

## *The Good News Proclaimed Anew by Human Beings*



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## CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

## NEW WINE IN NEW WINESKINS



*Dearest Sisters,*

Last March, the recent document published by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, entitled *For New Wine, New Wineskins*, was presented to the public.

The document invites us as a Congregation and as communities to make an evangelical discernment to see if we are responding with fidelity to the appeals the Lord is addressing to us at this time in history.

It urges us to take a closer look, all together, at what is happening in the *wineskin* of our consecrated life, especially in the areas of formation, mutual relations and government, so as to seek replies that better correspond to the pleas of the Spirit and the provocations of our times, and to create structures better adapted to safeguarding the innovative wealth of the Gospel.

We are called to be *new wineskins*, that is to say, supple, expandable containers that are able to give breathing space to the new wine, in continual fermentation, that we carry within us. Such containers have the necessary pliancy to withstand the effervescent pressure of the *new wine* (cf. Jn. 2:10), of the

*fine wine* of the covenant, served at the wedding at Cana.

The overall thrust of the document is an invitation to breathe *fresh air*...to learn a style of communicating that touches hearts and stirs up life so that it will begin to shine and grow....

The Pope reminded young religious that “the religious life becomes sterile if it loses its *capacity to dream*, to ‘think big.’” “God is in love with us and he has loving dreams for us.” “To evangelize means to testify by means of one’s life that Jesus is alive. Study is not enough if one’s heart is not on fire....”

Thus we ask the heartfelt question: Lord, what do you want from us? How can we renew the *wineskins* of our Pauline life so that they can hold *new wine*?

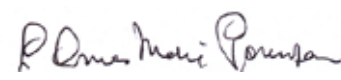
A powerful missionary thrust is part of our DNA: we were born to serve the Word—to announce and point out to everyone *the luminous way to life* that is the Gospel of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit entrusted and continues to entrust to us a mandate that fills us with fervor and enthusiasm, and that urges us on toward always vaster and more profound apostolic and spiritual horizons. But we too, like all religious life in the Church, need to *breathe fresh air* so that we can recognize the passing of the Lord in our daily lives; so that we can hear the whisper of his voice whether he reveals himself to us in the form of a light breeze, a gentle wind or *sheer silence* (cf. 1 Kg. 19:11f.).

*Fresh air* by means of our commitment to deepening and living the call to an *apostolically mystical life*.

*Fresh air* by means of our readiness to cultivate sisterly relationships warmed by affection and tenderness, and that make the most of our generational and cultural differences.

*Fresh air* because “wherever there is life, fervor and the desire to bring Christ to others, genuine vocations will arise” (cf. EG 107).

*Fresh air* so as to say to everyone we meet: “Here you can breathe Life.”

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan





**BOLIVIA**  
**GLOBAL VISION OF THE BIBLE**



The Daughters of St. Paul of La Paz recently launched a new systematic study course entitled, *A Global Vision of the Bible*. Thirty pastoral workers from different parishes and vicariates of the region are participating in the sessions, which are in continuity with the FSP Continental Project, *The Bible in Community*. The purpose of the course is to provide persons involved in diffusing the Word of God with the biblical training they require to carry out pastoral activities in their communities, reflection groups, parishes and ecclesial movements.

Our sisters of Bolivia are holding the course in collaboration with the Local Church and the Pauline Biblical Animation Service (SAB), based in Brazil.

*Exercise Books Project for Malawi*. The Exercise Books offer a simple text and abundant illustrations to teach children to love their nation, the basic elements of hygiene, the importance and use of water, how to cultivate a vegetable garden, etc. In order to raise funds, the Project is being promoted by means of postcards distributed to the people who visit our book centers.

A year ago the Daughters of St. Paul started their mission in Malawi, one of Africa's poorest countries. Four sisters manage a small bookstore in a container van. The Pauline Onlus in Rome presents the aim of this special initiative, saying: "We want to help our sisters by providing them with an abundance of *Intelligent Exercise Books* to launch the Pauline apostolate in a country that is facing many difficulties. We entrust this new Project to the intercession of Prima Maestra Tecla in commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of her death."

**FRANCIS AND WOMEN RECEIVES THE CARDINAL GIORDANO AWARDS**



The book *Francesco e le donne (Francis and Women)*, published by FSP Editions, Italy, was awarded second place in the fifth edition of the prestigious Cardinal Michele Giordano Awards ceremony. Much has been written about Pope Francis but among the

vast array of publications available one theme was still lacking, namely: an organic presentation of the Pope's direct relationships with women in the light of the growing number of females taking on positions of responsibility in the contemporary world.

Journalist Enzo Romeo fills this gap with his book *Francis and Women*, which reveals the Pope's idea of the role of women in the Church and society through stories about his relationships with several females who made a strong impact on his life (his grandmother, younger sister, fiancée, Marxist professor, etc.)

The author writes in the book's introduction: "Faith always springs from a personal encounter and is nourished through encounters. Francis confided that he always listens

**ITALY**  
**PAULINE ONLUS: INTELLIGENT EXERCISE BOOKS PROJECT FOR MALAWI**



The Pauline Onlus Association is devoting its attention in 2017 to the *Intelligent*

to the opinion of a woman before making important decisions because a feminine point of view completes his perception of situations and problems.” More than once, the Pope has clearly described the essential role of women in the Church: “I want you to reflect on the fact that the Church is feminine; the Church is a woman. [...] A Church without women would be like the apostolic college without Mary. [...] Women are asking profound questions that need to be answered. The Church cannot be what she is without woman and her role. Woman is irreplaceable to the Church.”

