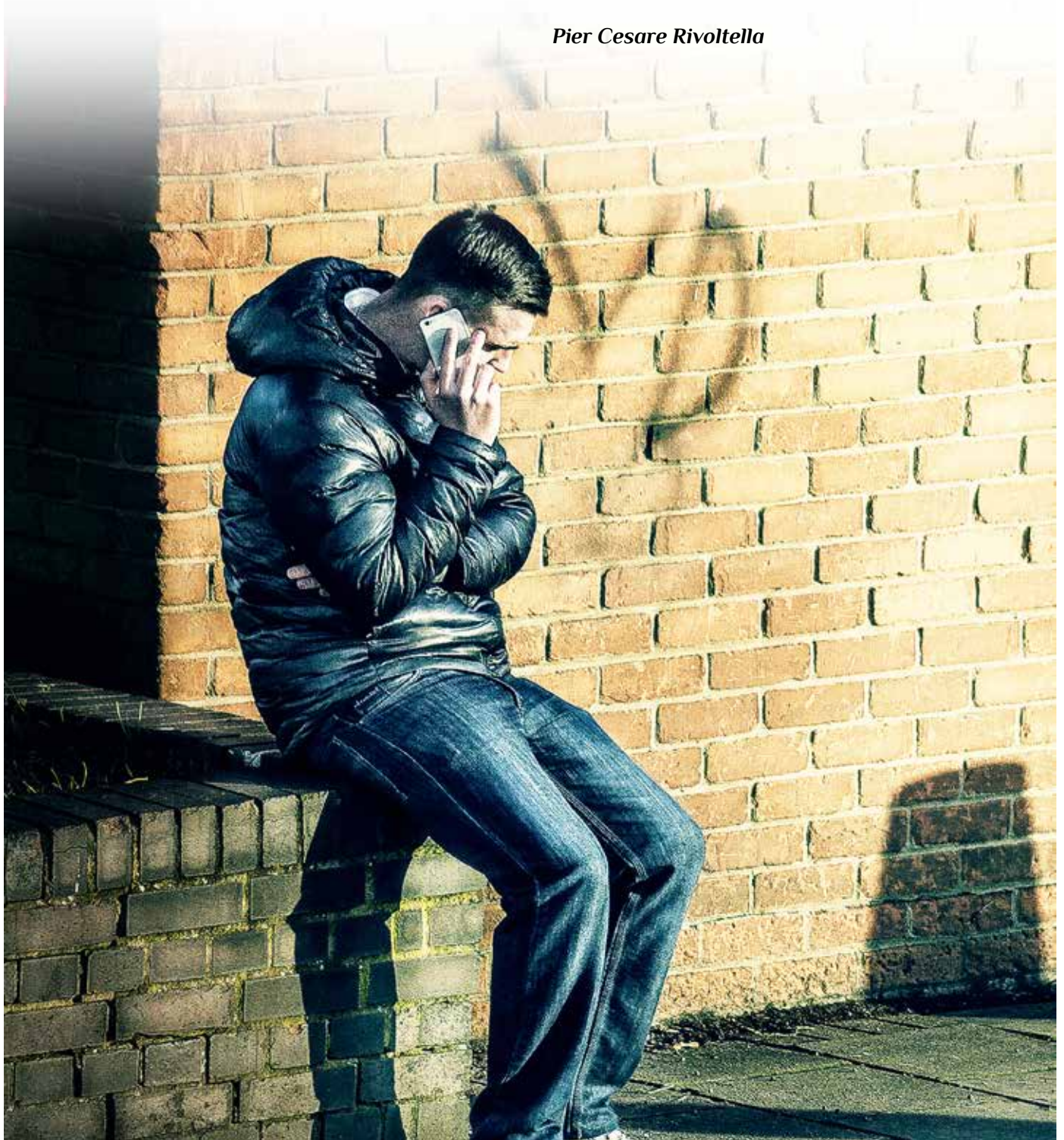


*The digital media require
the exercise of virtue:
they require us to make the effort
to reflect and work on ourselves.*

Pier Cesare Rivoltella



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CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

"YOUTH: THE WINDOW THROUGH WHICH THE FUTURE ENTERS THE WORLD" (Pope Francis)



Dearest Sisters,

I am sure we already know that for the first time the Pope will convene a so-called "Youth Synod." Scheduled for October 2018, it will lead the bishops to discuss the subject: "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment."¹ This could be a wonderful opportunity for us to become more familiar with the *planet of young people* and listen with affection and empathy to their variegated and pluriform world.

Young people are entrenched in the heart of the Pope and the Church, and they are certainly deeply rooted in the heart of our Congregation. The new generations breathe the air of today's world and can favor among everyone, including us, journeys that better correspond to the challenges we face. They can offer us a fresh look at things, enthusiasm and original ideas. They can incite us to pursue novel paths that might be risky, albeit in a positive way.

Making the most of the contributions of young people can help us look ahead, abandon our certitudes, move toward the future, and keep the eyes and ears of our heart alert to grasp the passage of the Lord in history and welcome his innovations, his unpredictability and the new situations that, through the creativity of the Spirit, he continues to reveal to us.

Pope Francis cites the Rule of St. Benedict, which "urged the abbots to consult even the young before any important decision, because the Lord often reveals to the young-

er what is best" (*Letter of Pope Francis to Young People*).

This special attention to youth offers our communities the chance to favor the growth of a "vocational culture" that welcomes, safeguards and open-heartedly transmits the values of the religious vocation and also promotes fruitful relationships between generations.

