

*We are all carriers
of information,
and we are called to be cautious
in sharing content.*

Rita Marchetti



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LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND



Dearest Sisters,

I am resuming my dialogue with you while traveling the roads of Europe on my Fraternal Visits. Meeting you personally or virtually gives me the chance to give thanks to God for each one of you: for your commitment, your dreams, your hopes, your labors...that each day become a “sweet sacrifice” to the Lord—“a fragrant perfume” by means of which he continues to design his story of salvation in us and through us.

I rejoice to see how the unique vocational grace we received and the communion that unites us do not eliminate the wealth of our diversity, which should be contemplated in praise and gratitude, because it is the complementarity of gifts that forms our organic unity, that builds up the Body, that makes it possible for us to live in unity, not uniformity.

As I move from one community to another, I meditate on the words of 1 Co. 13:4-7. I want to be penetrated by the profound meaning of the qualities of *love* that Paul emphasizes and which Fr. Alberione, as I said in a previous letter, often pointed out to the Daughters of St. Paul, highlighting its communicative dimension: “Loved by God, we can establish in our turn relationships marked by love in virtue of this divine manifestation.”

In these days, my attention and prayers have been concentrated on the first quality of love mentioned by the Apostle: “Love is *patient*.”

The new official version of the Bible in Italian uses the term *magnanimous*, which is closer to the Greek word *makrothyme*. Love has a “macro soul”—a big, broad heart. It takes us out of ourselves, teaches us to look at the big things and to avoid getting lost in small ones (in “trifles,” as Prima Maestra would say) and to eliminate what is secondary, unnecessary...

Love is *patient*: it knows how to wait in faith and hope, because its gaze is fixed on something more important: a lofty and noble horizon, the things that really count, the good that is in each person, situation and reality.

The model of patient and magnanimous love is God, who is “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,” who sees everything and relates it to the infinite horizon of salvation:

You have mercy on all, because you can do all things; you overlook people’s sins so that they may repent. You love all things that exist, and detest none of the things you have made; for you would not have made something if you had hated it. How could anything remain, unless you willed it, or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? You spare all things, because they are yours, Lord and lover of souls (Wis. 11:23-26).

Patient love is necessarily humble and follows the difficult path of selflessness, of listening, of recognizing and accepting one’s personal limitations in order to accept the limitations of others and manifest compassion, of attentiveness to others and their times...

In his wisdom, Fr. Alberione used to say:

Charity: first of all in our thoughts, then in our feelings, words and actions. Let us be serviceable, big-hearted people who make themselves loved because they sympathize with others and are compassionate toward them. To preserve this unity requires humility. We are all-too-ready to consider the good in ourselves and inflate it, but there is some good in everyone.

Pope Francis often speaks about *patient love*, which is capable of carrying others and the unpleasant things of life—including trials—on its shoulders, because “a mystery of grace is hidden in everyone and everything.”

In his homily for the Feast of the Present-



tation of the Lord and World Day of Consecrated Life (2 Feb. 2021), the Pope insists on the need, in community life, “to support—that is, to bear on our shoulders—our brothers and sisters, including their weaknesses and failings....” He reminds us that “the Lord does not call us to be soloists (of whom there are many in the Church) but to be part of a choir, which at times is out of tune, but must always try to sing in unison.”

Patient love prevents us from “falling into the trap of complaining,” says Pope Francis, “from yielding to interior sadness and discouragement.” On the contrary, it generates hope, enables one to “look for the light shining in the darkness of history and of one’s own community.” It is able to listen, to dialogue, to give rise to “evangelical and humanizing relationships” (CD 2019, 45.1). It teaches us to acknowledge that we are wounded by the same wound as those who live next to us; it promotes trust in the other because the other is like me, *is me*; I take an interest in that person, that is, I carry him/her in my heart (*inter-esse* = to bring someone inside of me).

Patient and magnanimous love is God’s most profound epiphany—the experience that best gives us a glimpse of the future, here and now.

Sisters, let us allow ourselves to be “infected” by this revelation so as to move from

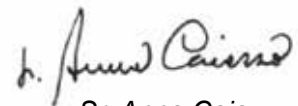
tolerating one another to *carrying one another*, that is: supporting one another lovingly on our daily journey, recognizing our personal poverty and accepting the poverty of the others, forgiving one another from the heart, de-dramatizing situations, fixing our gaze on what really counts, walking together (*synodality*) under the sign of communion, which today is the true and only prophecy of the consecrated life.

In this way, we will *open our communities to new life*. Together, let us seek what the Spirit is prompting in us and explore with committed, compassionate hearts new ways to reach the people of today “who do not know the Gospel” (cf. DC 2019, 51-52).

Dearest sisters, I am happy to compare ideas with you on this subject and I await, *with patient love*, the gift of your reflections and community sharing.

I entrust you to the Lord with solicitude and affection and I ask that the Word may dwell in you, motivate your lives and broaden the boundaries of our mission.