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## PHILIPPINES

### CATECHETICAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY THE FSPs



The *Paulines Christian Living Textbook* series for the catechetical preparation of elementary school children is now complete and is currently being promoted by our sisters through the Catechetical Seminar-Workshops they have organized in different parts of the Philippines.

On 21 January, thirty religious educators from 17 schools representing seven dioceses traveled to Pasay City to attend a seminar-workshop on the effective methodology and innovative strategies proposed by the series, which is already being used by several schools. Thirty-one teachers from six schools attended the same seminar held in Davao on 28 January.

The primary speaker and facilitator of these seminars is Sr. M. Antonieta Molina, FSP, the author of most of the textbooks and teacher's manuals, assisted by other writers and consultants for the series.

The participants in the seminar-workshops all say they deeply appreciate this course, which offers them the chance to upgrade their teaching methods.

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## INDIA

### PRINT MEDIA IN A DIGITAL WORLD: PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES



To celebrate Catholic Press Month, the Daughters of St Paul of Mumbai organized a symposium on the theme *Print Media in a Digital World: Perspectives and Challenges*. About a hundred people participated in the event, during which three guests speakers sketched out the advantages and disadvantages of living in a media-dominated society and explained how mass communication and electronic media are shaping identities in a globalized world. Special attention was given to print media in relation to social media and the concept of reality in a virtual world.

The participants were very appreciative of the entire program and thanked the sisters for the chance to receive updating and compare ideas on such a timely and important subject.

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## BRAZIL

### MEETING FOR STRATEGIC APOSTOLIC PLANNING



The FSPs in charge of the apostolic projects of our Brazilian Province met with their provincial government in Sao Paulo for a strategic planning session of the circumscription's mission and economy for 2017-2019. The purpose of the encounter was to reinforce communion and sharing among



the various sectors of the apostolate. Guided by Sr. Natalia Maccari, a Brazilian FSP who works in the International Secretariat for the Apostolate (SIA) in Rome, and employing dynamics that involved all the participants in a communal search, the group tackled the problems the province needs to resolve so as to respond to the challenges our apostolate is facing due to the many changes underway in society.

Viewing our Institute's mission and values from a Pauline perspective, the sisters pinpointed goals and actions to be implemented by every sector in harmony with its own particular context. One fruit of the meeting was the discovery of the province's need to organize and create procedures for the production and dissemination of digital material, which is steadily increasing today. The three-day encounter unfolded in a spirit of serenity, with the enthusiastic contribution of all the participants, which greatly facilitated the search for new paths for the Pauline mission in Brazil.

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## KENYA

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND YOU



The Nairobi community of the Daughters of St. Paul recently held an animation on social media for secondary school students. Four schools participated in the event, which was entitled, *Social Media and You*. The purpose of the encounter was to form good citizens for tomorrow by cultivating a healthy mind-set toward the media and helping students learn how to use these instruments responsibly, especially in view of the country's upcoming elections in August. The main speaker of the day was Fr. Charles Kinyua, director of Radio Waumini. The FSP team coordinating the event worked hand in hand with lay people from an organization known as Education Professionals of Kenya (E.P.K.), who are specialists in the field of education. This collaboration proved to be

very effective and fruitful in illustrating the function of social media in society and in the lives of individuals. The workshop concluded with the participants helping to draw up the principles that should guide everyone in using social media critically and responsibly.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### 50 YEARS OF PAULINE PRESENCE



Fifty years have passed since the first three Daughters of St. Paul (Sr. Giuseppa Panarello, Sr. Teresa Ramos and Sr. Vincentina Lopes) arrived in Beira, Mozambique. Fifty years of joy, challenges and sufferings, but also 50 years of unshakeable faith that worked miracles.

To commemorate this important anniversary, Archbishop Francisco Chimoio of Maputo celebrated a special Mass for the sisters on 19 February. Several FSPs from South Africa and Angola traveled to Maputo to participate in this event in union with the sisters, their many friends, relatives and collaborators.

Among those present for the occasion was Sr. Teresa Ramos, one of the three Mozambique pioneers, who is now a missionary in South Africa, and also Sr. Olga Massango, the Institute's first Mozambican vocation, who is currently a missionary in Kenya.

Archbishop Chimoio thanked the Daughters of St. Paul for their presence and mission, saying that they are a gift for the whole Church of Mozambique.

In her message of best wishes for this milestone, Superior General Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan echoed Blessed James Alberione's very meaningful statement: "I want to close the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation with a *Te Deum* and open the future with a *Veni Creator*.... The Lord has carried us as if on the wings of an eagle: he guided our steps, gave us the grace to initiate [this work] and,

after a number of years of forced silence, re-kindled the Pauline apostolate in this land. This small seed is truly growing and, with the grace of God, it will certainly become a great tree.... Now a new stage is beginning—one that I am sure will be overflowing with hope, apostolic fruit and vocations.”