Young people are the future of evangelization in the Church: they carry in their hearts her yearnings, dreams and projects.... May the Spirit of communion help us to promote a creative dialogue between the generations and diverse cultures that commingle in many of our houses. May he help us favor communitarian experiences characterized by broad horizons and the breath of universality. And may he help us grow in our ability to listen to our differences. We have among us younger sisters who are launching out ardently on the Pauline life; others who bear the burden of communitarian and apostolic responsibilities; still others who embody a life of sacrifices made so that the Word of God could "sprout wings" and race across the world.... This diversity of duties and presences is our greatest wealth.

With deep emotion, I often leaf through an imaginary photo album containing the most beautiful pictures of our communities: joyous and radiant faces of our young sisters from so many different ethnic backgrounds; faces of sisters marked at times by weariness, old age and sickness—a true polyphony of voices; a brightly-colored mosaic that reveals the beautiful, universal face of the Church. And I reflect once again on what Fr. Alberione said during the epoch in which I was making my vocational discernment:

*Those who are intelligent, who have mental abilities and will power,
those who have bountiful hearts, a spirit of sacrifice and a yearning to become holy,
those fired by a burning thirst for souls,
let them come with confidence.
They can consume themselves in the apostolate of the editions and will see that the path ahead of them grows always longer, broader and more beautiful.*

May the Lord enable all of us, young and old, to travel this path together to the very end—a spacious and beautiful path whose destination is the heart of God.

Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

¹ To learn more about the Synod and follow its preparations, consult the website: youth.synod2018.va, which provides information about it in various languages.

ARGENTINA

EVERYDAY THINGS IN BRAILLE



Argentina's Center for the Blind has printed a Braille edition of the Pauline publication *Everyday Things* by Maria Rosa Jacobo, fsp. The simple text offers messages accessible to everyone. What is new about the initiative is the fact that this is the first time in this country that a Catholic book has been printed in Braille, a method of reading that resolves that particular problem of communication for the visually disabled. The publication is an important step forward for the Pauline apostolate because it gives many more people the opportunity to meet God through his Word. Addressing herself to her readers, the author says: "Reading this book, you will discover that the contents have not been arranged in any particular order.... My purpose is to help you discover God in everyday things."

BOLIVIA

WE WERE BORN OF THE WORD



Spurred on by this vital aspect of our charism, the FSPs of Bolivia recently held a Bible course for the catechists of St. Anthony Parish on the outskirts of La Paz.

A very large number of catechists, both young and old, participated in the event, all eager to get to know the Word of God in greater depth so as to then transmit it to the faithful through their pastoral service. The course concluded with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Bishop Jorge Saldías, Auxiliary Bishop of La Paz, who gave each participant a certificate of attendance.

Our sisters of La Paz have continued their commitment to spreading the Word of God by organizing a systematic course on the theme: *The People of the Bible Recount Their Beginnings*. Each month the participants gather together to travel the "paths" of the Bible.

CONGO

BIBLE DAY



"From here I want to enlighten...." These words of the Divine Master to Fr. Alberione, reinforced by the invitation of Pope Francis to celebrate a special day dedicated to the Scriptures, inspired our sisters of the Congo to organize meetings in several Kinshasa parishes so as to help people read the Word of God and teach them how to interiorize it through the *Lectio Divina*.

Each encounter was preceded by a procession and the enthronement of the Bible, accompanied by songs of joy traditional to the African culture.

The pastors and animators of these encounters are now encouraging families to pray the *Lectio Divina* frequently.

We accompany their work of evangelization with our prayers, confident that the Holy Spirit will continue to transform and sanctify all the participants in this initiative.

KOREA

WOMAN ASSOCIATED TO PRIESTLY ZEAL NOW AVAILABLE IN KOREAN



The Daughters of St. Paul of Korea have translated Fr. Alberione’s book, *Woman Associated to Priestly Zeal* into Korean. The publication is a testimony to our sisters’ love for Primo Maestro’s texts and their desire to make his editions available to the members of their province. Our Founder himself underscored the importance of this particular book when he said: “You too came into the world to preach the truth... Even before you made your profession, I had already outlined what you are called to do in the book *Woman Associated to Priestly Zeal*, that is to say: you are to help priests spread the Word...” (J. Alberione, *Explanation of the Constitutions*, p. 262 and p. 25).

ITALY

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL SUPERIORS



The FSP Italian Province recently held its annual assembly of local superiors on the theme: *The Community: A Place in which To Share the Word and Live in Mutual Love*. The encounter gave the participants a chance to reflect on different aspects of FSP communitarian and apostolic life, discuss a number of positive and negative situations, and update the Province’s programming.

Guest speaker Fr. Bruno Secondin, o. carm. gave a very interesting talk entitled: *Authority at the Service of Evangelical Communion, Based on the Experience of Paul and Barnabas* (Acts 11:23). In his confer-

ence, he offered a number of suggestions to incite our communities to grow in communion and a sisterly spirit, such as:

- to cultivate the quality of our Christian identity;
- to show appreciation for new talents;
- to consolidate the community by improving the quality of our daily life;
- to support initiatives designed to reach “the peripheries”;
- to insist that the members of each community strive to experience the power of “living together.”

At the end of the encounter, the Assembly met with the Provincial Government to discuss problems and emerging situations and discern together how to respond to them in ways that meet the needs of today.

