea Montebugnoli (Mother, Caterina), of the community of Brescia, Italy
- Sr. M. Pauline Chakkalal (Father, Geverghese), of the community of Mumbai, India
- Sr. M. Sara Kloster (Father, Pablo), of the community of Anatuya, Argentina
- Sr. Patricia Edward Jablonski (Father, Edward), of the community of Boston, USA
- Sr. Rita Vecchiato (Mother, Maria) – at home, Italy
- Sr. Dulce M. Tramontina (Father, Germano), of the community of Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Sr. Amabile M. Possamai (Mother, Páscoa), of the community of São Paulo CC, Brazil
- Sr. Patrizia Bellavia (Father, Francesco), of the community of Rome BA, Italy
- Sr. Erlinda Escoto (Mother, Fe), of the community of Naga, Philippines
- Sr. Wendy Ooi (Father, Philip), of the community of Nairobi, Kenya
- Sr. Bernarda Myeong Ju Her (Father, Bernardo), of the community of Seoul-Miari, Korea
- Sr. M. Renata Munari (Father, Lino Camillo) – at home, Brazil
- Sr. Maria Josefa San Luis (Father, Rogelio) of the community of Pasay RA, Philippines
- Sr. Eliane Del Prà (Mother, Maria Jandira) of the community of Sao Paolo IA, Brazil
- Sr. Apollonia Kiro (Mother, Salomi) of the community of Mumbai, India

Pauline Family

- Sr. Gabriella Dina Dal Vecchio, sgbp, age 84 - 14.02.2008 - Castel D’Azzano, Italy
- Sr. Agnese Maria Romeo, sgbp, age 82 - 09.03.2008 - Rome, Italy
- Br. Federico Carmelo Faccioli, ssp, age 65 - 19.03.2008 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Fr. Antonio Luis Diaz Martinez, ssp, age 67 - 20.03.2008 - Madrid, Spain
- Sr. M. Tarcisia Rosaria Spadaro, pddm, age 95 - 28.03.2008 - Palermo, Italy
- Sr. M. Margherita Giuseppina Croci, pddm, age 83 - 31.03.2008 - Albano, Italy
- Sr. M. Vitalina Lucia Martina, pddm, age 80 - 05.04.2008 - Cinisello Balsamo, Italy

Communications



Social Networks: Technologies Geared to Sharing

It is nothing new to say that the Internet is evolving always more rapidly into a sphere for building relationships. People are online in every part of the world and opportunities are increasing for reaching less affluent populations by means of instruments increasingly within the price range of many. But the biggest change taking place is not on the technological level but on the level of how these instruments are perceived and used.

Through the Internet, many people interact with one another to the point of creating new networks: social networks that enable people to get to know one another in a new way and that can be considered the fruit of an emerging collective intelligence. In the last few years, a growing number of Internet navigators have become familiar with today's new digital languages and content, learning to make use of instant messaging, research engines, data-storage systems, forums, blogs, wikis, podcasts, website for exchanging pictures, videos, etc. They have learned to produce and share information, opinions, insights, experiences and hopes, as well as parts of their lives. They have experienced new ways of interacting with others through social networks based on shared interests and objectives. We are speaking here of ordinary people, not media technicians or experts, who use these new technologies to disseminate material pertaining to their personal interests or experiences. And they do this not only via computers but also via increasingly sophisticated cell phones, digital cameras and video-cameras, iPods and every other invention that can act as a vehicle for sharing information.

Antonio Spadaro recently wrote in *Civiltà Cattolica* (q. 3776): "The Internet is no longer an assortment of isolated, independent web sites that can be accessed on line. Rather, it should be considered a composite of the technological capabilities attained by human beings in the sphere of disseminating and sharing information and knowledge." The Internet allows people to experience new forms of connecting and interacting with others, as well as new forms of personal and collective self-expression, in spite of the risk of alienation. The latter poses a threat to those who navigate the Web recklessly or thoughtlessly, uninterested in making a constructive contribution to it, as could happen, for instance, in the case of someone who sets up a blog as simple escapism, offering people a place to "just talk to one another," but that ends up occupying time and space that could be used in a more beneficial way.

We are firmly convinced that changes in the world of the media are not generated by the media themselves but by *media users* and the contexts in which they live and act; by their ability to sift, choose, share, handle, evaluate and take advantage of what is offered them with intelligence and common sense

The widespread yearning of contemporary human beings to interact with one another prompts us to reflect and question ourselves as consecrated religious and apostles of communication. Education, faith and the religious dimension of the person, together with all their implications, should not be absent from these spaces of sharing.

In its *Planning* for the present 6-year period, our General Government urges us, under the heading of "Mission," to identify and make good use of online apostolic initiatives so as to open new horizons to the Pauline apostolate. It is important to set up web sites and perhaps create blogs, fostering the birth of communities that are to some degree "virtual." But it is also necessary that these spaces have a specific purpose, that they be centered on the Person and message we want to communicate, that they offer the confused people of today clarity and direct them toward truly formative content, inviting them to rediscover the face of Christ and his presence among us so as to strengthen acts of peace and solidarity and inspire everyone with a profound desire for salvation and the great joy of sharing it.

Sr. M. Agnes Quaglini

Studies and New Editions



Maestra Vincenti by Roberto Lucio Fugazzotto

This book, based on personal memories and documented testimonies, recounts the life of Maria Vincenti (born in Santa Restituta [Italy], 28 April 1913 – died in Langley [England], 15 October 1967), a shy and reserved woman from a small Umbrian village, who in her 50 years as a Daughter of St. Paul made a significant impact on the Institute's formative and apostolic dimensions. It is the story of a Pauline known to everyone as Maestra Vincenti—a woman of broad horizons, even though her writings are couched in the language of her times, who impressed everyone she knew with her open-mindedness and courage.