**SPAIN**

**DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL:  
70 YEARS IN VALENCIA**



The Daughters of St. Paul recently celebrated their 70th anniversary of foundation in Valencia.

Four sisters from Barcelona arrived in this city on 24 January 1947. The beginnings were difficult and challenging. They began by opening a Saint Paul Film Agency. Their mission expanded and soon the house became too small for the various forms of apostolate so they moved to a bigger location in Via Campaneros. Here, new activities were initiated: the printing of children’s books, the production of slides and cassettes, etc. In 1986 the sisters moved to Plaza de la Reina, where the provincial house is currently located. The book center was transformed into a pulpit for evangelization, according to the directions of the founder, Fr. James Alberione. The Pauline mission, however, went beyond the confines of the book center and the city. The sisters visited various locations of the diocese on *propaganda*, i.e., taking the Gospel from door to door. Those visits often culminated in a solemn *celebration of the Gospel*, during which the Bibles and the Gospels purchased by the people were blessed.

«We were called the postmistresses of God because we brought the Gospel to everyone,» recall some of the older sisters, «not only to disseminate books, but to meet families and listen to them.»

Even today, especially during big seasons like Christmas, the Pauline mission to *go forth* to the peripheries continues - in prisons, in parishes, in schools.

May these audacious Paulines always be guided by the words of Venerable Thecla Merlo: «Let us lend our feet to the Gospel so that it may race ahead. We would like to have a thousand lives to devote to this noble apostolate».

**KOREA**

**NEW PODCAST CHANNEL**



At the start of 2017, the FSPs of Korea launched a new Podcast channel to enhance the offering of media content through the Internet and to respond to the requests of many people who want to stay in touch with the Word during breaks from work, while traveling or when at home.

The transmissions can be followed on *Facebook*, *Podcast Podbbang* and *iTunes*. With this service it is possible to listen to the Gospel of the daily liturgy and its corresponding commentary published in *Jacob’s Well* magazine.

Listening to the Word, meditating on it, and putting it into practice through the Internet brings us in contact with the Lord and allows him to enter our heart and our life.

Podbbang broadcast: <http://www.podb-bang.com/ch/13011>

iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/kr/podcast/yagob-uiumul/id1191733796?mt=2>

**EDU-COMMUNICATIONS:  
PATHS AND PROSPECTS  
IN PASTORAL FORMATION**

BY HELENA CORAZZA, FSP



Sr. Helena's thesis, presented to the Faculty of Communications & the Arts of Sao Paulo University, Brazil, in view of obtaining a Doctorate in Communications Sciences, seeks to demonstrate that SEPAC—a pastoral communications service begun by the Daughters of St. Paul in 1982 so as to form leaders in the areas of pastoral work and culture through its courses (both free and systematic) and publications—has been decisive in responding under both the theoretical and practical aspects to the emergence of a formation to communications, and to reinforcing collaboration with the pastoral communications service carried out by the Church in Brazil.

The general objective of the thesis is to show how to teach pastoral workers and educators to communicate in an informal, media-saturated context because the introduction of diverse technologies and new communications languages into the daily lives of these individuals influences and challenges the standard ways of evangelizing.

The author uses the research work of edu-communications instructors, as well as cultural studies and Church documents that speak about pastoral work, as reference points to support the theoretical framework of her thesis. Her empirical research was conducted in SEPAC through the examination of various publications, monographs by teachers specialized in the field and their students, and also through questionnaires distributed to evaluate the experiment carried out and the methodology and continuity of intervention projects.

The 267-page thesis is divided into 7 chapters. The text opens with a description of edu-communications, then proceeds to analyze various Church documents, the new languages of communication and different ways of presenting the Good News. It then sketches out the creation and development of SEPAC, along with the results of its research projects and the experiences of those who have taken

its courses. The thesis concludes with a consideration of edu-communications in pastoral work, the route it is pursuing, the results obtained so far and its prospects for the future. The document is enriched with many pictures, graphs and tables.

**THE IMPACT OF THE WORD OF  
GOD IN THE CATHOLIC FAMILIES**

BY PRAXIDES NAFULA WALUMBE, FSP



The dissertation submitted by Sr. Praxides to Tangaza University College, Nairobi, Kenya, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology, is a presentation and analysis of the study she carried out in St.

John the Evangelist Parish in the Archdiocese of Nairobi.

The paper sheds light on the importance of the Word of God in African families today and the many challenges and problems it encounters. The purpose of the study is to help pastoral workers and families rediscover the importance of the Word of God not only to themselves personally but also in view of helping all families grow in faith.

The text is divided into four chapters. Chapter I offers a brief introduction to the Word of God; Chapter II presents the family as a "domestic Church" and then outlines the challenges families are facing today; Chapter III explains the methodology used, interprets the data gathered and evaluates it; Chapter IV presents the results of the author's research and her recommendations.

The fourth chapter offers concrete ideas for families, underscoring the role of the Word of God in the formation of children, in preparation for marriage, in sexual education and in forgiveness and reconciliation. It also touches briefly on the role of Bible Days, the *Lectio Divina*, interreligious dialogue and the instruments of communication in formation to the Faith.

The author concludes her reflection by underscoring that the Word of God is fundamental to the life of every Christian and every Christian family because families will be able to meet the challenges of today's world only if they are firmly rooted in the Scriptures.