GHANA

CONTRIBUTING TO THE FORMATION OF FUTURE PRIESTS



From Kumasi, the second-largest city of Ghana, known as *the Garden City* thanks to the numerous species of flowers and plants in the surrounding area, the members of our new FSP foundation there write: “We visited St. Gregory Major Seminary to hold a book display and today we went back to give all the seminarians the chance to choose the books they need. It was a wonderful encounter! The rector of the Seminary deeply appreciated our presence and was very pleased with the display. We too were delighted to reach so many seminarians through our apostolate because we know that we are helping to form future priests. Ghana really needs the Pauline presence and we thank the Lord that now that we are here we will be able to reach many people, despite the fact that our community is still very tiny.”

We assure our sisters of a remembrance of them in our prayers and ask the Lord that the small seed of the Pauline presence he has sown in Ghana will sprout and grow larger than all the other plants in this wonderful “garden”!

INDIA

MUSIC AND DANCE IN EDUCATION



The FSP Audio Visual Department, in collaboration with a team of experts in the performing arts, organized two sessions for teachers on how to use the music media in education. Those who participated in the initiative said they felt rejuvenated by the music and dances, and asked that more encounters of this type be held since it gave them creative ideas for assemblies and other school events.

The FSP Mumbai community, both the sisters and their young women in formation, whole-heartedly supported these sessions. They set up a display of appropriate books and AV materials outside the assembly hall, informed the participants that we had a Pauline book center on the premises, and also presented our Pauline E-books and E-music.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 2017



Daughters of St. Paul from various parts of the world traveled to Germany to participate in the *Frankfurter Buchmesse* (the world's most important Book Fair), which took place from 10-15 October 2017. Almost 8,000 publishers from 100 different countries, as well as translators, writers, printers and mass-media experts took part in this huge international event, which was enriched by a program offering dozens of activities.

The Fair's “guest of honor” this year was France, whose president, Emmanuel Macron, launched the proceedings together with Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany.

The Frankfurt Book Fair is one of the most intensive moments in the publishing world for exchanging rights and many publishers have expressed an interest in our Pauline products. The Fair is a witness to the incredible evolution that has taken place in the world of publishing ever since Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press and moveable type back in the 1400's.

In recent years, the *Frankfurter Buchmesse* has dedicated more and more space to multimedia and (beginning in 2016) to virtual media.

TAIWAN

GOLDEN MELODY AWARDS



At the 28th Golden Melody Awards, a contest of traditional music and culture, the Best Religious Album Prize was awarded to the CD, *God of the Mountain*, produced by the FSPs of our East Asia Delegation. The CD is a collection of instrumental music (flute, guitar, piano and drums) combined with recitations, chants, hymns and prayers of the Aboriginal Taiwanese Church.

The initiative demonstrates the need to blend traditional and modern music and celebrates the beauty of the Taiwanese aboriginal language, Catholic culture and music.

This is the third time that a Pauline product has received a nomination in this category, but the first time that it has won the prize.

Our hearty congratulations to our East Asia Delegation.



on the theme of reconciliation were aired by the Vicariate's broadcasting station, *Echoes of Caguán*. The hour-long programs helped to reinforce the proposal of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, which is inviting all the faithful to reflect more deeply on the theme of forgiveness and put it into practice. The transmissions gave the missionary team a golden opportunity to broaden its range of activity by extending it to the many people living in rural areas.

COLOMBIA

MISSION IN SAN VICENTE DE CAGUÁN PARISH

To celebrate the Centenary of Foundation of the Pauline Cooperators Association, the Daughters of St. Paul of the Colombia-Ecuador Province joined forces with an Annunciationist and several Pauline Cooperators to carry out a mission in San Vicente del Caguán Parish on the feast of its patroness, Our Lady of Mercy. During the mission, 5 radio programs that the FSPs had prepared

ITALY

2ND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR SSP PUBLISHERS



The Second International Seminar for Pauline Publishers was held at Ariccia (Rome), Italy from 16-21 October 2017. About 60 members of the SSP from various parts of the world took part in the encounter, including all the Institute's General Directors and Publishing Directors. To enrich the event and reflect on the Pauline mission in depth, several members of other Institutes of the Pauline Family with links to the publishing sphere were also invited to participate in it.

Almost thirty years have gone by since the first Seminar was held in 1988 and in this time the world has undergone many

radical changes that offer the Pauline apostolate ever-new challenges.

Fr. Valdir José De Castro, Superior General of the SSP, underscored this in his opening address. In these years, he said, the Institute has taken many steps forward but some fundamental questions remain to be answered, such as: "Who is the Pauline publisher in a society in perennial transformation, primarily through the emergence of today's new digital technologies? How does the Pauline publishing enterprise compare to other publishing houses, both religious and secular, in a situation that is always more complex, plural and dynamic? Who are we striving to reach? How can we accomplish this goal? How are we organizing ourselves to carry out our mission?" We must always keep in mind, Fr. Valdir continued, that "the world may change, but the challenge for us continues to be that of giving Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life (dogma, morality and worship) to people today through all the languages of communication as little by little these emerge."

The conferences and activities on the Seminar's agenda were aimed at answering these questions and pinpointing new challenges confronting the Pauline mission in today's ever-changing context.

“HOLY” FOR THE GOSPEL

BY ANTONY MARY JESUMANI, FSP



The thesis of Sr. Antony Mary Jesumani, submitted as a requirement for a License in Biblical Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (popularly known as the “Angelicum”), Rome, Italy examines the concept of holiness, with particular reference to the pericope found in St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans 1:1-7.

The author develops her theme in three chapters. In the first, she examines the term “holiness” as used in the Old Testament, where God invites his chosen people to strive for this goal, saying: “Be holy, because I am holy,” and then proceeds to establish a covenant with them (cf. Lv. 11:45; Ex. 19).