In communion of joy and hope,



Sr. Anna Caiazza
Superior General

Calendar of the General Government

Itinerary of the General Councilors

30 Aug. - 16 Sept.	Fraternal Visit to Spain	Sr. Anastasia Muindi – Sr. Shalimar Rubia
15-26 Sept.	Fraternal Visit to Great Britain	Sr. Donna Giaimo – Sr. Clarice Wisniewski
16 Oct. - 2 Nov.	Fraternal Visit to Central Europe	Sr. Micaela Pae – Sr. Clarice Wisniewski
16 Oct. - 1 Nov.	Fraternal Visit to Portugal	Sr. Bruna Fregni – Sr. Shalimar Rubia

Itinerary of Sr. Anna Caiazza, Superior General

26 Aug. – 2 Sep.	France (Visit for a Specific Purpose)	with Sr. Annamaria Gasser, Bursar General
4 - 10 Sep.	Bucharest, Romania	with Sr. Bruna Fregni, General Councilor
14 - 25 Sep.	Spain	
25 Sep. - 2 Oct.	Great Britain	
10 - 23 Oct.	Central Europe	
2 - 8 Nov.	Portugal	

The Fraternal Visit to the Italian Province will begin in the second half of November 2021. The Calendar of the Visit has not yet been established.

Due to the Fraternal Visits, the General Government’s council meetings are scheduled for 4 October and 8 November.

BOLIVIA

THE SEED FALLS IN WILLING HEARTS



With great commitment, the Daughters of St. Paul in La Paz organised vocation meetings virtually through Facebook and WhatsApp.

Young people from Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Argentina, Peru and Nicaragua, responded to the invitation.

The experience proved to be significant for those young people who feel restless, in search of their vocation and want to discover other forms of calling besides marriage. Today, in a society shaken by the pandemic, it may prove to be God's time for many of them.

Let us entrust these young people to Mary Queen of Apostles, so that they may accept the call, and have the strength to risk everything for Christ and his Gospel.

BOLIVIA

NEW PATHS FOR THE WORD



On 15 June, the anniversary of the foundation of the Daughters of St. Paul, the Paulines of Bolivia, in collaboration with the Paulines of Belo Horizonte in Brazil, launched an initiative on the Word of God.

A course on the theme: *Biblical Global Vision* was initiated through various media and social networks. The response was immediate, with participants coming from various

parts of Bolivia and also from Ecuador and Peru.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, the initiative was held via Zoom.

The course is part of the Pauline Family's Biblical Year activities.

We are going ahead with enthusiasm and faith because, as Blessed James Alberione said, "We were born from the Word, for the Word and in the Word."

BRAZIL

90 YEARS OF FOUNDATION



The celebrations for the 90th anniversary of the presence of the FSPs in Brazil have begun: 90 years of mission. Hundreds of young girls have consecrated their lives to proclaim the Word of God, and have opened their hearts to welcome and announce the message of the Gospel through the media in the most distant places of the country.

The Provincial Superior, Sr Ana Marlene Konzen, introduced the celebration of 90 years of evangelisation with these words: "The Daughters of St Paul arrived in Brazil in 1931. The first Pauline missionary from Italy was Sr Dolores Baldi who, despite all the difficulties, planted the Pauline seed in this land. Today we are present in all the regions of Brazil by means of our communities and book centres. To commemorate this very special date, we have adopted the slogan:

The Paulines: 90 years of Vocation, Word and Mission in Brazil.

Our best wishes to all the sisters of this beautiful country! May the Lord continue to bless your journey.

PHILIPPINES

MOVING FORWARD AS PAULINES

Our Philippines-Malaysia-Papua N.G.-Thailand Province (PMPT) held a 2-day formation meeting via Zoom on 8 and 15 August



2021. Five of the circumscription's young perpetually professed sisters participated in the event, which is part of the Province's formation project for the accompaniment of its young members.

The initial sharing focused on each one's present apostolic involvement, including the joys, hopes and challenges experienced.

The main speaker for the session of 8 August was Fr. Celso Godilano, ssp, who spoke on the theme: *Moving Forward as Paulines* according to the dynamics of the "four wheels" of the Pauline cart.

The following Sunday, 15 August, Sr. Christine Mesias, who is part of the International Consultation Group of young FSP's (*Consulta internazionale di giovani fsp*) gave a short sharing on the series of encounters the group had had with the General Government, which underscored the themes of *Re-designing* and *Pastoral work for vocations*.

Her sharing was followed by a talk by Sr. Gemmaria dela Cruz entitled *The Reality of Today's Young People*, highlighting that contemporary youth are the vulnerable victims of the bad use of media, and that part of our mission as apostles of social communication is to offer *reparation* for this.

The virtual encounter concluded with the proposals of our young sisters to continue this formation experience via zoom on a bi-monthly basis, to participate in online adoration for vocations every first Thursday of the month, and to collaborate actively with the vocation ministry of the Province, especially through social media.

ITALY

THE GOSPEL IN THE PRISONS OF FERRARA

The celebration of the Pauline Family's Biblical Year inspired the Daughters of St. Paul of the Ferrara community to reach out to the prisoners and also the prison staff



through the donation of 350 Gospels, confident that this gift will be a light, encouragement and support for each person in the concrete situation in which they are living. Ever onward for the good of others!

Let us accompany this initiative with prayer, so that the Word of Jesus will offer these brothers and sisters support for a future life that will be more committed to the good of others.

TODAY I GO TO THE BOOKSHOP



Oggi vado in libreria [Today I go to the bookshop] is the title of a new series of online links to the Pauline bookshops scattered throughout Italy. It is an enjoyable tour to get to know the sisters and their lay collaborators. It offers viewers information for finding their way around the bookshops, providing suggestions and also curiosities about the city.

The online links are an opportunity to present a space of service to the diocesan Church and its territory, and also to discover a corner of the world through the characteristics of the cities in which they are located. In addition, with great simplicity and passion, the various aspects of book center's service are highlighted, made up of attention to customers and content to be promoted, first of all the word of God. In particular, each link presents a book or a CD produced by the FSPs, focusing attention on a theme and a formative proposal.

