

**CONTACT IS
THE TRUE LANGUAGE
OF COMMUNICATION...
THE SAME AFFECTIVE LANGUAGE
THAT TRANSMITTED HEALING
TO A LEPER.**

POPE FRANCIS

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CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

HALFWAY THROUGH OUR JOURNEY...



Dearest Sisters,
As I was reflecting on the theme to develop on this page of *Paoli-online* reserved for me, I realized that our government is half-way through its term of office. In the light of this, I want to de-

vote this space to a kind of stocktaking, starting with a question posed to me by a sister during my Fraternal Visit to one of our communities in Italy: “*Since you have been superior general,*” she asked, “*what has given you the greatest joy, and what, on the other hand, has caused you the greatest suffering?*”

It was a simple question, but only apparently so. I don’t remember the precise words of my reply but I recall very well the substance of what I said that evening and which now, with deeper awareness, I am writing about.

Let me first, however, reveal how surprised I was when reading, in *Civiltà Cattolica*, the questions posed to Pope Francis by Jesuits working in the so-called “Russian Region” of the Society of Jesus during his recent apostolic trip to Kazakhstan (13-15 Sept. 2022), I noticed he had been asked a question very similar to the one addressed to me, namely: “*If you look at the situation of the Society of Jesus, what are the things you find consoling and what are those that are disquieting?*”

So I will begin by telling you *the things that give me the greatest joy and consolation:*

- communion sought and implemented through listening and dialogue, respect and appreciation of diversity, acceptance of my own limitations and those of others, and as an “environment” for relationships, solidarity and mercy;
- wise collaboration in evangelization through prayer, self-offering and the generous exercise of the apostolate in its different expressions;
- the desire to live more radically the demands of the Gospel, to serve the Church, to “feel” humanity;

- difficulties faced with courage and hope, strengthened by the promise, “Do not be afraid; I am with you. From here I want to enlighten. Be sorry for sin.”
- love for the Congregation, which unites us and urges us onward, overcoming all obstacles;
- the serene and prayerful witness of our elderly and sick sisters, who “bore the weight and heat of the day” (Fr. Alberione);
- the dreams of those who have never stopped believing that the future is full of promise, that the Lord continues to “design” our way, and that it is up to us to listen to him every day....

The list, believe me, is much longer. May the benevolent gaze of Jesus rest on all these realities and sustain them.



What causes me the most suffering and disquiet? Only one thing: the wounds that have been inflicted on our communion *and that have not healed*, due to ongoing attitudes of closure and animosity; a wallowing in resentment and muteness; the erection of impassable barriers—sometimes for days, weeks or months—often because of “mere trifles” (as Maestra Thecla would say), making one’s own life and the lives of others a “hell”...and thus making oneself an instrument of division. St. Paul is very clear in this regard when he urges: “Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil” (Eph. 4:26-27).

Division is the cancer of a community, causing it to lose its vitality and the ability to generate life through mission. When a divi-

sion occurs, we need to reconcile ourselves with each other as soon as possible, so that the wound does not fester, but instead strengthens our communion through forgiveness.

Another troubling thing is the inevitable conflicts that arise in a community and that should be squarely addressed, not ignored. Conflict is a concrete part of life. If well managed, it can—and indeed must—evolve into a maturing process for the whole community. That is why conflict must be “accompanied by tenderness,” Pope Francis says. It must involve the heart.