In the second chapter, she turns to the New Testament, particularly the Pauline Letters. Here the term holiness is used in relation to Christ, the salvation of all believers and their model of holiness. Paul was chosen by God and set apart for the Gospel, which urged him to travel the world, sharing the holiness of Christ with everyone he met.

The third chapter is an exegesis of Romans 1:1-7, in which Paul underscores God’s gratuitous and efficacious initiative to save the world through the work of “the Spirit of holiness” and the Apostle’s role in this initiative.

The author concludes her thesis by saying that holiness is not a solitary pursuit; it also has a missionary dimension because it is concerned with the salvation of all people.

ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

BY BERNADETTE NAKAGGWA LUTAAYA, FSP



In this Project, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Diploma in the Sciences of Human Development from Tangaza University, Nairobi, Kenya, the author focuses her attention on early childhood creative learning in the slums. She chose to examine this subject in view of the mission of the Daughters of St. Paul, who are called to evangelize and foster the development of all people, in all situations, especially the most needy.

The Project is divided into five chapters:

1. Background of the problem, strategies, roles, beneficiaries, and factors affecting early childhood creative learning in slums
2. A review of the literature pertaining to creative learning
3. Data analysis
4. Theological reflection on the subject
5. Hopes and plans for action.

The author concludes her dissertation with practical suggestions for implementing a publishing program in the form of a series of books and posters for children aimed at giving especially those in deprived areas an opportunity to achieve their human potentials through imagination and invention, with the collaboration of their teachers and parents. She feels that a creative learning program such as this is necessary because early childhood is a time of life in which a child’s body and mind are being molded, and consequently it is a stage to be managed carefully.

THE PAULINE SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

BY CECILIA AMARACHI OKWOR, FSP



In this dissertation, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Diploma in Spirituality from Tangaza University, Nairobi, Kenya, Sr. Cecilia underscores the importance of integrating the new means of communication with the Pauline spirituality. She develops this theme in three chapters.

In Chapter One, she discusses the Pauline spirituality and the modern social media (in particular Facebook, Skype and WhatsApp) and then goes on to examine the impact of social media in Africa today, the challenges encountered in using these media, and the Church’s attitude toward them.

In Chapter Two, she discusses the FSPs’ use of social media in Africa, using a questionnaire to collect quantitative data from them. She then compiles her findings as to how the sisters are integrating the Pauline spirituality with social media so as to carry out an effective evangelization of the African people.

In Chapter Three she presents the Church’s teaching on social media usage to cast light on the Pauline mission, since the two go hand in hand.

The author concludes by saying that the new media can serve the FSPs as “Portable Pulpits” through which the Gospel can be disseminated especially to young people, and thus these technologies should be included in our Institute’s formation curriculums.

JERUSALEM: LOSS AND RECOVERY OF THE WORD...

After having moved through the streets of Nazareth in fresh, verdant Galilee, and from there journeyed south to Ain Karem and Bethlehem in dusty, sun-baked Judea, the travels of the Word come to a halt in Jerusalem (the Hebrew word *Yerûšāla'im* means “city of peace” and its Arabic counterpart, *al-Quds*, means “holy city”).

The best view of the city from both the geographical and spiritual standpoints is from the Mount of Olives, separated from Jerusalem by the Kidron Valley. The Kidron, which gives its name to the valley, is a Palestinian wadi that starts north of Jerusalem and ends at the Dead Sea. Reference to this valley is found only in the Gospel of John: “Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley (the Hebrew word *Qidrôn*, from the verb *qādar*, means “murky,” “dark”) to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered” (Jn. 18:1). Thus between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives lies a dark valley that has to be crossed....

Who knows how many times Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem!

Luke states with great exactness: “Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover” (Lk. 2:41). As pilgrims, they had the moving experience of entering the Holy City with the name of God on their lips: “At last our feet are standing at your gates, Jerusalem! To it the tribes go up, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord” (Ps. 122: 2-4). And yet it is precisely in Jerusalem that the Word of God becomes incomprehensible, mysterious, cut-



ting, ambiguous and obscure. That young Israelite woman, who preserved in her heart all the memories of an existence inhabited by Mystery, was literally thrown into the dark valley of anguish. After a day’s journey in the caravan going back to Galilee, the joy of celebrating the Passover was transformed into an agonizing search: “Where is Jesus?!” He was not with other members of the family or with friends. Absence, search, crisis: an existential split. Things had changed: traditions no longer held; Jesus was now older and had freely decided to remain in Jerusalem, without explaining why. For him, the time had come to leave his family behind and confront the teachers of the Torah. For Mary and Joseph, instead, the time had come to venture beyond the known. They hastened back to Jerusalem, their hearts torn and confused: “Where is he?”

The boy’s reply, when they finally tracked him down, was not reassuring: “Why were you looking for me?”

Reality had been altered: Jesus had chosen to walk alone in the footsteps of the God of Israel; to freely and autonomously compare his ideas with the learned men of the Temple. Mary and Joseph fell apart under the pressure of loss, anguish and anxiety. They had lost Jesus and now had recovered him safe and sound. But something had changed: reality had taken on a completely new meaning, even if everything appeared to be the same as before.

The reunited family returned to Nazareth but this time, like the Magi, they followed another route—one that was more human-spiritual than geographical: the route of God.