The links can be found on the *Paoline Facebook Page* and on the *Paoline YouTube channel*.

PAKISTAN

MISSION ON THE BORDER OF AFGHANISTAN



This letter that we received from our sisters in Pakistan reveals the missionary courage of the Daughters of St. Paul in this Muslim country, which is among the most populous in the world:

“With joy we want to share with you some information about our apostolic and vocational mission in the parishes of three towns (Kohat, Bannu and Amanshah), on the border of Afghanistan, in northern Pakistan.

“In May, at the invitation of the parish priest of Kohat, Father Rahat William, we, (Sr. Shamim Yousaf and Sr. Meena Inayat), left our community of Rawalpindi, and enthusiastically undertook a journey to Kohat, about 170 km from our convent. In Kohat, during Sunday Mass, we introduced ourselves and explained our mission. We were able to see the attentive eyes of several girls who, after Mass, held us back, showing themselves to be very interested in religious life. We gave each of them a vocational brochure and the necessary information to keep in touch with us. We also set up a small book display outside the church. Here, a little girl came back several times to see us. She was an only child. Her mother was very worried by her insistent request to become a sister. We reassured the mother and her daughter that first she had to grow up and study before making a vocational discernment.

“In the afternoon we went to Bannu, a three-hour journey. When we arrived, we had to cover our heads with the long Islamic veil, the chador. At a checkpoint, we waited for nearly two hours due to military control. They would not allow us to enter this zone, so we tried to enter through another checkpoint. Sr. Shamin was able to get on a motorcycle



driven by a young man and entered without any problem. Sr. Meena did the same. When we reached the church, the people who had been waiting for us for four hours welcomed us with much jubilation. Here too, during the Mass we were able to speak about our Pauline vocation and mission. After the Mass we were offered dinner and spent the night with a family. We were very grateful for the faith, courage and generous welcome of this Christian community.

“The next day we went to Amanshah. Here too we attended Mass and prepared a small exhibit of books. We noticed that all the women came to Mass with the burqa and took it off when they got to church; so, as you can see from the photos, we too adapted to the customs of the place.

“The next day we made a return trip to Bannu and then to Kohat. We are very grateful to Father William for this invitation which allowed us to have an unforgettable apostolic and vocational experience with these Christian minorities who live in an isolated military area inhabited by fundamentalist groups.”

On our part, let us pray for these people and our intrepid Pauline missionaries.

**PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AMERICA
ONLINE BIBLICAL MISSION**



From 30 August to 5 September 2021, our FSP Province of Southern America held an online Bible Mission on the theme, *The Proclamation of the Kingdom*. This initiative of the Pauline Biblical Year, in which the whole circumscription participated, was prepared by Sr. Noelia Toro and Sr. Claudia Carrano of Argentina, with technical support provided by Cana, an Argentine Catholic institution.

A number of our sisters from Chile and Argentina contributed content to the online sessions: Sr. Noelia Toro; Sr. María Teresa Gajardo; Sr. Paulina Lorca; Sr. Mariela Pizarro; Sr. Emmanuela; Sr. Virginia Romero and Sr. Romina Baumgratz.

More than 70 people from Argentina, Paraguay, Chile and other Latin American countries participated in the event. In keeping with the programming of the Mission, the meetings were guided by the speakers on the theme of the day. Each reflection was oriented by biblical texts concerning the proclamation of the Kingdom: the call to proclaim, the healings of the sick, the Sermon on the Mount, the Gospel of the family, parables of the Kingdom, and the mandate to carry out the biblical mission.

The experience, which the participants said they found very positive, enabled many of the sisters of the circumscription to put their talents to good use and filled them with great enthusiasm to continue the Pauline mission online.

ITALY

Sr. Vincenza Salvà celebrates 104 years of life

On Sunday 11 July, in the Tecla Merlo community of Albano, Sr Vincenza Salvà, the oldest member of our Congregation and, it seems, also of the Pauline Family, celebrated her 104th birthday, surrounded by the affection of the sisters of her community and those nearby. During the Eucharistic celebration, a hymn of praise and gratitude was raised up to the Lord for all the gifts he has bestowed on Sr. Vincenza during



her long life. She entered the Congregation in 1931 and over the next 90 years she served the Master with fidelity and joy.

Best wishes, Sr. Vincenza, and sincere thanks for your friendly, sweet and tender personality.

TOWARDS A RELEVANT APOSTOLATE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS in the Diocese of Manado, Indonesia: Challenges and Perspectives

DAISY PONDAAG, FSP



This thesis was presented by Sr. Daisy Pondaag at the Graduate School of the CICM Maryhill School of Theology, Quezon City, Philippines, for a Master of Arts in Theology with a specialization in Religious Studies.

The text concerns the apostolate of social communication in these modern times. The aim is to discover today's challenges and prospects, so that the Daughters of St. Paul can improve their proclamation of the Gospel in the diocese of Manado, Indonesia.

The thesis begins with a presentation of the apostolic initiatives of the Diocesan Commission for Social Communication, using the five criteria on evangelization in communication recommended by Fr. Franz Josef Eilers, svd, a renowned expert in the field of communications:

1. Continual monitoring of the trends in modern communication.
2. Involvement in existing communication initiatives.
3. Formation and training in the field of social communication.
4. Discover, develop and promote talents especially among young people.
5. Pastoral care for those already working in the field of media.

