

# FSP INFORMAZIONE

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ENGLISH

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## From the Superior General



**D**earest Sisters,

*The Pauline Year that Pope Benedict XVI solemnly opened on 28 June in the Basilica of St. Paul is being enthusiastically observed by the Church, by the Pauline Family and especially by our Congregation. In fact, in every part of the globe we are multiplying our efforts to help people get to know this great Apostle and missionary who ardently and zealously took the Gospel to the ends of the then-known world.*

*It is wonderful to see not only how eagerly the Catholic world is participating in this event but also the notable impact it is making on other Christian denominations. This means that Paul still lives today through the power of his word, the holiness of his life and the courage with which he carried out his mission—all of which can help to “shake up” the present generation of humanity, which is characterized by indifference, relativism and materialism, so as to help everyone rediscover the timeless and transcendent values of the Faith.*

*For the Pauline Family, and in particular for the Daughters of St. Paul, it is not a matter of “discovering” St. Paul because the Apostle is perennially alive in the minds, hearts and apostolic activities of every son and daughter of Blessed James Alberione. We have always considered Paul to be our father, founder, the one who gives inspiration to our mission and our model for living Christ and for carrying out our specific mission in the areopagus of communication. From the time we entered the Congregation, we were taught that “our name expresses a fundamental relationship with St. Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles. He is not simply the protector of the Congregation: he is its father, the one on whom we model our living in Christ, the one who inspires our mission” (Const. 3).*

*The life and teachings of St. Paul shape our personality on the spiritual and apostolic levels. In fact, our Constitutions sketch out for us an itinerary of life marked by the sentiments of Paul, namely: to live in Christ in a spirit of thanksgiving; to continually strain toward our goal; to nourish a profound sense of belonging to the Church; to view the world from a Christian perspective; to cultivate a universal outlook that opens us to all nations and peoples, and to constantly seek communion with all the vital elements of the Body of Christ (Const. 9). Our Constitutions also invite us to imitate the Apostle’s powerful missionary spirit, sharing his conviction that it is our duty to bring the Gospel to all peoples (Const. 18, 35). Paul teaches us to pray without ceasing for our co-workers and for those to whom we direct our apostolate so that they will find guidance and salvation in Christ the Master. From him, we learn to accept the fatigue, sufferings and failures of the apostolate, carrying within us the cross of Christ so that everyone might have life. We also learn to live in both abundance and poverty, counting exclusively on the One who gives us strength and who fills our hearts with hope and with the certainty that he is taking care of us (Const. 33, 41). With St. Paul, we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, moving forward in an attitude of obedience that unites us to Christ in his paschal mystery (Const. 57).*

*Paul is also a sure point of reference for our fraternal relations, which, through the power of the Spirit at work in us, should be characterized by kindness, mutual love and the appreciation of each sister and her different gifts so as to build up one body (Const. 60). His teachings also cast light on our formation itinerary (Const. 82), the exercise of authority and the administration of goods, even though these last two themes are not explicitly mentioned in our Constitutions.*

*During the Pauline Year, we should take a quality step forward in our love for the Apostle Paul, as well as in our trust and knowledge of him. The many congregational and ecclesial initiatives underway to make him known and loved are praiseworthy. Publications of every type (books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, book marks, posters, etc.), the content of our websites, radio programs, TV interviews, celebrations of the Eucharist and of the Word, concerts, conferences...are all a valuable contribution to helping the People of God get to better know, love and trust this great Apostle, who will make his presence felt with an outpouring of grace so as to enable everyone to live their human and Christian lives according to the plan of God.*

*As Daughters of this illustrious Apostle, we cannot focus our energy solely on external initiatives designed to help everyone live the Pauline Year dynamically. We are also invited to immerse ourselves in the life and teachings of our Father so as to improve the quality and depth of our consecration, our community life and our apostolic activities. With this in mind, the General Government has prepared an Animation Project entitled, "Paul: Splendor of Light," to help us acquire the mind, heart and soul of St. Paul, cultivate an intense interior life, rekindle our apostolic ardor and adopt a "Pauline way of thinking" that should characterize our interpersonal relations and our identity as communicators of the Word.*

*In his homily opening the Pauline Year, the Pope said: "For us, Paul is not a figure of the past whom we remember with veneration. He is also our teacher, an Apostle and herald of Jesus Christ for us too.... Paul wants to speak to us—today. That is why I chose to establish this special 'Pauline Year': in order to listen to him and learn today from him, our teacher, 'the faith and the truth' in which the reasons for unity among Christ's disciples are rooted."*

*The congregational itinerary proposed to all our professed sisters, young women in formation, communities and circumscriptions requires each one of us to study, reflect on and share ideas on the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul. Each community is invited to draw up a program of celebrations and initiatives that will ensure that its members make a dynamic communal journey during this special year—one that will also involve our co-workers, cooperators and friends. Each sister should also draw up a personal program of life for this Year that will help her derive maximum profit from this time of grace. Such a program should focus on reading, studying and praying the Letters of St. Paul and even learning them by heart so as to come to better understand the content of our charismatic identity. I also suggest that everyone read a good biography of the Apostle. In this time, our own publishing houses and other Catholic publishers are striving to make available to the public the best texts written about St. Paul.*

*It is also important that we get to know what our Founder wrote and said throughout his life about the Apostle Paul, whom he considered to be the true Founder of the Pauline Family and thus a figure of utmost importance to us. With this in mind, it would be very helpful to read and meditate on the book, "L'Apostolo Paolo, Ispiratore e modello" ("The Apostle Paul: Our Inspiration and Model"), published by the SSP Center for Pauline Spirituality.*

*I sincerely hope that all we are doing and all that we plan to do this year to make Paul a dynamic presence in our lives, in our communities and in the Church will inflame our hearts, enlighten our minds and suffuse all our relationships with love. May they above all make us passionate apostles of Christ and his Gospel—persons completely centered on our Lord and Master and capable of giving our lives for him.*

*Affectionately,*

*Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato*

# The General Government



## ***Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato To Participate in the Synod***

The next Synod of Bishops, which will be held in Rome from 5-26 October 2008, is especially important for us because we are called to sow the Word of God in every nation and help it bear fruits of love, justice and peace in the hearts of human beings. So it is with great joy that we heard that our Superior General has been invited to participate in this important ecclesial event. In her letter informing the Congregation of this honor, Sr. Antonietta wrote:

“In the thought and teaching of Blessed J. Alberione, and consequently in our pastoral work in the world of social communications, Sacred Scripture is the framework and foundation of our every reflection and decision, and the purpose behind all our apostolic activities. Primo Maestro wrote: ‘Why, then, did the Lord call you? He called you to take the Word of God to the world as St. Paul did, according to your condition’ (cf. PrPM, 1955).