**AIN KAREM:  
BEYOND FAMILIAR BOUNDARIES...**



**F**rom the hills of Galilee, Mary heads south....

After having welcomed the Word wholeheartedly, she allows it to lead and accompany her. This is what the Word does when it is accepted: it fills us and accompanies us on our journey through life. The angel of the Annunciation (Gabriel = “God is my strength”) greets Mary with the words: “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you” (Lk. 1:28). The grace of God floods a person’s life, causing a new certitude to blossom, namely: God is with me! He is with us! When this happens, new horizons open before us.

But the Word does another thing when it is welcomed: it opens our eyes to the needs of our sisters and brothers. It enables us to see what others don’t see. It helps us to understand things that others don’t understand. It prompts us to follow unfamiliar paths. The Word never abandons those who believe in the good things it promises. Listening to the Scriptures, we adopt God’s way of thinking; we see situations through his eyes, we listen to people with his heart. This is what Moses experienced on Mt. Horeb when he met God in the burning bush. He listened to the divine voice, but above all he heeded the call to become concerned about the things God is concerned about. Moses wanted to see God and instead God prompted him to take a look at what was going on around him: “I have seen the misery of my people and I have heard their cry. I am aware of their sufferings. Their laments have reached my ears and I have seen for myself how the Egyptians are oppressing them. So, get out there! I am sending you to Pharaoh.

Lead my people out of Egypt!” (cf. Exodus, Chapter 3) Like Moses, Mary understands that God is sending her to his people: in her case, to a specific situation, a specific family and a specific person. “Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren” (Lk. 1:36).

From Nazareth, Mary heads south into unfamiliar territory. The school of the Word urges us to go beyond our habitual boundaries and to willingly accept the discomforts this involves. If we insist on remaining in our usual surroundings, doing what we do best, we run the risk of grinding to a halt on our trip through life. Mary is propelled out of her “comfort zone” because Elizabeth needs her.

But she has to make a long and tiring trip to reach her cousin. It is odd that the Gospel does not tell us precisely where Mary was headed even though tradition informs us that the Visitation took place in the village of Ain Karem, located about 8 km. from Jerusalem. The etymology of the town’s name (“Vineyard made fruitful by a perennial wellspring”) is symbolic of this encounter because it was the place in which the Lord, the Wellspring of perennial grace, transformed sterility into fertility.

But the Bible does not mention Ain Karem specifically; it talks about “a town of Judah in the hill country.” Where in Judah? What town? And in what part of the town was Zechariah’s house located? We don’t have any information about this, probably as an incentive to intensify our research.... And perhaps, after all, the meaning of the Visitation is to be found in our daily lives. It is not easy to reach out to others and assist them. We have to get to know their situations and learn their “language.” We have to meet them eye to eye and grasp their needs. We have to look at things differently and interpret our faith in a new way. Helping others involves exploring a whole new world!

Every person is a *mountain* to scale and the “handholds” and other supports we need to grasp along the way are sometimes not easy to find. Every person is a mysterious and fortified *city* (cf. Jr. 1:18), surrounded by high walls and gates. But every person is above all a *dwelling place*—a space that encompasses all the fragile and intimate aspects of that individual’s life; a place where we must remove our footgear before entering because we are treading on sacred ground!

Francesca Pratillo, fsp

## I CARRIED YOU ON MY SHOULDERS...



My first meeting with Prima Maestra Thecla took place even before I entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul because in all the encounters organized by the sisters of the Cagliari community, they spoke about Prima Maestra, her role in the Congregation and what she meant to each of its members. Even before I arrived in Alba, Maestra Thecla's profound gaze had already penetrated my heart. But my first "real life" contact with her was very informal and also very surprising to me.

I entered the Congregation in Alba on 5 May 1961—a moment in which everyone was very busy preparing for Prima Maestra's upcoming visit. All the sisters were rushing around the house and apostolate rooms, ensuring that everything was sparkling clean for her arrival. Above all, I could see the profound joy shining in their eyes, as if they were preparing for a big feast or for the arrival of a very important person.

I couldn't contain my eagerness, joy and also a certain amount of curiosity as I looked forward to meeting Prima Maestra face-to-face.

On the day of her arrival, we all formed a long welcome line outside the house, beginning with the oldest sisters down to the candidates who had just entered. As Prima Maestra's car passed in front of that long line, everyone burst into enthusiastic applause and songs of welcome. In the following days, I often saw Prima Maestra in chapel. She was always kneeling, her hands folded and her gaze fixed on the Tabernacle with the intent expression that was already familiar to me and which I carried in my heart.

I remember that during community recreation periods she would fold the laundry with the professed sisters or join them in cleaning vegetables with great simplicity and composure. She enjoyed their company and they enjoyed hers!

It was finally my group's turn to have a one-on-one meeting and also a brief recreation with her. She had a good time joking with us and she asked us many questions about our families, about where we were from, etc.

When it was my turn to talk to her, I told her that I came from Sardinia. During our conversation, my formation mistress approached us with some anxiety because she said I looked very pale. Prima Maestra replied: "Don't worry. All Sardinians have olive-toned complexions, but they are as strong as their oak trees!"