Francesca Pratillo, fsp



HER "YES" ACCOMPANIES ME



This accompaniment began in 1948, when I arrived in Rome as a young aspirant to the Congregation and found Prima Maestra waiting to welcome me with a big hug and smile. I lived in our huge Via Antonino Pio community during the years

in which Prima Maestra was always among us: in chapel, for meals, during kitchen clean-up...after which we all would scatter to various parts of the house to carry out the activities assigned to us (household duties, work in the garden, typography, bindery, classes and study for the students, etc.). As for Prima Maestra, with hands humbly clasped in front of her, she would say with a smile, "Now I have to carry out the role of Superior General." With those simple words, she would go to her office and spend her day talking with and listening to the sisters who knocked on her door for many different needs, both big and small. She would also dedicate time to answering letters from our overseas communities, which gave broad scope her missionary heart.

I lived for many years in the same community as Prima Maestra Thecla. It was impossible to remain unaware of her presence, which was characterized by goodness, dignified behavior, hard work and a focus on essentials. She irradiated faith, trust and serenity of life. It was not difficult to run into her here and there, greet her and walk alongside her without any bashfulness or awe. Prima Maestra was one of us and not just because of the way she dressed! To kneel beside her in chapel and to share recreations with her was something perfectly normal—an everyday affair. This woman, whom today we still feel close to us, was humble and poor. It is to her that I owe my spirituality, cultural development and mission.

I remember how she said a firm *no* to my grandfather, who came to Rome for my vocation. He was 90 years old at the time and he said he wanted to take me home with him, assuring Prima Maestra that he would then bring me back to Rome. But she looked him in the eye and said a firm *no*, perhaps doubting that he would really let me return.

I remember the many wise things she said in her talks to the Rome community. These

conferences took place once a week in our big community room, which was adorned with a huge banner bearing the words "One in heart and soul." What Prima Maestra had to say to us was always clear and focused on essentials. A woman who was truly "associated to priestly zeal," she was a great example to us of prayer and union with God. She often would say: "By myself I can do nothing, but with God I can do all things," paraphrasing in a simple and accessible way the words of St. Paul to the Philippians: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

Those of us who lived with Prima Maestra Thecla still remember with pleasure all the things she said and did. We can still picture her recollected in prayer or dedicating all her energies to the apostolate and to her Daughters. She held nothing back for herself. I remember her clear and profound gaze, her kind manner, her voice, her smile, the way she held herself and walked, her attention to others, her spiritual recollection, her apostolic zeal, her way of looking at things "from the rooftop down," her quick manner of acting, her serenity and obedience. She would say: "Even though we might not always live in joy, we can always live in peace."

To list in detail all my small encounters with Prima Maestra Thecla over the years would be to risk reducing them to banality, so I will mention only three of these occasions that stand out in a special way in my mind: her presence at my religious vestition on 25 January 1950; her figure kneeling at my side when I made my profession on 19 March 1953, and the last smile she gave me before her death on 5 February 1964. That smile, which I perceived as a maternal blessing, is always with me. Even today I feel Maestra Thecla as a vibrant presence in my life and I thank her with all my heart for this. I have made a long Pauline journey with her at my side, offering me guidance and support through her words and example. She once said: "I wish I had a thousand lives to dedicate to the Gospel." By the grace of God I am a tiny part of the Pauline missionary enterprise and I am continually amazed by its breadth and scope. At this stage of my life, I am more than ever convinced that only a thin veil separates earth from heaven and for this I want to exclaim: "All praise to you, Blessed Trinity, for giving us Maestra Thecla!" (cf. *Centenary Hymn*)

Myriam Nieddu, fsp

52 YEARS IN PAKISTAN



Right after I made my perpetual profession in 1962, I was assigned to the community of Ravenna, Italy. It was a small community made up of four sisters. I worked in the book center and was happy there. One day I received a letter from Maestra Ignazia Balla, who was the Superior General at that time. She said that she and her council had decided to send me to Pakistan with several other sisters because it had been the great yearning of Prima Maestra Thecla to have the Daughters of St. Paul present in that huge Muslim metropolis. Our purpose there would be to take the Gospel of Christ to the people of Asia. In view of this transfer, Maestra Ignazia told me to go home to spend a week with my family and then come to Rome.

I followed her directives with great joy, very grateful that God had chosen me to be a missionary. When I got to Rome, I found two other sisters—Sr. Donata Bugnola and Sr. Docilia Pizarro—already there preparing for the mission to Pakistan. We remained in Rome for a long time, waiting for the visas we needed to enter the country. Obtaining this permission was not easy but we never lost hope.

In the interval before our visas arrived, Maestra Ignazia sent us to the Philippines. On 29 June 1965, two months after our arrival in Manila, Sr. Cleofe Zanoni, the FSP Provincial Superior in the Philippines, gave us the good news that the Pakistan Embassy had notified her that our visas were ready. We hastily prepared to leave for Karachi, where we opened our first house in a Muslim nation.

When we got to Karachi, we spent three months with the Sisters of the Cross while we looked for a suitable place for a book center. Thanks be to God, we finally found a good building located near the Cathedral in the oldest part of the city, and in June 1966 we opened our first book center in Pakistan. We had no shortage of apostolic initiatives: book center work, book displays in the schools and parishes, pastoral work for vocations.... In fact, several young women from Karachi entered the Congregation as a result of these vocation activities.

Two years later, our community expanded further when three other FSP missionaries from Italy joined us. Maestra Ignazia also came to visit us. She saw that even though we were a substantial group, our presence in Karachi was still very meager. So she asked us to open a second community in the country, this time in Lahore, where there were more Catholics and where the pastoral work of the Church was better organized. Today, the Daughters of St. Paul have 4 communities in Pakistan: in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan (a community that was opened only last year).