“Aware of our identity as apostles and communicators of the Gospel, let us welcome the invitation extended to me to participate in the upcoming Synod with grateful hearts, viewing it as a renewed recognition of the urgency and timeliness of the Pauline charism in the Church and world.

“Due to the fact that I will be participating in the Synod, it will not be possible for us to hold the ‘enlarged Council meeting’ with all our circumscription superiors and the superiors of our communities dependent on the General Government, originally scheduled to take place in Rome from 15-25 October 2008 on the theme of redesigning our presence throughout the world. This meeting will now be held from 15-25 January 2009. I will give you more information about it later.

“During this Year dedicated to St. Paul, let us entrust to the Apostle of the Gentiles our mission and all our apostolic and formation initiatives, feeling, like he did, that we are debtors of the Gospel to all people on a daily basis.”

## **FRATERNAL VISITS**

### ***Province of the United States - EsC***

From 1 May–17 June 2008, Superior General Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato, General Councilors Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan, Sr. Anna Caiazza, Sr. Samuela Gironi, Sr. Inocencia Tormon and Bursar General Sr. Gabriella Santon made the Fraternal Visit to the Province of the United States-Esc (English-speaking Canada). During the Visit, the sisters were also consulted for the appointment of the new provincial government.

Our sisters of the United States live and work in a vast and complex socio-cultural and religious situation. With more than 300 million inhabitants, the United States is the third most populous country on earth, after China and India. And this population is continually growing due to steady immigration, especially from Latin America and Southeast Asia. Spanish-speakers are increasing and constitute about 40% of the country’s Catholics. Right now, the United States is in the midst of an economic crisis and the Church is still suffering from the backlash of recent sex-abuse scandals. Pope Benedict XVI’s recent visit to the USA infused new courage and motivation into the Catholic community, restoring its image somewhat in the eyes of society.

Our FSP Province is made up of 136 sisters, divided into 14 communities. Our sisters are aware that the difficult moment they are living is also a very “favorable time” in their circumscription’s history. The Province abounds with great potential for doing good, fueled



by the hopes and spiritual-apostolic enthusiasm of its members, who are relatively young (73 sisters are under the age of 60 and 17 of these are under the age of 40).

On their visits to the communities and different apostolic and formation sectors, the Visitors saw that all the sisters are striving to live the values on which our Pauline consecration is founded. Of great help in this regard are their annual retreats and formation meetings on communication and interpersonal dialogue, all of which center on Pauline themes. The Province is making progress in the areas of vocation work and initial/ongoing formation and the Lord continues to bless the circumscription with the gift of young women who feel called to the Pauline life. Currently, 15 young women are carrying out a vocation discernment. Our sisters realize that they must make a greater effort to reach young women of other languages and cultures, in particular those from Latin America.

Their apostolic service, which they live with passion in this vast country, is not limited to diffusion from their 15 book centers (2 of which are run by the laity), but also includes evangelization initiatives such as book displays, participation in book fairs and many activities in the spheres of promotion, animation and formation.

The Province recently launched a process to reorganize and centralize its apostolic/administrative sectors. Alongside the undeniable positive aspects of this, a number of problems have surfaced that must be decisively dealt with in the near future so as to avoid compromising our mission.

#### *Priorities Entrusted to the Province*

At the end of the Fraternal Visit, the Visitors entrusted the new provincial government with several priorities to help them reinvigorate the circumscription's journey in the light of our Chapter directives:

1. To be a government of communion and animation so as to revitalize the Province and improve its quality of life: to govern in a more "circular" way by listening to the sisters, dialoguing with them, involving them, communicating with them and keeping them informed, thus re-establishing trust and hope; to be a government that accompanies, motivates and integrates the sisters' energies and gifts and gives thrust to the Pauline mission.
2. To strengthen and improve vocation work by reaching out to young women of other languages and cultures; to intensify this apostolate in California and the Pacific islands.
3. To evaluate the current apostolic/administrative departments, correcting centralization weak points so as to favor the growth of the apostolate and greater dialogue between Boston's central offices and the circumscription's local communities.
4. To increase our publications so as to foster greater diffusion in our book centers and at national and local exhibits. To concentrate on the needs of our receivers and examine the possibility of publishing texts in Spanish. To reinforce the audiovisual sector, exploring new lines of music production and taking advantage of the gifts of our sisters.
5. To put the Province's economy back on firm footing by increasing diffusion, decreasing expenses and better utilizing our immobile goods.

Our U.S. Province has many resources to draw on in carrying out the Pauline mission. It is going through a time of surrender to the Lord, of solidarity and communion, and of renewed faith in the Pact. In spite of inevitable problems, our sisters are sure that the Divine Master is with them, supporting them with his love, and that he will give them all they need to disseminate his light to an immense population thirsting for him and his Gospel.

#### **Community of Prague, Czech Republic**

From 11-16 July, Sr. Francisca Matsuoka and Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan visited our community of Prague, which was opened in 1993 as a part of the Congregation's Missionary Project. Prague is truly a "golden city"—a city of "a hundred towers" to which countless tourists flock. The FSPs are by now well rooted in the Local Church and are attempting to also forge bonds with the Church of Slovakia. The Czech Republic's transition from commu-



nism to capitalism was so swift that the younger generation is not familiar with the country's recent history. Commerce and services are rapidly multiplying; jobs are readily available and the country's unemployment rate is low.

Freedom of worship favors closer contact with Christianity and conversions are becoming more and more frequent. Our sisters feel the urgent need to evangelize the local population, which is subconsciously thirsting for God, and to strengthen the faith of those who have embraced the Faith in these last years.

Our FSP community is made up of 4 perpetual professed sisters and 1 junior. The sisters come from 5 different countries and 4 different linguistic backgrounds. A young Czech woman, Andrea, is currently making her novitiate in Rome. The sisters are striving to implement their community project on the spiritual, community and apostolic levels, and they are deeply involved in carrying out the Pauline mission through production (they produce about 25-30 titles a year, including reprints), diffusion activities and the Internet.

They recently presented the book, *Theology of the Body* (already reprinted 3 times) to the Prague Parliament and have held a number of significant book launchings in both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. They print an annual Liturgical Agenda that is very popular and enjoys good diffusion. Our sisters personally take care of editorial work, text impagination and graphics, and ask the help of translators and proof-readers for accuracy in the Czech language.