When I told her that I was the oldest of seven children, she was astonished that I had had the courage to leave my family. At the same time, she said that she admired my parents and that she was very grateful to them for their generosity in allowing me to enter the Institute. Short as it was, our little talk immediately put me at my ease and Prima Maestra's maternal and benevolent gaze made a profound impression on me. In the following days, I tried my best to "run into her" along our garden walkways or in the hallways of the house, but unfortunately I wasn't very successful!

Prima Maestra returned to Alba the following year and once more she gave us a conference, joined us in our recreations, and encouraged us to maintain our joy and serenity, to love prayer and the apostolate, and to be faithful to our vocation. *Become saints!* she urged us over and over again. Her gaze swept over us and when it alighted on me she came up to me and asked, "Are things going well for you?" I was taken by surprise but immediately said yes. "Go ahead serenely," she replied. "I can see that you are well. You are as strong as your oaks!"

This is how I saw Prima Maestra and how I want to remember her: not only because of her extraordinary spiritual wealth but above all because she possessed the simple, humble and strong heart of a mother.



But the most beautiful grace I received from her and the "testament" she left me occurred on 3 February 1967, when the casket containing her body was transferred from the Verano cemetery to the subcrypt of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary in Rome. The hearse stopped outside the gates of the Via Antonino Pio compound and her casket was carried with great devotion on the shoulders of eight Daughters of St. Paul, chosen because of their strength. I was one of the eight.

Three days later I left for the United States of America. My mission overseas was beginning and I felt courageous and reassured because I sensed that Prima Maestra was close to me—after all, I had carried her on my shoulders!

Thank you, Prima Maestra, for taking notice of me, for encouraging me and for sending me out to the world!

*Fidelis Saba, fsp*

## THE FACE OF COMMUNION



It is a good idea for everyone, especially consecrated persons, to take a brief pause from time to time on the journey through life.

Occasions for this are not lacking: for example, courses of spiritual exercises, retreats, in-depth reflection sessions.... But it is also important to look within and around us so as to make an overall and thorough survey of the road we have been following.

After 20 years in the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, the Holy Spirit gifted me with a unique experience. When Fr. Marko Rupnik invited me to participate in the *Cardinal Spidlik Theology Atelier* (an art workshop) at the Aletti Center in Rome, I listened to his invitation with the same smile that must have appeared on the face of Sara, Abram's wife, when she heard that she would conceive and bear Isaac. I deeply appreciated the wonderful opportunity that was being offered to me, but I didn't think I had any real possibility of participating in the course, considering my responsibilities as a delegation councilor and the small but very promising situation of our presence in Poland, where I was stationed. Instead the Lord worked a miracle by opening the necessary doors.

The Theology Atelier is a unique environment in which to experience beauty in a concrete way. Participation in it is open to small groups of lay people, religious and priests, who are offered an artistic experience that allows them to penetrate the mystery of Christ more profoundly and rediscover the significance of Baptism from the standpoint of communion and new life in the one Spirit. The common agenda and work schedule, set to the rhythm of prayer and liturgical celebrations, favors an assimilation of the thought of Christ and of the Church from a sapiential perspective characteristic of the Patristic era—a time in which there was no split between feeling and living, theological reflection and a gaze of faith.

Taking life, not concepts, as its point of departure, the Atelier favors a rediscovery of symbolic-sapiential language rather than its abstract-argumentative counterpart, thus restoring the spiritual life to central position. The participant comes into fresh contact with his/her theological knowledge and experiences

his/her faith anew, from a deeper and more unitary perspective. The air that circulates in the Atelier is characterized by joy, springing from communion in the one body of Christ, the Church.

Even though brief, the time I spent in the art workshop was very significant and even fundamental for me. Nine months was not enough time to assimilate everything I received but it was enough time for me to live an in-depth and beautiful communion with God and with my companions, with whom I shared a vibrant experience of Church and a way of living that springs from the Trinity (inasmuch as this was possible and not withstanding our limitations). This communion, which is love, helped us get to truly know one another. At the Atelier, we discovered a unity that cannot be reached by individual efforts: a dimension of genuine communion that is not equality or uniformity, but instead acceptance of others in all their diversity.



Relationships are a big problem in modern society. Our discomfort with diversity prompts us to standardize everything according to laws and rules, to the point that we eliminate the faces of the others. And without a face we cannot relate to one another. The life of the Trinity is a free gift but it is also a challenge; it is the source and ultimate goal of evangelization. I think that this communion in the one Spirit of God is the sole future of the Church.

“The Lord says this: Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths: which was the good way? Take it and you will find rest for yourselves” (Jr. 6:16).

This is the grace I received: to be able to take a little time out to identify the paths of the past that I've been following, choose the correct route to pursue, and find peace. And all this was accomplished in the plural—with others, in communion.