I carried out the Pauline mission in Pakistan for 52 years, alternating between Karachi and Lahore. I think that our apostolic work here faces more challenges [on the religious and political levels] than those facing the Pauline apostolate in other countries but we fulfill our mission joyfully. What is certain is that our Pakistani Catholics have a very strong faith, that they love the Bible deeply, and that they have a great capacity to bear the injustices that in this country are a part of daily life.

In May 2017, I was reassigned to Italy, where I hope to continue my missionary activities in a different way.

Elisabetta Riboni, fsp

DEVELOPING VIRTUE IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY



Virtue is a personal “device” that Michel Foucault would have included in what he called “technologies of the self.” But the concept of “device” should be understood according to the meaning attributed to it by this significant French philosopher. A device

is not a contraption, an instrument, an electronic gadget. In the present context, it refers to a collection of technologies, a strategy, a system of choices. In the case of virtue, the goal of mobilizing these technologies, this strategy, is in view of self-management.

Why can virtue, considered as a “self-management technology,” be useful with regard to the digital media, their diffusion in society and the behavior required by them? We can break down the answer to this question into the following parts:

First, the digital media require the exercise of virtue, that is to say: they require us to make the effort to reflect and work on ourselves. Use of the digital media does not come naturally to human beings; a person is not born with the ability to interact with them. Even though they guarantee us extraordinary opportunities (which can be summarized by saying that they give us the ability to expand our experience of the world and of others), the digital media also pose risks. And optimizing opportunities and limiting risks is the field in which virtue is exercised.

Second, virtue is a human device that can be exercised by any person whatsoever, regardless of his/her individual beliefs. In the Christian culture there are some virtues, like faith, that are on a different plane, but at least the cardinal virtues (those inherited from Aristotelian ethics) are very transversal. Examples of this are justice, temperance, prudence, fortitude—virtues which are the same for everyone. What do I mean by this? I mean that a believer and a person with a secular mentality can certainly agree on the need to distinguish between public and private space and the need to avoid publicizing

what should remain private. What is more, virtue is not a point of arrival but a path. No person is ever completely upright. Instead, he/she learns to become upright by acting uprightly. Virtue is not a state of being; it is a movement. It is something that must be attained over and over again. This means we must strive to work on ourselves—a task that will never be over and done with. It is not only children who must learn to be virtuous; adults too must commit themselves to this task.

A final point worth considering: to become virtuous within the digital context means working on ourselves. Today we would say that it is a problem of self-efficacy. This means that the problem of the digital media cannot be resolved through rules, prohibitions, or devices designed to filter or protect. It is resolved through education. And education consists in creating the conditions that will lead to the empowerment of the subject, that is, conditions that will develop the ability to control, manage and defend oneself. In the world of the ancient Greeks, this was the role of the Master. In the Christian culture, it



is the role of the spiritual director. In the era of the digital media, it is the role of the parent or teacher. In a society pervaded by the media, it is hard to find behavior in society that is not connected in some way to these roles. And therefore we must create conditions to ensure that one’s behavior is correct. This is the field of *media education*, understood as interventions designed to develop a person’s self-awareness and sense of responsibility. This involves inciting people to behave virtuously and supporting them in their efforts to do this. In this way, education interweaves with citizenship and rediscovers that ethics is at the heart of it.

Pier Cesare Rivoltella

Professor at the Catholic University of Milan, Italy

ITALY

A SUNDAY DEDICATED TO SACRED SCRIPTURE



Welcoming the invitation of Pope Francis to devote one Sunday of the current liturgical year to the Word of God in a special way, the Pauline Family and the St. Egidio Community of Italy joined forces to fulfill the Pope’s dream. The event they organized was celebrated on 24 September, the Sunday closest to 30 September, the liturgical Memorial of St. Jerome, the great Doctor and Father of the Church who translated the Scriptures into Latin (the *Vulgate* translation). The initiative was a concretization of the yearning the Pope had expressed in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*:

“It would be beneficial if every Christian community, on one Sunday of the liturgical year, could renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. It would be a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people.”

Celebration of the day was marked by initiatives aimed at renewing enthusiasm for getting to know Sacred Scripture by reading and reflecting on it more profoundly so as to allow it to guide one’s life. But in order to attain this goal, it is necessary to restore the Word of God to a central position in one’s life, alongside the Eucharist.

In 1960, Blessed James Alberione organized one of his many significant campaigns to disseminate the Word of God, saying: “Jesus Christ remains among Christians in two ways: in the Gospel and in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, he is our nourishment and strength. In the Gospel, he is our light and truth.”

ITALY

A MONTH DEDICATED TO THE WORD



A month dedicated to reading, relishing and rediscovering Sacred Scripture and searching for new ways to disseminate it: this was the initiative proposed by the Pauline Family of Albano, present in the diocese for more than 50 years. The project, which was carried out in collaboration with other groups in the area, was launched on

9 September with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration and the enthronement of the Word of God in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, headquarters of the Poor Clare Sisters of Albano. The month concluded in this same church on 14 October with a ceremony featuring the consignment of the Gospel to all the participants in the initiative and the commission to proclaim the Word to everyone.

The month was characterized by times of prayer and formation in different places. An important encounter was guided by noted biblical scholar Fabio Ciardi in the SSP Divine Master community, Ariccia. Another major event was a musical performance entitled *The Word in Song*, held in the Albano Cathedral.

The agenda also included a Eucharistic Celebration in Queen of Apostles Hospital and the gift of a Bible to each patient.