They also produce a noteworthy amount of mini-media and distribute DVDs such as *The Great Silence* (more than 2000 copies disseminated) that proclaim the Christian message. Diffusion takes place primarily through book displays due to the fact that our book center is not in a commercial zone, but in a few months our sisters will be moving it to a better location. The new site, just off Wenceslaus Square, is in the heart of the business district and the book center will have large display windows to attract pedestrians.

New publications are automatically added to the community's virtual book center, which currently stocks about 4000 titles from 113 publishing houses. Online diffusion is good. Our sisters publish a weekly online leaflet entitled, "*Have a Good Sunday*"—a privileged way of offering the Word of God gratis to everyone. Lately, they have also been trying to share the Pauline charism with their lay collaborators, several of whom have begun the formation journey necessary to become Pauline Cooperators.

Our sisters carry out the vocation apostolate by holding a monthly Hour of Adoration for young women, by participating in youth encounters, and by collaborating with the national vocation office. They have also set up a blog to circulate testimonies, reflections and vocational proposals.

The *priorities* indicated by the Visitors focus primarily on community life: to improve the quality of the members' interpersonal communications, to "bear one another's burdens," to feel united not only in the apostolate but also in the events of daily life, seeking to appreciate and make the most of each person's gifts. It was also recommended that the sisters better organize their times of prayer so that the Lord will be able to revitalize their faith, motivate and support their lives, fecundate their mission and make their community always more vocational and formative.

We hope that, like the world-famous crystals produced by the Czech Republic, our FSP presence here will irradiate the light and beauty of God from a thousand different facets.

### **Community of Bucharest, Romania**

From 11-16 July 2008, Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave and Sr. Samuela Gironi made the Fraternal Visit to Bucharest. The community, made up of 6 Italian sisters, will soon be enriched by the presence of its first Romanian professed sister, Ana Maria Bulai, who will make her first profession on 7 Sept. 2008. Paola Burca, currently making her novitiate in Rome, will also be returning home soon for a period of apostolic experience.



Our FSP community in Romania lives and works in a very challenging socio-ecclesial context. In fact, even though the country threw off the yoke of communism in 1989, the people have yet to free themselves from a communistic mentality and must learn to better manage their freedom. The country's high level of immigration has created serious problems at all levels of society: broken families, confused children and teens, a shortage of education, unemployment, etc. Romanians live in a context of continual change, which makes it hard for them to find their identity as a people. Ever since it joined the European Union in 2007, Romania has been trying to improve its civil infrastructure, but by concentrating its attention on the capital, it has deprived other areas of much-needed assistance. The ecclesial situation is very complex. The presence of different Churches, rites and languages in the country makes ecumenical dialogue and unity a necessity. Roman and Greek-Rite Catholics constitute only 6% of the population and the faithful still live as they did under the communist regime, which forced each parish to operate independently of the others. Although the effort is being made to reorganize evangelization activities and the formation of priests on the diocesan level, systematic and creative pastoral planning in these areas is still very scarce. Nevertheless, hope still burns brightly.

The lifestyle of our FSP community is characterized by simplicity and a focus on essentials. Our sisters are faithful to their prayer life, powerfully motivated in the apostolate, and committed to realizing an ecumenical journey with the Orthodox Church. They carry out the Pauline mission with great love through publishing, book center activities and itinerant diffusion. One sister carries out vocation work full time. She is also in charge of the National Intercongregational Vocation Commission and, when asked, participates in animation and communications initiatives programmed by the Archdiocese of Bucharest.

*Publishing activities:* We noted with joy that great progress has been made in this area. Our sisters give preference to books on spirituality, human-spiritual formation, biographies (especially saints common to both the Catholic and Orthodox Faiths) and books for children. Their list of prospective publications is drawn up with the help of the entire community. So as to see for herself the concrete needs of the people and provide them with inculturated content, the sister in charge of publishing organizes book displays in Catholic parishes. The audiovisual sector is also flourishing. It began with the production of audio and videocassettes and now has moved into CD and DVD duplication/distribution. The Romanian translation of the DVD *Paul: From Tarsus to the World* was warmly welcomed, especially by priests, who use it for the retreats they guide.

Our book center is deeply appreciated by Catholics and non-Catholics alike, particularly the Orthodox. In 2007, the center was expanded, giving our sisters more room to display their products and to inaugurate an audiovisual department. They have organized several meetings to launch various books and during the Pauline Year they will be holding 4 Biblical-ecumenical encounters that will be guided by representatives of different Christian denominations and also the Jewish Faith. These meetings will highlight our presence in a very multi-cultural, multi-religious environment and will help make our book center not only a point of diffusion but also one of ecumenism and culture. In the future, our sisters hope to form their lay collaborators, set up a central headquarters for vocation work, initiate an online book center and complete the computerization of the book center.

*Vocation work:* The community has been involved in vocation work since its foundation and various young women have spent some time with our sisters, who thank the Lord for the gift of Ana Maria and Paola. During the Pauline Year, vocation animations will highlight the vocation of the Apostle Paul.

Our sisters also yearn to share the Pauline charism with others. One FSP guided the formation of the first Romanian Annunciationist, who made her vows on 6 April 2008. The same sister is now accompanying the first steps of another candidate to this Institute.

So as to live their communitarian-apostolic journey with greater thrust, our sisters were asked to focus on the following *priorities*:

- to study and imitate Paul's way of proclaiming the Gospel to everyone, in the awareness that communion is essential for fruitful apostolic activity;

- to become more aware of the need to be a vocational/formative community that is called to help young women live the Pauline life; in view of this to draw up a vocation project so as to better organize activities in this sphere;
- to share the wealth of our charism with the laity through formation encounters;
- to continue our ecumenical journey with the Orthodox Church through activities characterized by openness and communion.

We accompany our sisters with affection and prayer, asking St. Paul to make them “all to all” so that their witness will draw many young women to the Pauline life.

### **Community of Lublin, Poland**

Sr. Antonieta Bruscato, Superior General, and Sr. Gabriella Santon, Bursar General, made the Fraternal Visit to Poland from 11-16 July 2008.

Poland is not a country with immigration problems. Indeed, because of the high level of unemployment (17%), many of its 38 million people are *emigrating* to other nations, seeking employment. The resulting break-up of families is causing a crisis in society, which is also suffering from the effects of corruption, alcoholism, drugs and prostitution.