Sr Daisy examines the current ministry of the diocesan commission, by analyzing the use of social communication in the documents of the Church and of the Daughters of St. Paul.

While acknowledging the merit of having started some activities recommended by the aforementioned documents, she concretely underlines the need to improve the apostolate of the Daughters of St. Paul in the diocese.

The areas of improvement needed are:

- programs to maintain the use of paper and electronic media;
- programs and initiatives on social media platforms;
- spiritual formation and training;
- programs for youth ministry;
- collaborative programs;
- programs on pastoral care for media workers.

This study applies a qualitative approach using mixed methods such as: an interview, Focus Group Discussions and archival research. The See-Discern-Act pastoral method is used as a framework.

Our best wishes and congratulations to Sr. Daisy.

JESUS WAY, TRUTH AND LIFE, IS OUR FRIEND

LORENA BRIONES, FSP



This thesis for a Master's Degree in Religious Studies was presented by Sr. Lorena Briones at the Institute of Pastoral Formation, Don Bosco Center of Studies in Parañaque City, Philippines. The Institute is affiliated with

the Salesian Pontifical University of Rome.

Catholic schools in the Philippines need a solid, scripture-based, relevant, life-giving, meaningful and interesting catechetical program to help children personally encounter Jesus in their daily lives. Sr. Lorena writes that her thesis is a humble contribution to meet this need.

She hopes to offer students in Catholic secondary schools a solid catechesis based on the Scriptures. The text, which is a tool for their journey of faith, aims to present Jesus in a relational and personal way rather than through a purely doctrinal approach. Her presentation uses a dynamic methodology, adapted to the age and characteristics of the students, and promotes an understanding of the Faith, while deepening Christian values and lifestyle.

Jesus Way, Truth and Life is proposed as a *friend, brother and savior*, who fosters the development of the whole person. It is a formation of the mind, will and sentiments, that is, a formation that cultivates the essential and experiential dimensions of faith.

The methodology of the learning experience is presented in four phases aimed at developing the whole being of the adolescent in a relationship with God:

*share our life,
learn our faith,
live our faith
celebrate our faith.*

The catechetical program presented is a systematic integration of Filipino cultural and religious values and practices. It introduces young people to heroes and role models from the Philippines and integrates contemporary realities such as respect and care for creation, the promotion of a multicultural and diverse environment, media literacy, a civic sense, service leadership, equality and the complementarity of the sexes.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Sr. Lorena for a fruitful Pauline apostolate.

WOMEN OF THE COVENANT: RUTH

"WHEREVER YOU GO, I WILL GO..."



"See now," Naomi said to Ruth, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her god. Go back after your sister-in-law!" But Ruth said, "Do not press me to go back and abandon you! Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die I will die, and there be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more, if even death separates me from you!" Naomi then ceased to urge her, for she saw that she was determined to go with her.

Glancing over this small excerpt from the Book of Ruth, we can easily see that its central point lies in the words of Naomi's daughter-in-law, which in their form and content represent one of the most challenging "unilateral covenant" formulas. In other words, the Moabite woman behaves like the God of Abraham (cf. Gn. 15:1-21), who in the covenant relationship becomes the only regent, the only one who passes among the slain animals, the only one who gives on his own authority the guarantee of a faithful love that pays for the other's unfaithfulness (a unilateral covenant that will achieve its culmination in the death of Jesus).

On the road to Bethlehem, Ruth is firm as a rock, voicing a true covenant formula that is unique of its kind in the entire Bible. Ruth is consistent: she does what she says, she takes a risk, she hands over her future, she offers her entire self. Naomi has nothing to offer her daughter-in-law in return for her faithful dedication except the pressing plea: "Go back like your sister-in-law!"

But the young Moabite woman courageously resists Naomi's invitation because she realizes that to turn back would mean abandoning her mother-in-law to the rigors of a solitary journey across very inhospitable terrain. Ruth is a woman who gives the best of herself at a moment when her mother-in-law is threatened by the most terrible famine of all—a famine of love. When Orpah accepts the older woman's urging to return to Moab, Naomi senses that she is entering a relational "desert" that seems to confirm the reality that she can't make the journey alone.

With the death of her husband, Ruth is free of the bonds of marriage, but she is not willing to free herself from the consequences of love. Her way of loving does not change: in fact, she relates to her mother-in-law with the same conviction and intensity that she would use with a husband. And her loving fidelity opens the door to the future. The life that flows from the relationship between Ruth and Naomi is founded on the principle: "Never without the other!"

The two verses that encompass Ruth's surprising reply are the highlight of the entire



Book: "Wherever you go I will go," she says, "and wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die I will die, and there be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more, if even death separates me from you!" (1:16-17) Ruth promises Naomi to "be present" in all the situations that lie ahead on their journey and in their subsequent daily life, in social and religious situations, up to the point of death and burial. The relationship she delineates is one that embraces the full spectrum of time.

There are those who might exclaim: "What an exaggeration!" And it is! Ruth confronts us with a surprising fact that always emerges when we try to measure "uprightness," namely: "the excess of love." By excess, we mean a love that is superabundant, disproportionate, overflowing, extravagant. It is a love that cannot remain within the limits of the Law because by its very nature it surpasses the Law. Its only mode of "reasoning" is in terms of abundance: it makes choices without reading the instructions! It is a love that goes beyond justice—a love that is willing to "break itself into pieces" in order to bend over the wounds of others to comfort and heal them. This is what Ruth does: she gives herself without counting the personal cost; she does not turn back; she goes all the way. And on the road from Moab to Bethlehem, she comes face-to-face with God because she loves the way he does.