Ewa Glowinska, fsp



## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2017

### THE GOOD NEWS PROCLAIMED ANEW BY HUMAN BEINGS



This phrase, which encapsulates the heart of the Papal Message for the 51<sup>st</sup> World Communications Day (celebrated this year on 28 May), restores a central role to human beings and their capacity to choose between good and evil. Pope Francis urges us to act like millstones and “grind” the information we receive in a constructive way, without scattering the fruits of our communication due to preconceived ideas, fears or habitual behavior. At the same time, he asks us to broaden our gaze to perceive what makes news *good*, allowing ourselves to be inspired by the words of Jesus, who is himself the unique and primary content of every communication. The Pope draws inspiration for his Message from Isaiah 43:5: “*Fear not, for I am with you,*” which is the title of his discourse. This biblical text allows us to glimpse Pope Francis’ idea of communication. For him, communication among human beings should be marked by mutual consolation, closeness and communion—just like the Good Samaritan, whom he considers to be a model of the perfect communicator because he “bends down” to lift up the most downtrodden and then “ascend” with that person to the heights.

This year’s Message is a solicitation to search for the *good* to be found in even the worst human situations, including the dark days that throw us off balance. Pope Francis is offering us a challenge: we can either numb our

conscience and withdraw into the labyrinth of self-centeredness, or else we can entrust ourselves to the One who “casts light on our route and opens new paths of trust and hope.” The Pope seems to be saying that *we ourselves* are communication: we communicate goodness, beauty, suffering and failure through our words and deeds. In the light of this, the media can be seen as *living channels* of trust and hope, even though the Pope does not say this explicitly. I am referring here to the technologies that are the “daily bread” and “driving force” of those of us who work in the world of communications. At times we forget this reminder of the Pope and instead employ counterproductive mechanisms, reducing the media to ideological weapons that destroy the fundamental and unique meaning of our mission, which is to witness to the Good News; to bring it alive by incarnating it wherever we are and in whatever we do.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis urges us to take on this challenge by living and sharing the Good News in our contemporary situation, in which the networks and instruments of human communication are undergoing unprecedented development. According to the Pontiff, we have an obligation to discover and transmit the “mysticism” of living together by meeting and mixing with one another, taking each other in our arms in mutual support, participating in this “rough sea” and transforming it into a genuine experience of fraternity, a “caravan” of solidarity, a holy pilgrimage.

So let us make our own the words of this year’s papal Message by becoming more sensitive to “a constructive form of communication that rejects prejudices and fosters a culture of encounter, helping us to view the world around us with realism and trust.”

*Massimiliano Padula*  
National President of AIART  
Citizens’ Media Association

<b>Calendar of the General Government</b>			
10 April	Rome/Generalate	Meeting of the Superiors General of the PF	Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
19-21 April	Rome	USMI Assembly of Superiors General	Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
27 April-11 May	Madagascar	Fraternal Visit	Sr. Clarice Wisniewski Sr. Shalimar Rubia
01-31 May 06-31 May 21-31 May	Japan	Fraternal Visit	Sr. Lucia Kim Sr. Anna Caiazza Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan Sr. Gabriella Santon
13-18 May	Nairobi, Kenya	Visit for a specific purpose	Sr. Clarice Wisniewski Sr. Shalimar Rubia

**ITALY**

**YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE PAULINE FAMILY IN DISCERNMENT**



The Junior professed members of the Pauline Family gathered in Rome from 3-5 March 2017 for their annual meeting, which this year was guided by Fr. Giacomo Perego, ssp, a biblical scholar, and revolved around the theme of *discernment*. To walk together in the footsteps of the Lord so as to find new paths for proclaiming the Gospel in today's world: this was the driving force that characterized the encounter.

The biblical figures of Abraham and Mary illuminated the input and activities of the group, with constant reference to the Pauline charism and Fr. James Alberione, Founder of the Pauline Family.

**POLAND**

**CATHOLIC FILM FESTIVAL: NIEPOKALANÓW 2016**



Warsaw, Poland recently hosted *Niepokalanów 2016*, the XXXI International Catholic Film Festival. The 18 countries that participated in the event submitted a total of 137 films and TV programs, 19 radio programs,

and 6 multimedia website programs. The film *Artystk*, realized by the FSPs of Warsaw to celebrate the Institute's Centenary of foundation, and directed by Fr. Wojciech Turek, SSP, was one of the films awarded by the jury.

In the radio category, the program *Siostry* (*Sisters: Taking One's Vocation Seriously*) also received an award. A Daughter of St. Paul is one of the 27 religious women who recount their vocation stories in this program.

**ITALY**

**COMMUNICATIONS WEEK AND FESTIVAL**



To give more thrust and attention to World Communications Day, the FSPs and SSPs of Italy organize an annual *Communications Week and Festival*.

The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of this event will be held in the diocese of Cesena-Sarsina this year.

Taking as a point of departure the title of the Pope's Message for WCD 2017: "*Fear not, for I am with you*" (Is. 43:5): *Communicating Hope and Trust in Our Time*, the team organizing the initiative created a poster displaying a lighthouse, a virtual image of the world and a sailboat—a combination to convey the idea that if a person wants to move ahead at maximum potential (with unfurled sails), then he/she must advance in the light, with a gaze fixed on the contemporary situation, which is characterized by interconnected relationships and today's new technologies.

[www.settimanadellacomunicazione.it](http://www.settimanadellacomunicazione.it)

## WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF *POPULORUM PROGRESSIO*



26 March 1967 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, which invites people everywhere to break the chains of a perverse cycle in which the rich become richer and the poor become poorer.

Half a century later, this papal pronouncement is still extremely relevant. Expanding Catholic social justice work to worldwide dimensions, the document can be considered a declaration of the Church's mission in the age of globalization. If the Church is to be faithful to Gospel, then she cannot neglect her service to human beings, whose integral development is the new name for peace.