Ever since Poland joined the European Community in 2004, it has looked to the future with hope but there is no doubt that the country faces many challenges. It must make major changes in its economic-administrative sectors and in the assumption of values. Poland is a Christian nation with a high level of practicing Catholics (68.5%), all of whom want to live the values of the Gospel coherently. But in spite of this, the Local Church is going through a very difficult and delicate period right now.

The Daughters of St. Paul have been present in Poland since 1986. Currently, the community is made up of 6 perpetual professed sisters and an aspirant, Silvia Skonieczna, who has lived in the community for 2 years. Another candidate, Karina Sierzega, is making her novitiate in Rome, while Sr. Agnieszka Lukasik, a junior, is in the midst of an apostolic-formative experience in the community of Novara, Italy. Our sisters of Poland are striving to improve the quality of their prayer life so as to come to a better understanding of the Pauline spirituality and thus live a life centered on Christ. They want to cultivate greater intimacy with God and more genuine interpersonal relations in community. They would also like to receive more formation to the Pauline charism (especially ongoing formation) under all its aspects. Their multicultural community is a great wealth, but it also gives rise to internal communication problems.

Our well-stocked, computerized book center, located in the heart of the city, is run by our sisters and a lay employee. Because diffusion is limited, our sisters are reorganizing the center and trying to find new modes of distribution. Their recent publishing activities have been limited to producing various mini-media, a calendar to commemorate the Pauline Year, and several books in partnership with the SSP. Our sisters say that there are too many Catholic publishing houses in Poland and that consequently there is no room for our products. Consequently they are focusing their time and attention on launching a virtual book center and on keeping their web site updated. In collaboration with the Pauline Family of Poland, they recently initiated a web site on St. Paul.

According to our sisters, vocation work is difficult. Those interested in the Pauline life are over the established age limit and are not clear about why they want to enter the Institute. Younger women do not understand our mission and thus opt for the contemplative life or for Congregations that carry out apostolates that focus on the corporal works of mercy.

Our community’s economic situation is fragile: book center income is low and the center’s operating expenses are very high (25% of its income).

Under the guidance of the Superior General, our sisters began a discernment process to discover where the Lord wants them to “pitch their tent” so as to make progress and ex-



plore other possibilities for the apostolate. Besides listening to the Word of God, one another and the signs of the times, our sisters realize they must assume the style of life typical of a Pauline community: one founded on simplicity, hard work, discipline and prayer. In view of this, and in harmony with the journey of the Congregation, the Pauline Family and the Church, they have inserted into their personal and communitarian planning times in which to study, reflect on and share ideas concerning St. Paul, taking advantage of the Animation Project prepared by the General Government for the Pauline Year.

The General Government will make decisions regarding the community on the basis of its concrete situation and the discernment made by the sisters who, in the meantime, are striving to carry out the apostolate more creatively, centering their efforts on diffusion initiatives so as to ease their economic burden and make an effective contribution to improving the context in which they live and work.

We entrust our Lublin community and our FSP presence in Poland to the Apostle Paul. May our sisters adopt an attitude of vigilant listening to what the Spirit will inspire them to do to glorify the Trinity and work for the good of the people of this nation.

### **Appointment of Circumscription Governments**

<i>United States Province</i>		<i>Delegation of Australia</i>	
Sato Sr. Margaret Timothy	Provincial	Coleiro Sr. Joanna Maria	Deleg. Sup.
Arruda Sr. Joan Paula	Councilor	Zanardo Sr. Nerina	Councilor
Hunt Sr. Marie James	Councilor	Valzasina Sr. Marisa	Councilor
Anderson Sr. Karen Marie	Councilor		
Vitello Sr. Mary Domenica	Councilor	<i>Delegation of Chile</i>	
<i>Community of Singapore</i>		Pontin Sr. Ires	Deleg. Sup.
Choo Sr. Clare	Superior	Guzman Sr. Zoila	Councilor
		Rodriguez Da Silva Sr. Luzia	Councilor

### **Calendar of the General Government**

August–October 2008

26 July–1 August	Boston	<i>Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato</i> <i>Sr. Anna M. Parenzan</i>	Special Visit
1-4 August	Montreal	<i>Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato</i> <i>Sr. Anna M. Parenzan</i>	Special Visit
1-6 August	Moscow	<i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i>	Fraternal Visit
25 August–10 Sept.	Chile	<i>Sr. Francisca Matsuoka</i> <i>Sr. Gabriella Santon</i>	Fraternal Visit
6-10 September	Chile	<i>Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato</i>	Fraternal Visit
4-8 September	RM/Mascherino	<i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i>	Fraternal Visit
20-30 September	Albano	<i>Sr. M. Antonieta Bruscato</i> <i>Sr. Anna M. Parenzan</i> <i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i> <i>Sr. Samuela Gironi</i> <i>Sr. Francisca Matsuoka</i>	Fraternal Visit
5-10 October	Singapore	<i>Sr. Inocencia Tormon</i> <i>Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave</i>	Fraternal Visit
11-15 October	Macao	<i>Sr. Inocencia Tormon</i>	Fraternal Visit
16-21 October	Hong Kong	<i>Sr. Luz Helena Arroyave</i>	
20-25 October	RM/B.go Angelico	<i>Sr. Samuela Gironi</i> <i>Sr. Francisca Matsuoka</i>	Fraternal Visit
31 Oct.–2 Nov.	France	<i>Sr. Anna Caiazza</i>	Deleg. Meeting

# The Circumscriptions



## *Celebrating the Pauline Year*

The FSPs, the Pauline Family, Catholics and many other Christians throughout the world all enthusiastically welcomed the opening of the Pauline Year by Pope Benedict XVI on 28 June, launching a year-long series of events organized to celebrate the bi-millennium of the Apostle's birth

It would be impossible to list the many initiatives, encounters, celebrations, publications, web pages and supplementary aids that the FSPs have programmed to commemorate this anniversary through the various forms of our apostolate. The Congregation's international web site, [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org), is posting news about what is going on in this regard throughout the Pauline world as little by little it receives this information, so please visit its "Pauline Year" page for more information.

We can say that all our circumscriptions, even the smallest, are revealing great creativity and zeal in honoring the great Apostle by striving to help others get to know his human-spiritual stature, his tireless effort to reach all peoples and his commitment to sowing the seeds of the Gospel everywhere.

We feel that Paul is in our midst, that he is present in the various dioceses of the Church throughout the world: from Rome to southernmost Africa; from Russia to the threshold of China; from the United States to Chile; from the Middle East to India....