It was precisely in this very radical, humble and human love that the God of Israel awaited the defenseless Moabite. Out of love, Ruth leaves her own land and her own people. The bond of love that binds her to



Naomi allows the new and true God she has chosen to shine forth.

But what God are we talking about? It is certainly not the God of "winners," because in this story there are no winners! If we contemplate Naomi's tired face, her story, her painful wounds and her loneliness, we see nothing but a "defeated" person—a person broken by the tumultuous flow of life; a woman abandoned even by her God. Naomi's God is not the God of winners but of "losers." And isn't this the true essence of the God of the Bible? He is totally Other: his ways are not our ways, his silence is unfathomable.

Out of love, Ruth throws herself into the void: she gives herself completely to a woman without a future; she gives herself without reserve to the God of losers, to a faceless future. The story of Ruth invites us to contemplate "the excess of love": the perfect, genuine, free and radical love that leads without fail to the true God—the God of Israel, who is reachable only through a love that accompanies others, taking care of them and "caressing" them without holding fast to them. It takes a lot of courage to do this!

Ruth has become a free woman, and it is in this freedom that the God of Israel is able to spread his wings....

Francesca Pratillo, fsp

FIRST PROFESSIONS: July-August 2021



BOSTON, USA - 25 July 2021

Orianne Dyck
Allison Gliot

LAHORE, PAKISTAN - 15 August 2021

Sana Moras

KAMPALA, UGANDA - 20 August 2021

Clara Aturinde

TERESA THECLA MERLO "A BRIDGE TO REACH GOD"



A picture of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, shown to me by a companion of Catholic Action, captivated me. She had received it as a gift from a Pauline sister from my city, Cagliari. Leaving the high school I was attending earlier than usual, I went to the Pauline bookshop and in the display window there was a book entitled "What if I became a nun?" The title intrigued me but what really fascinated me was seeing sisters at work in the bookstore. It was 29 April 1968 – the date on which I started to discover my vocation.

On 18 September of the same year, I entered the Congregation in Alba as an aspirant. Who would have imagined it? I could hardly believe it myself: me in the convent! I was attracted by the apostolate, the history of this new Congregation, the life of Fr. Alberione and Sr. Thecla, and by the photo that portrayed Maestra Thecla as a young woman. Her words beneath the picture penetrated my heart and even today, 53 years later, still accompany me:

"My wish is that each and every one of us will become very holy. We all should be interested in becoming saints. What do we want, what do we desire, we who have left everything (if it is really so...), other than God, souls, heaven?"

During the period of my formation in Alba from 1968 to 1974, the year in which I made my first profession, I was able to grasp and deepen my understanding of the charism of the Daughters of St. Paul and to discover the gift of the Pauline Family. Prima Maestra Thecla had passed away four years before I entered the Congregation, Primo Maestro was still in Rome, but I only witnessed him at his funeral in 1971. I was captivated by both of them, but I felt particularly guided and drawn to Thecla. I read the biography *Thecla Merlo: A Life at the Service of the Gospel*, written by Sr. Olga Ambrosi. I felt Maestra Thecla profoundly close to me. In Rome, during my juniorate, while studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University for a Master's Degree in Religious Sciences, I asked Professor James Martina, sj, if I could do my thesis on Prima Maestra Thecla. He agreed and I focused on

the theme: *The Figure of Sr. Thecla Merlo, Co-foundress of the Daughters of St. Paul*. It was another opportunity to get to know Maestra Thecla better and to delve into her writings, published in the internal circulars of the Institute from 1934-1964, the year of her death. In order to speak about Thecla, I needed to first present the figure of Fr. James Alberione, Founder of the Pauline Family, and explain his thought on women in the Church and in his Institutes. Throughout my research, I was guided by the profound conviction that today's world does not need saints with extraordinary gifts, known for their privileged experiences (either real or invented by hagiographers) or by devotees who have followed their lives and supported their works. Saints of this type make imitation and perhaps even admiration difficult for our present age. Today we need to see that holiness is a universal vocation and that the Holy Spirit often works wonders not only in those who are his faithful instruments, but also in ordinary people, who serve as simple, humble, and well-trodden bridges, by which others can truly reach God.

In 1988, I was sent to Milan for an internship in journalism for the magazine entitled *Jesus*, published by the Society of St. Paul. February 1989 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Sister Thecla Merlo and I was entrusted with preparing a *special edition* of the magazine on her. It was an additional opportunity/gift to not only deepen but to make known this woman who had opened a new path in the Church of the twentieth century and who, unfortunately, even today is not well known. The *special edition* was published in Italian, English, Spanish and French.

Sr. Thecla was not a simple executor of Fr. Alberione's thought, as we are sometimes led to believe. She marked out a historical path that we Daughters of St. Paul need to rediscover today more than ever. Today is a time for greater faith, perhaps even more than in the beginnings, because today we lack vocations for an apostolate that is always timely and urgent. Reflecting on Prima Maestra, who "lived the modern apostolate as a contemplative" with her eyes and heart always turned towards Jesus Master, Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Saint Paul, we rediscover together a taste for what is good and continue to strain ahead. Age, illness and fatigue are part of the human story, but we believe in the words of Prima Maestra: "The Lord does not give you what you ask for, but what you believe in."