The wisdom contained in the teachings of *Populorum Progressio* still guides the thoughts and activities of all those who want to build a civilization of *plenary humanism*. This humanism must be lived and witnessed to, formulated and transmitted, by means of a process of education centered on the encyclical's plea to search for solidarity in a world marked by countless differences through heterogeneous visions of good, characterized by the peaceful cohabitation of different faiths and moral outlooks.

### PRESENTATION OF THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR CULTURE'S "WOMEN'S CONSULTATION GROUP"



The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture has set up a Women's Consultation Group within the dicastery so as to offer society the unique contribution of women. Thirty-six women are part of the new team, including Iranian theologian Shahrazad Houshmand, who said that this was a revolu-

tionary step because never before has the Vatican had a group of this type.

She also made it clear that the group is not *feminist* because it would not be right to eliminate the differences between men and women. Indeed the aim of the new group, she specified, is to establish as quickly as possible channels of dialogue with their male colleagues and priests in order to learn from each other.

Consuelo Corradi, the coordinator of the new Group, underscored that this initiative does not intend to offer ideological input but instead to call attention to the concrete reality of women. The diversity in terms of vocation and career, she continued, will offer the Church the chance to better encourage Catholics throughout the world by means of a single view of women.

### CREATIVITY FESTIVAL FOR THE CHURCH



What will the Church be like twenty years from now? This fascinating question launched the first *International Festival of Creativity in Pastoral Management*, promoted by the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome. The event, which was held from 23-25 March at the headquarters of the University, in partnership with Villanova University (Pennsylvania, USA) and the educational achievement of *Creativ*, involved women and men, lay and consecrated, who at the request of Pope Francis are working for the renewal of the Church. The goals of this unprecedented encounter were to pinpoint lines of action, priorities and strategies on the diocesan and parish levels, as well as on the policy level of institutions representing the entire world.

The Festival, made up of conferences, workshops and interactive lessons, could be followed through its website ([www.festivalpastoralecreativa.com](http://www.festivalpastoralecreativa.com)) and its Pastoral Management APP, set up to disseminate all the initiatives connected to the event.



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**WINDOW ON THE WORLD**  
**ST. EGIDIO COMMUNITY AWARDED**  
**DOSSETTI PRIZE**



The St. Egidio Community was awarded the *Giuseppe Dossetti Peace Prize* at the IX edition of this event for its project *Humanitarian Corridors*. One of the motivations listed for bestowal of the award was the community's efforts to combat human trafficking and save war refugees in a way that is safe and sound for the individual and everyone else.

Completely self-funded, *Humanitarian Corridors* is a pilot project being carried out in Italy by the St. Egidio Community, with the collaboration of the Federation of Evangelical Churches and the Waldensian and Methodist Churches. The project, which springs from the desire to break the culture of helplessness that has been created by the images of countless deaths in the Mediterranean, can serve as a model for other European countries. Hospitality and integration of the refugees are guaranteed thanks to a support network that has sprung up, accompanied by the generosity of not only associations and parishes but also many families and individual citizens.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS:**  
**OVERCOMING PREJUDICES**



Health Programs  
Special Olympics is the world's largest public health organization for people with intellectual disabilities.

To increase public awareness and overcome prejudices: this was the goal of the Special Olympics, World Winter Games that were played in Austria from 14-25 March. This year,

more than 2700 athletes from 107 countries competed in the international event. The Games turned the spotlight on policies being implemented throughout the world

for the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities into society. The purpose of this was to raise public awareness and tear down every form of prejudice and marginalization.

**CHILD BRIDES**



There are still far too many child brides throughout the world: about 15 million girls who marry (or better, are forced to marry) while still under the age of 18. The exact number is not known because many of these marriages are not registered, given the fact that more and more countries have adopted laws restricting the marriage of minors. Once married, the girls have to leave school and many get pregnant very quickly, risking not only their own lives but the lives of their unborn children.

Thanks to the work of various coalitions of non-governmental organizations and associations, as for example *Girls not Brides* (a part of the NGO *Terre des Hommes*, which defends the rights of children), more and more institutions and also public opinion are accusing the phenomenon of marriages involving children as a violation of human rights.

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**WINDOW ON COMMUNICATION**

**THE INTERNET: MINORS AND ADULTS**  
**ALWAYS MORE CONNECTED**



In preparation for **Safer Internet Day**, the annual day promoting the safe and responsible use of digital technologies, Ipsos (a global market research and consulting firm) released the results of its survey on behalf of the *Save the Children* organization on the subject: *Consensus in the digital environment: perception and awareness among teens and adults*.

The purpose of the survey was to explore the subject of consensus on the Internet, understood as the ability to exercise a free and informed choice in its regard.

Today, both adults and children live in a highly social context, with an average of more than 5 online profiles per person. Both youth and adults are also increasingly connected via smartphones (95% of adults and 97% of young people have one), but they are almost completely unaware of the consequences of their activities online. Neither adults nor young people are very interested in the history of their online profiles or in maintaining them. Instead, they seem to focus exclusively on the importance of being present “here and now.”