Other Christian Churches are also manifesting their solidarity with this important ecclesial event. Roman and Orthodox Christians must become, in the light of Paul and his teachings, the two "lungs" by means of which Christianity makes always greater inroads in the modern world. For this to happen, the teachings of the Apostle must be rediscovered on all levels and studied more deeply so as to foster ecumenical dialogue.

As Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily in the Basilica of St. Paul, "We are gathered here to question ourselves about the great Apostle to the Gentiles. Let us not ask ourselves only: Who was Paul? Let us ask ourselves above all: Who *is* Paul? What does he say to me?" He is a teacher, apostle and herald of Jesus Christ and, according to Blessed James Alberione, the inspirer and founder of the Pauline Family. Thus we should be reflecting not on a remote historical figure but rather on a vibrant presence who has something to say to us today. Our reflections on Paul should lead us to discover how he wants to use us today to ensure that his message reaches the whole world.

What can Paul teach communicators of the modern era? According to Francesco Giorgino, a news reporter for Italy's national TV station (Rai 1), he can teach us above all how to courageously go against the current and truly communicate (as we understand the word today) with the people of our time, as he did with the people of his. As has often been said, if St. Paul were alive today he would undoubtedly be a journalist and he would most certainly carry out a multi-media apostolate to expand the radius of his mission as much as possible. But in doing this, he would never lose sight of the need to proclaim his message—Christ—in a clear and integral way.



Let us thank God for the gift of this year of grace and beg him to surround us with his light, as he did with Paul on the road to Damascus. Let us ask him to give us the courage to imitate our Father and Model in conforming ourselves to Christ so as to rekindle the missionary-apostolic zeal characteristic of the golden years of our Pauline history.

## Brazil

### *Prayerfully Reading the Word*

Every month, our sisters of Brasilia hold an encounter dedicated to a prayerful reading of the Word of God, followed by reflection on it. About 40 people regularly participate in these prayer sessions, which this year are centered on St. Paul's Letters. One member of the community also guides a similar prayer encounter in nearby Divine Word Parish, using the same themes and methodology. The FSP manager of our book center writes that in this way the community prays with Paul and like Paul, and that this year all the members are asking the Lord to help them grow in faith and live in a continual attitude of conversion and communion.

### *Course on Hospitality*

On 14 June 2008, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Sao Paulo, SEPAC held the first class of a new course on the theme "To Welcome Others Is To Love Them." Guided by Sr. Helena Corazza, fsp, the lesson underscored the important role of hospitality in communities and in various areas of pastoral work.

More than 70 people, primarily parish pastoral workers and representatives of the different dioceses and episcopal regions of the Archdiocese of Sao Paulo, attended the class, which examined the challenges of this service, especially the rapport that should be established between those who offer hospitality and those who benefit from it. The next lesson will be on 2 August.



## Philippines

### *Vocation Seminar*

The Vocation Directors and Directresses of the Pauline Family in Manila held a Vocation Discernment Seminar for Youth on 10 May 2008 at the Paulines Communication Center Seminar Hall, Pasay. 85 young people from different parts of the country attended this event, which revolved around the theme, "You have a Voice Call... From Whom?" Guest speaker Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, ssp, discussed the importance of discovering the purpose and meaning of one's life and challenged the young people to courageously follow God's dream for each of them. He also spoke about the Pauline charism and the Pauline Family and how they answer the present needs of the Church.



### *Pauline Cooperators Evaluate Formation Modules*

From 23-25 May 2008, 55 Pauline Cooperators of the PMPT Province, together with their National Coordinator, Sr. Evangelina Canag, fsp, and local formators, gathered in Tagaytay to evaluate their Formation Modules and received some ongoing formation. Sr. Bernardita Dianzon, fsp, spoke about "St. Paul: His Life and Mission"; Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, ssp, discussed "The Pauline Mission in the World of Communications Today" and Sr. Leticia Bantolinao, pddm, offered input on "Servant Leadership According to Paul."

In harmony with ecclesial celebrations for the Pauline Year, our Pauline Cooperators of the Philippines are planning a number of projects. In collaboration with the PF, they are organizing various symposia and meetings on the theme of Paul in order to make him known through the printed word, radio and TV programs. They also want to deepen their own spiritual life and recruit new members for their Association. All the participants exhibited great enthusiasm and commitment to what had been planned.



## India *New Community Bible*

The Pauline Year opened in a very meaningful way in India through the launch of the Pauline Family's *New Community Bible*. For the past 16 years, the Society of St. Paul in India has labored long and hard to produce an Indian version of the Bible and the entire PF rejoiced when the publication of this text coincided with the opening of the Jubilee Year dedicated to our Father and Patron, St. Paul. In Mumbai, Cardinal Oswald Gracias officially presented the new Bible to the faithful during a beautiful Liturgy in Holy Name Cathedral. The text was launched on the same day in 33 other parishes throughout the city and in many other cities throughout the country.

Several months earlier, SSP Provincial Superior Fr. Varghese Gnalian had asked the Daughters of St. Paul, Pious Disciples and Pauline Cooperators to organize a contemporaneous launch of the Bible in all the parts of the country in which the various branches of the Pauline Family live and work. In response to this request, an intensive advertising campaign was carried out by means of posters, notices in magazines and parish bulletins, flyers, announcements, etc.

The distinguishing features of the *New Community Bible* are as follows: a simple but faithful English translation of the biblical text, enriched with illustrations, commentaries, authoritative introductions and references to Indian traditions that serve to incarnate/inculturate the text in the local "soil."

This new translation of the Word of God is a special contribution to the Church of India. As Cardinal Gracias said in his presentation, "This new edition will bring the Word of God closer to millions of people, Christians and non-Christians alike."



## Italy *Contest on St. Paul*

To celebrate the bi-millennium of the birth of St. Paul, the Pauline Catechetical Center of Italy has organized a contest for catechism students and their teachers entitled, "*Imagine St. Paul.*" The contest, which runs from 1 September 2008 to 25 January 2009, will award prizes to the teachers and classes that most creatively express an aspect of the Apostle's life or mission through a literary, artistic or multimedia project.

Contest rules and an entry form can be found in an insert to the periodical "*Catechisti Parrocchiali*" or can be downloaded from the [www.paoline.it](http://www.paoline.it) web site.