Fernanda Di Monte, fsp

LIVING WITH THE ONE WHO LIVES IN ME



To share my vocation story with you, I reviewed my journey and what flows from the depths of my heart is love and gratitude towards the Lord. Sharing my story is a beautiful opportunity to rediscover the wonderful gift of God's love and grace for me. He looked at me, small and weak, and with a loving gaze, called me, walked with me, and helped me to grow.

The faith life of my father's family began after the Korean War, which erupted in 1950. During this War, his whole family was in a shelter and during that period they received much support from a generous Catholic. In fact, after the war, my father's entire family was baptized. Even though my grandparents did not live long, still their faithful practice of a life of faith was exemplary. The witness of their faith impressed me even when I was very young. Grandma taught me how to pray; her composure while praying the rosary and the way she always held her prayer book are deeply engraved in my heart. Before she died, she gave me her Liturgy of the Hours.

While I was preparing for my First Communion I felt the first stirrings of interest in the religious life. The Sister who taught us catechism had such a sincere and joyful face

that it made me think: "Sisters are happy people!"

I attended an intermediate school, also run by Sisters, and my dream of becoming a religious continued to grow within me. Before I began high school, my family moved to another city. During this move, I found my diary. I reread my past reflections and felt God's merciful love embracing me warmly. In turn, I promised to dedicate my life to him. When I told my mother about my promise to God, she asked me to first finish high school and get my diploma before taking that step. She gave me a vocation leaflet from the Daughters of St. Paul, saying: "Since you really like reading books, this Congregation might be suitable for you." Consequently, my mother was my first vocation director!

While studying at the university, I also accepted the commitment to be a catechist. On Sundays, in my free time, I would go to vocation encounters with the Daughters of St. Paul. During this time my grandmother died—a loss for me that was very painful and sad, and I began to experience some doubts about the best path for my future. But it was also during this time that I entered into a more profound relationship with the crucified Lord. In prayer, I felt him inviting me: "If you can let go of the things you like, then follow me". So I entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul in 1997, motivated by a deep desire to live not only for myself, but for God and for others.

During the period of my initial formation, my sole and firm intention was to become a true Daughter of St. Paul. During my junio-



rate I sought God's will for me by renouncing my personal plans and points of view. Throughout this journey I deeply felt the joy of living in communion with the Lord who lives in me and with the sisters of my community. Working in our bookstores, publishing house and various fields of diffusion, I was able to understand the significance of apostolic fatigue coupled with the joyful reward of proclaiming the Gospel with my whole being through the means of communication and personal witness.

In 2018 I was asked to go as a missionary to the United States. My deep desire to go abroad to evangelize was finally being granted. In the United States I carried out itinerant evangelization, visiting the Korean communities and working in the Book Center. During our missionary trips throughout this large country, like St. Paul the Apostle, I met immigrants who faced many challenges and I felt a profound joy in communicating the Word of God to them. During this time as a missionary, I learned humility and patience due to the fact that I was living in a nation with a language and culture different from my own. It was also a moment of grace that allowed me to experience the beauty of another cul-



ture, rich in its heritage of the Catholic faith. My encounters with generous Sisters and different people, each having their own story and path to the Lord, broadened my heart. Unfortunately, due to the covid-19 pandemic, my missionary experience was interrupted, and I had to return to Korea. This experience helped me understand that the most important thing in my life is to live with Christ who lives in me. I truly dedicate my love and my heart to the Lord who has called me to be a Daughter of St. Paul and has allowed me to participate in his own mission.

Tae Hee Theresia Kim, fsp

ARISE!



« Today, we are often “connected” but not communicating. The indiscriminate use of electronic devices can keep us constantly glued to the screen. In a culture that makes young people isolated and withdrawn into virtual worlds, let us spread Jesus’ invitation: “Arise!” He calls us to embrace a reality that is so much more than virtual. This does not involve rejecting technology, but rather using it as a means and not as an end. “Arise!” is also an invitation to “dream”, to “take a risk”, to be “committed to changing the world”, to rekindle your hopes and aspirations, and to contemplate the heavens, the stars and the world around you. “Arise and become what you are!” If this is our message, many young people will stop looking bored and weary, and let their faces come alive and be more beautiful than any virtual reality».

Pope Francis

WE HAVE ALL BECOME DIGITAL CITIZENS



With the spread of the pandemic, it has become more than evident that our conduct has consequences on those around us in either a positive or negative way. Wearing a mask and respecting social distancing are two actions by which we are attentive to ourselves and to others. By respecting these two rules, we do our part as good citizens. This attention to others is also fundamental when we are *online*, even more so today since our life develops within a digital environment that contributes, to a large extent, to the building of social representations of reality. But what is our responsibility in all of this? Luhmann¹ said that what we know is due to the media. Today these words are even more significant than before. What we believe to be true is increasingly dependent on digital media. One of the basic rules of *crisis communication* states that the real crisis is not what happened, but what people believe has happened. Especially in an emergency context, the information we consume has effects on reality that can contribute, for example, to facilitating or slowing down the current vaccination campaign. Often, however, the rules of good *crisis communication* that should be clear, coherent, and comprehensive are dis-

regarded, fueling a feeling of distrust on the part of citizens. The abundance of information that characterizes our time can increase the sense of disorientation felt by people, rather than lessening their fears. This disorientation can be intensified by conflicts between levels of government or between experts (virologists, doctors, etc.) or even by the media itself and increasingly by social media, which have become an integral part of our media diet. Through digital platforms, we find information and encounter multiple points of view that flank the communication flow coming from official sources. Just think about how much information we get from our family or friends' networks via Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp or Telegram. Faced with so much information - often contradictory - coming from more or less authoritative sources, who should we believe? The temptation is to believe in myself, in what I prefer to believe, in what agrees with my previous beliefs, and perhaps these beliefs mirror our prejudices and stereotypes. In a climate of general mistrust, the temptation is to choose to believe more a relative or friend of the soccer chat rather than those who are more informed. It is therefore evident that each of us has responsibilities. We are all carriers of information, and we are called to be cautious in sharing content. Sharing content produced by others does not make us less accountable than a post or a message written from scratch by us. If we are attentive to the content we share on our family or school Whatsapp chat or on one of the many social media platforms where we have an account, then we will have done our part as good digital citizens.