According to *Save the Children*: “The results of the Ipsos survey reveal that adults and young people share the same knowledge, the same levels of awareness of the consequences of their behavior online and often the very same behavior. This is worrying if we stop to think that it should be the adults who provide guidance for youth in our complex and continually evolving world and in the world of digital technology in particular.”

#### **OMNIS TERRA IS BACK ONLINE**



*Omnis Terra*, a magazine of culture, mission and news analysis published by the International Secretariats of the Pontifical Mission Societies, is back online. The first issue of the new edition of the magazine, which has abandoned its paper version in 5 languages, is now available in a multilingual version online at <http://omnisterra.fides.org> or else from the homepage of Fides News Agency ([www.fides.org](http://www.fides.org)), whose editorial staff takes care of the periodical's publication.

The magazine says its purpose today is “to make known the riches of the Christian experience and the theological, spiritual, missionary and pastoral reflections of particular Churches and of their study and research centers scattered around the world.”

The new edition of the magazine is being offered to web navigators on an experimental basis. Three issues are due to be posted in 2017.

#### **VATICAN WORKSHOP ON TWITTER DIPLOMACY**



“Wherever human beings are, the Church is there too. This is why the Pope uses Twitter and Instagram.” With these words, Bishop Lucio Adrian Ruiz, Secretary of the Holy See’s Secretariat for Communications, introduced a workshop organized by the Vatican on *Twitter Diplomacy at the Holy See*. The event, which was promoted by the British Embassy to the Holy See in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for Communications, brought together diplomats and personalities who work with digital communications, especially Twitter, in the Vatican and in the Church.

During the meeting, the participants shared their experiences with regard to how the way of communicating has changed, including on the institutional level, after social networks exploded on the scene.

In expressing their opinions, the participants emphasized the positive role Pope Francis is offering on a daily basis through his *@Pontifex* account, which is followed by more than 32 million people in 9 languages. The common agreement was that the Pope is a leader in the social media because what he has to say on important subjects touches the minds and hearts of people, believers and non-believers alike.



*"I am the resurrection  
and the life.  
The ones who believe  
in me will live,  
even though they die.*

John 11:25

## **DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL**

- Sr. M. Fedele (Vittoria) Milani, age 101 - 22.01.2017 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Nilia (Carmela) Miccio, age anni - 24.01.2017 - Albano TM, Italy
- Sr. Eugenia (Giovannina) Grasso, age 99 - 27.01.2017 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Veronica (Rose) Rizzitano, age 86 - 29.01.2017 - Boston. USA
- Sr. Maria Coren, age 86 - 31.01.2017 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. Lidia (Eunice) Ribeiro De Campos, age 90 - 31.01.2017 - São Paulo, Brazil
- Sr. Regina Palliparambil, age 79 - 26.02.2017 - Mumbai, India
- Sr. M. Gemma (Lina Maria) Masuzzo, age 91 - 26.01.2017 - Albano GA, Italy
- Sr. Lidia Capuzzo, age 86 - 02.03.2017 - Albano GA, Italy
- Sr. Ancilla (Leonida) Alves da Anunciação, age 88 - 04.03.2017 - Curitiba, Brazil
- Sr. M. Alba (Maria) Franchini, age 84 - 10.03.2017 - Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Antoinette (Lena) Fantino, age 93 - 26.03.2017 - Boston, USA

## **PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS**

- Sr. Aimée Musenga Zango (Father, Oscar), of the Kinshasa community, Congo
- Sr. Shirley Chong (Father, Vincent Shun How), of the Generalate community, Rome, Italy
- Sr. Daniela Tripodi (Mother, Natalizia), at home, Rosali RC, Italy
- Sr. Maria Grace Dateno (Mother, Elizabeth and Father, William), of the Boston community, USA
- Sr. Maria Lindomar (Mother, Severina Lucia), of the São Paulo RA community, Brazil
- Sr. Teresa Woo (Father, Hwan Gue Antonio), of the Antananarive community, Madagascar
- Sr. Laura Fidelis Nolin (Mother, Joanne), of the Alexandria community, USA

## **PAULINE FAMILY**

- Br. Pablo Uriarte Lafuente, ssp, age 96 - 20.01.2017 – Santiago, Chile
- Sr. M. Modesta Santina Grotto, pdm, age 92 - 23.01.2017 - Sanfrè, Italy
- Sr. Federica Anna Maria Carli, sjbp, age 99 - 01.02.2017 - Albano, Italy
- Sr. M. Olivia Elena Piva, pdm, age 86 - 09.02.2017 - Sanfrè, Italy
- Yves-Jean-Leon Zelo Kaziala, ssp novice, age 23 - 20.02.2017 - Kinshasa, Congo
- Sr. M. Agata Sueko Furukawa, pdm, age 72 - 22.02.2017 - Hinodegaoaka, Japan
- Sr. Rosa Maria Herminia Gomes, sjbp, age 77 - 28.02.2017 - São Paulo, Brazil
- Fr. Jesus José Alvarez Garcia, ssp, age 86 - 10.03.2017 - Madrid, Spain
- Sr. M. Lucia Edita Rosales, pdm, age 73 - 14.03.2017 - Antipolo, Philippines
- Sr. M. Veritas Maria Rina Montecchio, pdm, age 89 - 29.03.2017 - Fresno, USA