## *International Congress for Catholic Radio Managers*

FSPs Sr. Helena Corazza (Brazil), Sr. Maria Ruth Reyes (United States) and Sr. Paola Fosson (Italy) participated in the International Congress for Catholic Radio Managers, held in the John Paul II Auditorium of the Pontifical Urbanianum University, Rome, from 19-21 June 2008. Organized by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the

meeting centered on the theme: *The Identity and Mission of Catholic Radio Stations Today: from Thoughts about the Human Being to Information at the Service of Individuals.*

In his audience of 20 June, held in the Clementine Hall of the Apostolic Palace, Vatican City, Pope Benedict XVI met with the 105 participants in the Congress. The Holy Father expressed his esteem for the work of Catholic radio stations in disseminating the message of the Gospel and the words of the Pope. Thanks to the radio, he said, many people have come to know Christ and love the Church. The Holy Father then emphasized that the purpose of Catholic broadcasting is not only to communicate information but to do this in such a way that it can be translated into concrete action and change lives.

## **Pakistan**

### ***The Pauline Mission Continues***

In the past months our sisters of Pakistan have lived a number of significant spiritual, apostolic and formative events with great intensity:

From 1-8 July the FSPs of Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi gathered in Lahore for their annual retreat. From 9-10 July, the 9 perpetual professed and 8 junior professed sisters of the circumscription participated in their annual Delegation Meeting. During the encounter, our sisters evaluated the past year and programmed new activities in the light of the Pauline Year, which has already solemnly begun.

Srs. Agnes, Tomasina and Rukhsana recently made a month-long missionary trip to the diocese of Quetta, on the border of Iran, where Christians are few but strong in faith, love and collaboration. Fr. Christabel loaned them an apartment near Don Bosco School and generously provided for all their needs. The sisters visited 9 schools of the area, where Christian and Muslim children study together in peace and harmony. They also visited the families of nearby parishes, taking the time to listen to the difficulties faced by the Christian community of Quetta. Our sisters sought to encourage the people and praised God for their steadfast faith and courage in the midst of many challenges. They also met some young women who said they want to become sisters and they have entrusted them to the Lord, asking him to guide them along the path in life he has chosen for them.



## **Romania**

### ***Retreat for Young Women***

During this year dedicated to St. Paul, Romania's National Intercongregational Team for Pastoral Work for Vocations (which operates in the name of the Romanian Federation for the Consecrated Life), coordinated by the Daughters of St. Paul, has organized various initiatives for young women, including a recent retreat that took as its point of departure the Apostle's vocation journey.

From 4-8 July, 20 Catholic and 6 Orthodox young women from various parts of the country (Bucharest, Cacao, Caransebes, Iasi and Roman), gathered in the beautiful town of Lucani to joyfully begin the Pauline Year through reflection on the Word of God so as to learn to listen to the voice of the Apostle today. The retreat was guided by a group of animators who taught the participants how to search for God's will for them through silence, solitude, listening, spiritual dialogue, the *Lectio Divina* and the drawing up of a spiritual project of life. The young women also had the chance to get to know the charisms



of the different Congregations whose members guided the retreat, especially the charism of the Pauline Family, and to appreciate the simple, fraternal collaboration of the team members among themselves and their joyous witness to the religious life.

In the evaluation session that concluded the retreat, the comments of the participants clearly revealed that it was an important experience for them and that it helped many of them give a new direction to their lives.

## **Sudan**

### ***Blessing of the Paulines Books and Media Center in Juba***

On 25 June, Archbishop Paulino Lukudu Loro blessed our new Pauline Book Center in Juba in the presence of the FSP Delegation Superior of East Africa, Sr. Maria Kimani, the FSP community, and a good group of priests, religious and laity. Afterward, Sr. Maria spoke about the significance of the Pauline Book Center and of the FSP mission in Juba and all Sudan. The Archbishop commented: "I have dreamed of the presence of the Daughters of St. Paul in Sudan for 25 years and now my dream has been realized. Because of your presence, our people will no longer have to go to Kenya or Uganda for the religious books and articles they need." He said he hoped the FSPs would work in close collaboration and communion with the Local Church and that our mission would spread to all the dioceses of the country.



The inauguration was followed by refreshments, during which many people thanked our sisters with the Arab phrase "Alf mabruk," which means "a thousand congratulations." One elderly religious brother said, "I am so glad to see this beautiful day! I pray for each one of you!" That same day Sr. Pushpa, the new superior of the community, arrived in Juba, bringing the community to a total of 4 sisters.

## **CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE**

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

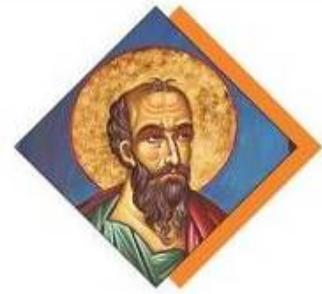
- Sr. Rosina Sega, age 85 - 01.07.2008 - Rome AP, Italy
- Sr. Colomba Maria Pallavicino, age 94 - 02.07.2008 - Rome AP, Italy
- Sr. M. Giovanna Giuditta Morbini, age 81 - 05.07.2008 - Rodello, Italy
- Sr. Anastacia Rosa De Marinis, age 91 - 27.07.2008 - Sao Paulo CR, Brazil

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

- Sr. M. David and M. Mark Wickenhiser (Mother, Catherine) of the Boston community, USA
- Sr. Perpetua Kang In Sook (Mother, Clara) of the Seoul (CP) community, Korea
- Sr. M. Magdalena Martinez Ruiz (Mother, Visitacion) - at home, Spain
- Sr. M. Rita Pintus (Mother, Maria Rosaria) of the Rome (RA) community, Italy
- Sr. Mary D'Souza (Father, Anthony) of the Mumbai (CP) community, India
- Sr. Marina Vadakapuracal (Mother, Mariam) of the Panjim (Goa) community, India
- Sr. Virginia Romero (Father, Robustuano), of the Buenos Aires community, Argentina
- Sr. Maria Kuang Nyo Seo (Father, Eun Syek), of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
- Sr. Maria Fontes Ferreira (Father, Lourival Damasceno) - at home, Brazil

### ***Pauline Family***

- Sr. M. Grace Santan Lopes, pddm, age 57 - 10.06.2008 - Mumbai, India
- Sr. M. Santina Anna Tintoni, pddm, age 82 - 09.07.2008 - Albano Laziale, Italy
- Sr. M. Fides Carmelina Marengo, pddm, age 81 - 30.07.2008 - Fresno (CA), USA
- Sr. M. Romana Natalina Frigerio, pddm, age 85 - 30.07.2008 - Cinisello Balsamo, Italy



## The Pauline Family

### **PSSP**

#### ***New Monthly Magazine "Paulus"***

To celebrate the bimillennium of the birth of the Apostle Paul, the Society of St. Paul is publishing a new monthly magazine entitled, "*Paulus*." The 64-page, full-color periodical dedicated to the Apostle of the Gentiles contains a wealth of articles from many different sources. Its purpose is to help all those interested reflect more deeply on themes related to one of the great "lights" of Christianity and see how his life and apostolate continues to be relevant in the contemporary world. The magazine is meant to accompany all the activities being carried out to celebrate the Pauline Year (2008-2009) and, at the same time, to satisfy one of the Founder's repeated recommendations to his sons and daughters scattered in over 60 countries throughout the world, namely: "to make Paul live today."