“A refined, cultured and courageous woman,” as many FSPs defined her, Maestra Vincenti was both gracious and simple, warm and at the same time discreet. A writer and editor gifted with a keen intelligence, broad education and artistic sensitivity, she also possessed a wonderful sense of humor and left the FSPs a valuable heritage in the form of teachings and examples of life valid for Paulines of every time and place.

This book could help its readers get to better know and reflect on the birth and history of the Daughters of St. Paul, as well as the huge problems Bl. James Alberione and Ven. Thecla Merlo faced during Institute's foundation period.

For us and for the whole Pauline Family, Maestra Vincenti occupies one of the first pages of the story of our first community in Rome, which was founded on 15 Jan. 1926 and which she entered as a 13-year-old on 28 October of that same year. Together with other young women preparing to carry out the Pauline mission, she contributed to and participated in the great enthusiasm characteristic of the Institute's foundation period, but she also shared the many sufferings and sacrifices that were so notable during those years that they prompted the Founder to say: “Every new initiative can only take Bethlehem as its starting point.”

The author, who has also written and illustrated other books, is the great-grandnephew of Maestra Vincenti. Although she died when he was still a boy, he remembers being fascinated by “Aunty May” to the point that he never forgot her. Now, forty years later, he has lovingly sketched out her life on the basis of those memories and her own writings.

In the book's *Presentation*, Sr Antonietta Bruscatto says: “Let us give this biography a warm welcome. It will hopefully prompt many people to imitate Maestra Vincenti and to love what she loved: God, education, the writing apostolate, the formation of young people, unconditional dedication to God and others through the Pauline mission, and the intellectual joy of seeking, understanding and helping others understand the great goodness of the Lord.”



We hope that other biographies will be written about FSPs who have preceded us to heaven—sisters who have left us with vivid memories of a life dedicated to God with simplicity but also extraordinary commitment on the spiritual and apostolic levels; missionaries urged on by the passion to make themselves “all to all” by communicating the Gospel through their words and deeds as they carried out the various forms of our mission.



News from the Church and World



H₂O News: A New Multimedia Information Service

H₂O News takes as its starting point the idea that communication should create communion. Today the most widespread way of disseminating information is via the Internet, whether the broadcaster is a TV station or an individual. H₂O News is a Catholic information service that compiles and disseminates news about the Church and socio-cultural events of interest to Catholics. This daily news service—available in audio, visual and text formats—is offered free of charge to Catholic TV stations, web sites and radios so as to make the words of the Pope and information about the Church accessible to everyone, including the poorest segments of society. Its purpose is to give a voice to all the situations throughout the world that touch the lives of Catholics.

The project was born during the First World Congress of Catholic TV Stations, organized by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and held in Madrid in October 2006. The goal of H₂O News is to respond to the need to help Catholics throughout the world develop their communication skills, using today's new multimedia technologies. Its web site can be accessed in 8 different languages.

One Laptop per Child

This initiative is a step forward in bringing literacy to the southern half of the world. Created by Nicholas Negroponte, the founder of “Media Lab,” the project could profoundly change the lives and futures of millions of children throughout the world. Its goal is to produce low-cost computers (about €130 each) to distribute in Asia, Africa and Latin America so that children in lesser-developed countries will have the chance to explore, experiment and express themselves. The durable, child-friendly laptops are distributed according to the terms established with the countries that participate in the project.

A Computer for Every Family

This project, currently being implemented in Valle D'Aosta, Italy, is striving to provide families of the region with at least one child between the ages of 10-16 with the financial aid necessary to enable them to purchase a computer so that the entire family can learn to use this technology. The initiative includes courses in computer literacy and aims to involve the entire population in a communications network that will lead to the citizens' cultural growth.

From the Internet to the Library

Those who have predicted the demise of printed books have so far been proved wrong because electronic books are still not widely used. The latest research says that people in the 18-30 age group (the most assiduous users of today's new technologies) are the people most frequently seen in libraries.

Grandparents on the Internet

The World Digital Foundation is offering 60 free lessons in computer literacy to 1,200 senior citizens to help them take an active part in today's information society. The classes are held in local schools, where youngsters, under the guidance of a teacher, act as “teachers” themselves to the senior citizens, in this way also building bridges across the generation gap.

The Bible in the Classroom

120 intermediate and secondary schools in Lombardy, Italy are using the new “Educational Bible”: 14 DVDs that present the great figures of the Bible from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim perspectives. The series is produced by Lux Vide and subsidized by the Cor and Cariplo Foundations.

Data Banks for Theological Periodicals

The purpose of “Online Magazines,” set up by the Theological Institute of Assisi, Italy, is to gather together all the articles of theology periodicals in a data bank accessible to all, free of charge. The goal of the project is to provide theological and scientific researchers with a very useful tool, namely, a data base that will provide them with information concerning the title, author, number of pages, etc., of each article, which also indirectly gives the periodical concerned international exposure. As of now, the data bank contains about a hundred periodicals, with more than 20,000 articles.

Cell Phones Fight the Digital Divide

The UN says that cell phones are helping to break down the digital divide between rich and poor countries by encouraging the development of the latter. It says cell phones can improve the economy and quality of life in the southern half of the world by fostering communication and access to the Internet.