¹ Niklas Luhmann (December 8, 1927 – November 6, 1998) was a German sociologist, philosopher of social science, and a prominent thinker in systems theory. He is considered one of the most important social theorists of the 20th century.

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Rita Marchetti

Associazione WebCattolici Italiani
Avvenire - Lazio Sette



ITALY

MISSION ON THE MOVE!



eral parishes on the theme: *May the Word Speed Forward.*

St. Paul would have been pleased to see how the animators of the Pauline Family's Team for Youth linked walking from place to place with a proclamation of the Word: the people received the Good News through these "walkers of God," who on their part bore witness to the Gospel.

Beginning 26 August, the participants guided missions in three parishes, in which moments of catechesis and preparation/training in the proclamation of the Gospel alternated with prayer, adoration, and times of sharing the Word with children, young people and adults.

The experience was a "light in the night" and a time of celebration for the communities visited.

After the "online march" of 2020 and four weekends of preparation via online meetings, this year's *Missione in cammino* [Mission on the Move] took place from 22-30 August, between the cities of Brindisi and Taranto, organised by the Pauline Family for people between the ages of 16 and 35. The experience consisted of three days of walking through that beautiful part of the country and four days in which the young "marchers" guided a mission among the people in sev-



WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



The 52nd International Eucharistic Congress was held in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, from 5-12 September 2021. Its agenda included celebrations in the city's main square, exhibitions, cultural events, a theological symposium, and the testimonies of representatives of Churches from all over the world, including from countries at war. On Saturday, 11 September, a solemn Mass was celebrated in Kossuth Square in the presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I.

Pope Francis arrived in person to conclude the Congress on Sunday, 12 September. The week-long event called attention to many of the important issues facing humanity today, ranging from the challenges of Covid-19 to the poverty of many areas of the planet. The message underscored was: "God created the world and looks at it with infinite love."

FAMILY LOVE: A VOCATION AND A PATH TO HOLINESS



The tenth World Meeting of Families will be held in Rome from 22 to 26 June 2022. The theme of the meeting will be *Family Love: a vocation and a path to holiness*. In a video message, Pope Francis presented the way it will be held:

"The Meeting will take a multi-centre and widespread form, favouring the involvement of diocesan communities all over the world. Rome will be the main venue, with some del-

egates of the family pastoral care sector taking part in the Festival of Families, the Pastoral Congress and the Holy Mass, which will be broadcast all over the world.

"On the same days, each diocese will be the centre of a local meeting for its families and communities. In this way, everyone will be able to participate.

"I therefore invite the diocesan communities to plan initiatives based on the theme of the Meeting. I ask you to be lively, active, creative, to organise yourselves with the families [of your dioceses], in tune with what will take place in Rome."

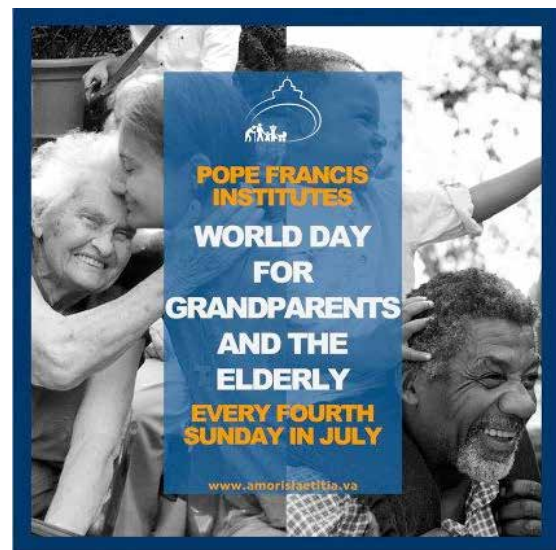
WINDOW ON THE WORLD

WORLD HUMANITARIAN AID DAY



Each year, 19 August marks the anniversary of the 2003 bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, in which 22 humanitarian workers lost their lives. Since then, *World Humanitarian Day* has been an opportunity to commemorate the many volunteer aid worker who risk being attacked, injured or killed in the context of their humanitarian activity. Sincere thanks to all of them.

FIRST WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY



The *First World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly* was held on 25 July 2021, the day before the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne,

the grandparents of Jesus. It was an important day for celebrating the gift of old age and remembering those who, before us and for us, preserve and pass on life and faith.

Our memories, the roots of peoples and the link between generations, are treasures to be preserved. In the Pope's thinking, the elderly and grandparents are a true "gift"—a wealth that we often forget. "The Holy Spirit even today still stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly," he said. "Their voice is precious because it sings the praises of God and preserves the roots of peoples. The elderly remind us that old age is a gift, and that grandparents are the link between the different generations, passing on to the young the experience of life and faith."