PHILIPPINES

THE PAULINE FAMILY CELEBRATES THE MONTH OF THE WORD



Throughout the month of September, the Pauline Family in the Philippines celebrated the *Month of the Word* by means of Liturgies, enthronements of the Bible, *Lectio divina*, animations on the Scriptures, Biblical stage plays, and other evangelization activities enriched by cultural songs and dances.

The missions were carried out on the country’s three major islands (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) by evangelization teams made up of members of the Pauline Congregations present in those areas.

In Metro Manila, the PF launched the “Month of the Word” with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Jose Aripio, Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Paul. Fr. Dominic Guzman, ssp, who delivered the homily, presented the figure of Blessed James Alberione and his love for the Bible, which he passed on to the whole Pauline Family.

In the Visayas region, 37 members of the Pauline Family conducted a 4-day Bible Mission in 8 parishes on Siquijor Island.

Our missionaries say that this experience has strengthened the bonds between the Institutes of the PF and its success has given everyone the enthusiasm to organize another communal missionary project in the near future.

WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

AFRICA: MEETING OF CONSECRATED WOMEN IN DAR ES SALAAM



“To Revitalize Our Solidarity for Deeper Evangelization in Today’s Complex Reality”: this was the theme of the 17th Plenary Assembly of the Association of Consecrated Women in Eastern and Central Africa (ACWECA) held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 26 August to 2 September.

The theme of the Assembly, said Sr. Priscar Matenga, president of the Association, was a call to the members of ACWECA to unite and strengthen their unity. “We are in a global village,” she affirmed, “and things are changing very fast. It is important for us as religious women to review our lives together and see things in the way Christ saw them” so as to enable the member Conferences to bear more fruit among the people they serve.

ITALY: MISSION FESTIVAL



The first edition of the Italy’s National Mission Festival, entitled *Mission Is Possible*, organized by the Conference of Italian Missionary Institutes (CIMI), the Italian Bishops Conference (CEI) through the Missio Foundation, and the diocese of Brescia, was held in Brescia from 12-15 October 2017. Thousands of people participated in this huge “public square event, the purpose of which was to relaunch in Italy the fascination of the mission *ad gentes*. The Festival featured four

days of conferences, concerts, exhibitions, street shows and moments of reflection in a festive climate.

One of the distinctive features of the Festival was the widespread hospitality offered by religious houses, oratories and families of the Brescia diocese to participants looking for lodgings during those days. Special guests at the event were Cardinals Tagle, Simoni and Filoni, Father Federico Lombardi, Alejandro Solalinde, Rosemary Nyirumbe, Blessing Okoedion and Gael Giraud.

Artistic director Gerolamo Fazzini, journalist and writer, presented the motives behind the singular initiative in this way: “It reveals how the mission experience also changes the missionary. Meeting other peoples and cultures in a spirit of gratuity enriches both the missionary and the community, and the person returns home richer. Obviously, mission involves disadvantages (although these are less than in the past) such as the effort needed to adapt, unfamiliarity with the language and being considered ‘strangers.’ But the story of those who take part in the mission experience can be fascinating because it changes the person for the better in terms of human and spiritual wealth.”

FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR



“Let us love not with words but with deeds.” This is the title and at the same time the invitation of the Message of Pope Francis for the First World Day of the Poor, to be celebrated on 19 November. Established by the Holy Father in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et misera*, at the end of

the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the new World Day precedes the Feast of Christ the King of the Universe, the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, because, as the Pope writes in his Message, “The kingship of Christ is most evident on Golgotha, when the Innocent One, nailed to the cross, poor, naked and stripped of everything, incarnates and reveals the fullness of God’s love.”

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

ASIA BIBI NOMINATED FOR THE SACHAROV PRIZE 2017



Asia Bibi, the Pakistani Christian woman condemned to death for blasphemy and imprisoned since 2009, has been nominated for the European Parliament's 2017 prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The prize is awarded to individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the fight for human rights across the globe, drawing attention to human rights violations.

Peter Van Dalen, a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Parliament, nominated Bibi for the prize, saying: "Asia Bibi's case is of symbolic importance for others who have suffered simply for expressing freedom of religion," he said.

"In her we see the situation of the whole Christian community," Kaleem Dean, a Pakistani analyst, told *Fides* news agency. "Her case is tragically indicative of the insecurity faced by all minorities when it comes to their fundamental human rights."

MOUNT ZION AWARD 2017



This year, the prestigious peace prize awarded by the Abbey of the Dormition of Mary on Mount Zion, located in Jerusalem, and by the Mount Zion Foundation in Lucerne, Switzerland, was bestowed on Israeli writer Amos Oz. Born in 1939 in Jerusalem, he is one of the most-translated Israeli writers and also a supporter of the "Two States Solution."

The creation of the Mount Zion Founda-

tion dates back to Catholic priest Wilhelm Salberg (1925-1996), who wanted to promote peaceful coexistence in the Holy Land, arguing that peace is born of the daily lives of people.

The award is given to persons or institutions that have contributed in a special way to cultural and interreligious dialogue between Christians, Jews and Muslims.

SABIRFEST 2017



The fourth edition of SabirFest was held in Catania, Messina and Reggio Calabria, southern Italy, from 5-8 October 2017. The event, which focuses attention on

the Mediterranean Sea, the countries surrounding it and their inhabitants, is a space for cultural growth and participation that is decisive in prefiguring new forms of Mediterranean citizenship in the face of old and new injustices by eliminating old and new exclusions.

The program of the 4-day event included musical and theatrical performances geared to every age group of the public, as well as conferences, workshops and times of dialogue and reflection. Participating in the initiative were journalists, professionals and intellectuals of various extractions, who helped to draw up the final draft of a "Manifesto for Mediterranean Citizenship." Everything served to help the people of the Mediterranean question themselves about violated rights and at the same time pay tribute to prophetic voices silenced by many different types of violence and abuse of power.