Paul is in the DNA of the Paulines, who live and work in about 600 communities on all the world's continents. We asked ourselves, "Who is courageous enough to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus—to announce him as Christ and Lord and the true Son of God—to Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and all the other 'Gentiles' of today? Paul was a missionary and teacher of the Gentiles, a light for all nations. Does his missionary passion live once again today in the Pauline Family, alongside the successor of Peter?"

The new periodical deals with a single subject—Paul—and each issue includes a special dossier that looks at him from many different perspectives: historical, geographical, linguistic, cultural, theological, liturgical, pastoral, etc.—all of which help the reader get to know the Apostle as a tireless traveler, a Roman citizen, the product of a blend of cultures and the founder of local communities that forged unity among men and women of different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

To respond promptly and concretely to the questions people ask every day and to also meet contemporary humanity's need for solidarity through lightning-swift "connectivity, the printed format of the new magazine is supplemented by the web site "Paulus" (paulus-web.net)—a multilingual, interactive web site enriched by a blog, a bibliography, scholarly and specialized articles and news links updated daily by correspondents throughout the world. The site is also able to connect users with every other website containing similar themes. The *Paulus* periodical and website have the same logo—"I make myself all to all"—a sign of the editors' commitment to living as fully as possible this affirmation of the great Apostle.

### **PDDM**

#### ***Approval of the Institute's New Constitutions***

The Superior General of the Pious Disciples has joyfully announced the Holy See's approval of the Institute's new Constitutions, which replace the 1984 edition of the text. In her letter of 12 July 2008, she writes:

"The approval of our Constitutions by the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life has brought to an end the revision journey we initiated 5 years ago in the context of the beatification of Primo Maestro.

"With Mary, Queen of Apostles, let us sing a *Magnificat* for the treasures of holiness and apostolate to be found in this Rule of Life, which is the fruit of the prayer and co-responsibility of all the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master.

"This approval comes at the beginning of the Pauline Year. May St. Paul help us to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus Master, our supreme 'Rule of Life,' to the point that we can say with him: 'It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.'"



## Communications

### *The Story of God in the Story of Humanity*

Through communications, human beings recount their personal life stories. They do this through the presentation of information and events, both big and small; through the sharing of ideas, and through descriptions/explanations of various aspects of the world's cultures and the experiences of their peoples. Even when the story shared is a fantasy, filled with poetry and color and enriched with music and special effects, it is always a narration of the human story. Whether an expression of the concrete world or an imaginary one, it is an attempt to express in a new and creative way the hopes and dreams of the human race.

All our personal stories attempt to say something about our common existence as human beings, to situate our own small stories within the overall human experience.

Today, the narration of what we think and live day after day has become a very common and socially-accepted praxis. This can be noted above all on the Internet, with its many discussion groups, blogs and forums which anyone interested can take advantage of to manifest and share their personal experiences. Of course, contradictions abound [in the sense that false stories are sometimes disseminated as genuine ones] but at the same time the need to narrate things truthfully is making more and more headway. Unfortunately, these narrative attempts can sometimes be misunderstood or confused by the propagation of destructive information or hyper-enthusiastic messages; by attitudes colored by the desire to claim the limelight or by a conflict between the message and the medium used to convey it. The media have the power to strongly influence and even replace the messages they disseminate, resulting in conflicting ideas and behavior. Often, what is sacrificed is sound values and thus the message of the Gospel makes little headway. Because of this, every effort should be made to use the media courageously and correctly, without ambiguity.

At some point, the stories of human beings (believers and non-believers alike) intersect with God's story. He is the source of true life, the loving presence that accompanies and illuminates our journey toward him. All forms of communication can shed light on the face of God, present in our personal life stories. Thus we can speak about the story of a God who entered and continues to enter our life, transforming it by removing all the masks and disguises that conceal our true selves so as to reveal himself in everything.

In his book *"Se questo è un Dio,"* Raniero La Valle writes that every human being is like the garden in which the resurrection took place, and that this resurrection occurs when God's witnesses incarnate him in the human story, revealing all the potentials for good and all the latent forces of life waiting to emerge.

What does all this mean? It means that every person's story is hidden in God's story, which is a story of salvation, a presence that is progressively revealed with the passing of time. But this revelation can take place only if the media are placed at the service of genuine values, namely: the truth, good, beauty, fraternity. In other words, the media should focus on genuine witnesses to the Christian life—on those who are able to use its various languages to transmit positive messages that will draw and involve people.

The call to proclaim the Gospel is a stupendous vocation. It means imitating Paul by carrying Christ within ourselves and revealing him to others in all truth, not replacing him with ourselves or our own way of seeing things. He, our Master and Lord, must be the core of the message we proclaim, the story we recount. Only in this way will those we seek to reach be drawn to the Christian life and realize that the Gospel can truly be lived on a daily basis. In this way, our small personal stories interweave with the immense story of God and become a sacred story—a salvation story.

*Sr. M. Agnes Quaglino*

## Studies and New Editions



### STUDIES

#### **Facing the Apostle Paul: An iconographic Portrait**

This is the title of the project presented by Sr. Armanda Garçes dos Santos, fsp, to the Faculty of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, Berkeley (California), U.S.A. in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Arts degree in Theology. Her very interesting and original study of St. Paul is made up of 13 chapters, each of which takes a closer look at a picture of the Apostle by a famous artist of the past (Caravaggio, Raphael, Rembrandt, etc.) or the present (Carlo Crivelli, Francesco Nagni and Aronne del Vecchio). The paintings reveal Paul's passion for the Gospel, identification with Christ, love for the Church and humanity, universal outlook, indefatigable spirit and many other aspects of his personality. They lead the author to reflect on the life of St. Paul, on his writings or on the passages of the Acts of the Apostles that speak about him. Each chapter is divided into three parts meant to help the reader develop a personal relationship with the Apostle Paul. Part I consists of an analysis of the painting; Part II articulates its theological or biblical meaning, and Part III invites the reader to move from contemplation to spiritual integration.