"Today, more than ever because of the pandemic that first put them at risk and sacrificed so many, the elderly often remain alone and far from their families, when instead they should be cherished as our roots. In this regard, the Pope's words are precious: "Grandparents are often forgotten and we forget this wealth of preserving our roots and passing them on to the young. For this reason I have decided to institute the *World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly*, which will be held throughout the Church every year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus."

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

GIFFONI FILM FESTIVAL 2021



101 films in competition from 35 different countries characterized the 50th edition of the Giffoni Film Festival, which took place from 21-31 July 2021 in Italy. The event is a film

festival for children and young people, who were personally involved in watching the films, judging them and awarding the winner. Three thousand young people from Italy and Europe participated in person. Two thousand jurors connected from 36 hubs (26 in Italy and 10 abroad), for a total of five thousand jurors.

For decades, the goal of the Festival has been to accompany children and teens in the world of cinema, taking them by the hand, as it were, to guide them and allow them to meet many of the cinema's protagonists.

The *Giffoni Film Festival 2021* was a joyful, fun-filled cultural experience and, as far as possible, a restart for everyone.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL ADVERTISING



The 15th edition of the *International Festival of Social Advertising* awarded first prize in the category "Best Execution of an Advertising Campaign" to the one created by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the Holy See's Communication Department together with the High Commission for Human Fraternity and produced by the agency *La Machi Comunicazione per le Buone Cause*. The award ceremony took place at the Teatro Lara in Madrid on 29 June 2021.

The winning campaign consisted of a one-and-a-half minute video accompanied by a graphics segment, translated into 22 languages. In addition, a web page was developed on the website of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

The *International Day of Human Fraternity*, celebrated for the first time on 4 February 2021, was instituted by the United Nations following the Document on Human Brotherhood for World Peace and Common Co-existence, signed two years earlier between the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayyeb during the Pontiff's trip to the United Arab Emirates.



*"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. Elizabeth Aleyamma Pandanattu, age 74 - 21.07.2021 - Trivandrum, India
Sr. Eufrazia Annunciata Foletto, age 94 - 30.07.2021 - Curitiba, Brazil
Sr. M. Fides Norma Galipot, age 93 - 01.08.2021 - Pasay City, Philippines
Sr. Monica M. Margherita Baviera, age 89 - 04.08.2021 - Albano, Italy
Sr. M. Amalia Antonietta Fiorio, age 83 - 7.08.2021 - Alba, Italy
Sr. Cecilia Maria Prezioso, age 95 - 08.08.2021 - Buenos Aires (Hospital), Argentina
Sr. Maria Pia Aleandri, age 87 - 12.08.2021 - Rome (Hospital), Italy
Sr. M. Daniela Maria Incoronata Zaccagnino, age 94 - 17.08.2021 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. M. Edviges Lucia Nuernberg, age 95 - 21.08.2021 - São Paulo, Brazil
Sr. Mary Mark Margaret Wickenhiser, age 79 - 04.09.2021 - Boston, United States
Sr. Renata Maria Amandolesi, age 79 - 08.09.2021 - Albano TM, Italy
Sr. Omaira Diaz, age 75 - 11.09.2021 - Barquisimeto, Venezuela
Sr. M. Eliana Giustina Schirru, age 83 - 17.09.2021 - Rome DP, Italy

PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Sr. Helena Dkhar (Father, Ambrosius), community of Shillong, India
Sr. Catherine Wanza Mutua (Father, Patrick), community of Nairobi, Kenya
Sr. Augustina Osinachi Agomuo (Mother, Augustina), community of Nairobi, Kenya
Sr. Marie Solange Randrianirina (Mother, Lousie), community of Antananarive, Madagascar
Sr. Agnes Wong (Father, Michael), San Bernardo community of Madrid, Spain
Sr. Augustina Baek (Mother, Sun Ja Rosa), Seoul-Miari community, Korea
Sr. Mary Joseph Ponatt (Mother, Mary), community of Mumbai, India

PAULINE FAMILY

Sr M. Melba Padilla Guarnizo, pddm, age 62 - 24.06.2021 - Bogotá, Colombia
Sr. M. Lucia Cabras, pddm, age 73 - 25-06-2021 - Albano Laziale, Italy
Sr M. Bernardetta Monika Kuraszewicz, pddm, age 82 - 04.07.2021 - Czestochowa, Polonia
Br. Santiago Enrique Francesco Kloster, ssp, age 84 - 27.07.2021 - Córdoba, Argentina
Sr. M. Amata Anita Antonini, pddm, age 97 - 29.07.2021 - Sanfrè, Italy
Sr. Rita Silva Da Costa, sjbp, age 76 - 30.07.2021 - São Paulo (Hospital), Brazil
Sr. M. Teodora Eleonora Iannone, pddm, age 99 - 01.08.2021 - Rome, Italy
Sr. M. Elena Anita Ballesteros Gutiérrez, pddm, age 73 - 24.08.2021 - Mexico City, Mexico
Sr. M. Eurosia Francesca Manduchi, pddm, age 84 - 30.08.2021 - Sanfrè, Italy
Br. Sergio Agostino Gialdi, ssp, age 76 - 05.09.2021 - Rome (Hospital), Italy
Sr. M. Lucja Zenobia Krusinska, pddm, age 87 - 06.09.2021 - Czestochowa, Poland
Fr. Francesco Licinio Galati, ssp, age 97 - 14.09.2021 - Rome, Italy