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATION

NEW WEB SITE FOR THE DICASTERY FOR THE LAITY



The Pontifical Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life now has an official website: www.laityfamilylife.va, which provides news about the Dicastery, updates on social happenings and videos. On the web site's home page, we read: "Like our Dicastery, this site has just been born and is evolving."

The new web site features the logo of the Dicastery, which represents the "hug" of the Church for all the laity and all the families of the world. On the image, lay people are supporting the Bernini colonnade, which embraces a group of families in a hug.

THEME OF WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2018



"The truth will set you free' (Jn. 8:32): Fake news and journalism for peace"—this will be the theme of World Communications Day 2018. The Vatican press release says that the theme chosen by Pope Francis to celebrate the day "relates to so-called 'fake news'—namely, baseless information that contributes to generating and nurturing a strong polarization of opinions." The announcement then goes on to say that "it involves an often misleading distortion of facts, with possible repercussions at the level of individual and collective behavior. With so many players in the world of social media, internet and politics beginning to face the phenomenon, the Church too wishes to offer a contribution by proposing a reflection on the causes, the logic and the consequences of disinformation in the media and it will try to help promote pro-

fessional journalism, which always seeks the truth and therefore a journalism of peace that promotes understanding between people."

The Pope's message for World Communications Day will be published on 24 January, the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron of journalists.

@PONTIFEX TOPS 40 MILLION FOLLOWERS



The papal Twitter accounts, in nine different languages (including Latin), have grown by over 9 million followers in the past 12 months—a significant figure that the Pope, like his predecessor, attributes to the presence of Christian witnesses on the "digital continent" and above all on social media.

According to a recent press release from the Vatican Secretariat for Communications, such an enormous interest in the papal tweets indicates that Christians, non-Christians, political leaders and ordinary people alike are all very interested in what the Holy Father has to say.

The accounts are a way for Pope Francis to personally connect with people around the world. In fact, the press release continues, "every day, through his tweets, Pope Francis makes himself available to men and women through social media, at times offering a spiritual thought, other times sharing with his followers a reflection on events of great significance for the international community."

Calendar of the General Government			
25 October - 3 November	Lyon, France	Visit for a specific purpose	Sr. Gabriella Santon
5-30 October	Casa S. Paolo, Generalate	International Encounter on the Charism	Sr. Clarice Wisniewski and SIF
6-13 November	Casa S. Paolo, Generalate	Spiritual Exercises	General Government
15-23 November	Lahore, Pakistan	Visit for a specific purpose	Sr. Shalimar Rubia Sr. Clarice Wisniewski



*"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. Rosalba Kohama, age 84 - 26.07.2017 - Hiratsuka - Japan
Sr. M. Rosanna Crescini, age 78 - 28.07.2017 - Rome DP - Italy
Sr. Gabriella M. Corbellotti, age 94 - 05.08.2017 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. Teresa Kuhn, age 88 - 09.08.2017 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sr. Angela M. Nota, age 97 - 12.08.2017 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. Letizia Boi, age 87 - 12.08.2013 - Albano TM - Italy
Sr. Mary Ignazia Chathanadeth, age 80 - 05.09.2017 - Mumbai, India
Sr. Maria Grazia Barini, age 90 - 05.10.2017 - Albano TM, Italy
Sr. M. Paola Kaibara, age 85 - 12.10.2017 - Hiratsuka - Japan
Sr. Maria de Lourdes Moreira Silva, age 70 - 15.10.2017 - Lisbon, Portugal

PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Sr. M. Isabel Da Silva Ponte Lira (Mother, Maria), of the Albano community, Italy
Sr. Bibiana Park (Mother, No Soon), of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Gloria Angelini (Mother, Maria Franca) – at home, Italy
Sr. Ana Maria Casayas (Mother, Emelita), of the Pasay RA community, Philippines
Sr. Anna Caiazza (Father, Luigi), of the Generalate community, Italy
Sr. Lourdes Ranara (Mother, Encarnacion), of the Naga community, Philippines
Sr. Mariela Pizarro (Father, Rafael), of the Concepcion community, Chile
Sr. M. Benedicta Yeol (Mother, Anastasia), of the Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Agnes Lee (Mother, Veronica), of the Pusan community, Korea
Sr. Rosa Teng (Mother, Isabella), of the Taipei community, Taiwan
Sr. M. Ilza Castro Martins (Mother, Hilda), of the São Paulo CR community, Brazil

PAULINE FAMILY

Sr. M. Daniela Irene Arismendi, pddm, age 73 - 26.08.2017 - Santiago de Cali, Colombia
Fr. Giuseppe Nicola Agius, ssp, age 90 - 30.08.2017 - Rome, Italy
Fr. José Anselmo Dias Goulart, ssp, age 89 - 31.08.2017 - São Paulo, Brazil
Sr. Irma Beatriz Da Rosa, sgbp, age 74 - 09.09.2017 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fr. Hitoshi Domenico Stefano Hyakumura, ssp, age 83 - 11.09.2017 - Tokyo, Japan
Sr. M. Armida Rosa Alfano, sgbp, age 86 - 16.09.2017 - Albano Laziale, Italy
Sr. M. Loretta Maran, pddm, age 68 - 03.10.2017 - Albano Laziale, Italy
Br. Carlo Alessio Mombelli, ssp, age 90 - 11.10.2017 - Alba, Italy