As the author says: "Christianity has harnessed the potential of visual art to proclaim, transmit, reveal and communicate the message of Jesus in ways that deeply touch the human heart. Visual images are open doors into an endless reservoir of meaning, especially when we speak of religious art. In this visual world of art, an artist uses symbols to create images that articulate meaning, proclaim a message and unlock revelation."

### NEW EDITIONS

#### **Mary, Queen of Apostles by James Alberione**

This latest edition of a text that was first published in 1948 and reprinted in 1954 has been revised, expanded and enriched with new material. The new edition, substantially based on the 1954 text, includes an appendix containing the small work, *Mary, Disciple and Teacher*, first printed in 1959 as an aid to the Pauline Family's apostolic-Marian formation. This latest edition is important because it contains the Founder's teachings on Mary Queen of Apostles and on Marian devotion in the Pauline Family. It reflects the Marian doctrine of the period in which it was written, enriched with the insights of Blessed J. Alberione, who reveals the powerful influence of Mary in his life. This began in his childhood and flowered with the publication of Leo XIII's encyclical *Audiatricem populi cristiani* (1895). Referring to this text, Fr. Alberione writes: "Leo XIII presents Mary as the Teacher of the Apostles and the first Christians because she edified everyone with her holy example, her authoritative advice, her maternal comfort and her efficacious prayers." In his usual concrete way, Fr. Alberione interprets his relationship with Mary in terms of life and faith, saying that genuine Marian spirituality consists of not only knowing and contemplating our Mother but also manifesting our love for her in concrete acts of service. This new text, a part of the Founder's Opera Omnia, casts greater light on Mary's role in the Pauline charism.

#### **Maggiorino Vigolungo by James Alberione**

Fr. Alberione wrote this moving biography of the 14-year-old apostle of the Good Press a year after Maggiorino's death in 1919. The text, a part of the Founder's Opera Omnia, was reprinted repeatedly over the years for vocation purposes. Fr. Alberione advised both Pauline formators and aspirants to read it, proposing Maggiorino as *the model of a new vocation in the Church...*a vocation that requires intelligence, a broad vision of the needs of the Church and a willingness to embrace all the modern forms of the apostolate.

# News from the Church and World



## ***Bi-lingual Web Site for the Pauline Year in the United States***

Like many dioceses throughout the world, the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the U.S.A. has inaugurated the Pauline Year by setting up a website dedicated to the Apostle. The site offers material to help everyone get to know Paul's life and thought and live this year in a meaningful way. Interest in the event has grown steadily ever since the Holy Father first called for the celebration of a Pauline Year and because of this the U.S. Bishops Conference is also considering setting up a website in Spanish so as to reach more people (cf. [www.usccb.org/](http://www.usccb.org/)).

Several other important links to websites dedicated to the Pauline Year can be found on our own website, [www.paoline.org](http://www.paoline.org).

## ***The Church and Journalists***

In speaking about the mission of journalists, Cardinal Paul Poupard declared: "Objectively speaking, we can say that the instruments of communication face a fundamental problem when it comes to speaking about the Church because the Church is a mystery of faith. The media prefer attention-grabbing events, not the introspection required by a Mystery. Thinking of Christmas, I like to say: 'The Invisible became visible to us.' The media have a problem concretizing this truth."

The Cardinal then said that the Church must use the instruments of communication because they have a powerful influence on the world: "This is very important because the media are vehicles for today's culture. It is impossible to do without them. On our part, we must do everything we can to help media professionals understand the truth about the Church."

Catholics are called to work with the media both professionally and through the witness of their lives so as to ensure that these instruments are indeed utilized for evangelization.

## ***The Diocese of Naples Goes Online***

The Archdiocese of Naples calls its new website "an instrument that expands its pastoral plan of action to every person in the diocese." Those who run the website say it is a "pilot experience" in bringing people closer to the Church community. The Naples website is the second pilot project of the Italian Bishops Conference (the first was the website of the Diocese of Noto—[www.diocesisnoto.it](http://www.diocesisnoto.it)). "Simple connections can give rise to genuine relationships," notes Fr. Domenico Pompili, director of the National Office for Social Communications. In this way, Cardinal Sepe's dream of reaching even the most remote corners of every diocese is slowly being realized. The new websites hope to facilitate dialogue among the bishops, the various offices of the Curia, and above all parish priests and their communities—in short, among the whole body of the faithful, no one excluded. A primary feature of the portal ([www.chiesadinapoli.it](http://www.chiesadinapoli.it)) is that it is easy to use, offering visitors both traditional channels of communication and alternative ones like blogs, podcasts, video galleries, webTV, radioweb, video news, etc.). The portal is open to everyone, offers ideas to everyone, and allows everyone—with a simple click—to dialogue with one another and with the Local Church.

## ***A Special Communications Service for World Youth Day***

In collaboration with [wydcrossmedia.org](http://wydcrossmedia.org), the international video news agency H2onews offered the public the chance to follow the events of WYD thanks to live streaming video via cell phone. Wydcrossmedia, whose slogan is "All in one; all for One," is the result of a convergence of some Catholic media sites to share content and information. Agencies that participated in the project were: Afriradio, Catholic.net, Centro Televisivo Vaticano, DonBoscoLand, H2onews, Inside the Vatican Magazine, Korazym, La Croix, Le Jour du Seigneur, MISNA, Movimento dei Focolari, One o Five live, Pj Online/ San Paolo, Radio Renascença, Radio Vaticana, Reuters, Salt and Light television, SIR, Telepace e ZENIT. The website, which offers news and multimedia content on a single page, allows the user to download a player (universal version or stand-alone version) that provides access in just a few seconds to WYD news in printed, video and audio formats. This international service was accessed by over a million people in a single week and 4,500 other websites used the material provided.

## ***Chinese Lay Catechists Receive Missionary Mandate***

At the end of an intensive course for catechists organized by the Han Zhou Diocese, more than 50 lay men and women of Chang Lin Parish received a missionary mandate for the Pauline Year and renewed their commitment to evangelization, to serving others and to working in close collaboration with priests. According to the bishop who issued the mandate, "Formation is extremely important to keeping a Christian community alive and vibrant." A number of university students also participated in the course for catechists—the first ever held in the history of the parish.