I want to end with a “dream.” I have many of them—they help me remain young at heart—but this one is at the top of my list: *the dream of communion*. And here I cede the floor to Pope Francis who, imagining how Jesus would have responded to such a dream, had this to say on 16 September 2022 to the members of the Trappist General Chapter:

The Gospel of John offers us this prayer of Jesus to the Father: “I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, so that the world may know that you sent me, and that you love them even as you love me” (17:22-23). This holy Word enables us to *dream with Jesus of the communion* of his disciples, *our communion* inasmuch as we are “his” (cf. GE, 146). This communion—let us be clear on this important point—does not consist in our uniformity, homogeneity or compatibility, whether all this be more or less spontaneous or else forced. No. it consists in our common relationship with Christ and, in him, with the Father in the Spirit. Jesus was not afraid of the diversity that existed among the Twelve and therefore neither should we be afraid of diversity, because the Holy Spirit loves to raise up differences and make harmony out of them. Instead, when we become self-enclosed and exclusive, then yes, we should be afraid, because this leads to division (cf. EG, 31). Jesus’ dream of communion frees us from uniformity and division, both of which are ugly things.

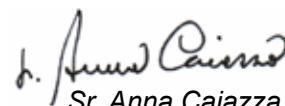
Fidelity to our charism requires us to make the choice every day to live in communion, trusting in God’s grace, in order to proclaim Jesus and his Gospel, making this the absolute of our lives. We were born itinerant!

Fr. Alberione always thought and dreamed of us as being *on the way*, outside our comfort zones; women who do not indulge in sterile regrets and do not waste time on things that do not count, because they are committed to discerning together ever-fresh missionary goals: “In the mystic silence of the convent they study the ways of the world, and on the morrow walk them to reach souls” (*Beatitudes of the Daughters of St. Paul*).

Dearest Sisters, let this be our dream and commitment as we continue our journey together.

My heartfelt gratitude to you for the input you sent me in response to my letter, *Like Mustard Seeds*. Your reflections are an inspiration and a precious gift to me. Thank you!

With affection, in communion of joy and hope,


Sr. Anna Caiazza
Superior General

CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT (September - December 2022)



27 September – 2 October 2022

Special Visit to France

Sr. Anna Caiazza

Sr. Annamaria Gasser

21 October – 9 November 2022

Fraternal Visit to Peru-Bolivia

Sr. Anna Caiazza

Sr. Micaela Pae

10 November – 5 December 2022

Fraternal Visit to Mexico

Sr. Anna Caiazza

Sr. Donna Giaimo

Sr. Micaela Pae

From 23 November 2022:

Sr. Annamaria Gasser

BRAZIL
COMMUNICATORS OF PEACE AWARD



At its 6th Congress held in Panama from 12-14 July 2022, SIGNIS of Latin America and the Caribbean awarded the *Communicators of Peace Award* to Sr. Helena Corazza of the Daughters of St. Paul, Brazil. This award is given to “communicators committed to promoting the exercise of citizenship, the development of peoples and to contributing to peace-building on the continent.” Sr. Helena has a doctorate in Communication Sciences, is a professor of Communications Education, the coordinator of a Postgraduate Course in Communications, and is a researcher in the area of communications and education. She has dedicated her life to communications, transforming it into a pedagogical tool aimed at bringing about genuine social change. The author of books and articles on communications, including from the perspective of education and pastoral care, she is an advocate for rights and justice on behalf of the most marginalized members of her country—her ongoing commitment strongly guided by ethics.

Sr. Helena, who received the award with surprise and gratitude, said: “There is a ‘we’ in this award: we Signis, we Pascom (pastoral work with communications), we Paulines, because, as a Daughter of St. Paul, my vocation and mission is to serve the Church in the field of communications by using it for evangelization.”

KOREA
SIGNIS WORLD CONGRESS 2022

Peace in the Digital World was the theme chosen for the 2022 Congress of *Signis*, the World Catholic Association for Communica-



tion. This year, its World Congress was held in Seoul, Korea from 15-18 August. It was a hybrid event characterized by in-presence gatherings and online encounters.

Keynote speakers included 14 experts from Korea and abroad, who delved more deeply into the various facets of this very timely and rich topic. Among them were Dr. Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Communications, and Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, professor of theological and social ethics. The program also featured two special events: the “World Journalist Forum” and the “International Youth Forum.” In-person meetings and live YouTube transmissions were held simultaneously on the Metaverse platform.

Last June, Pope Francis sent his warm greetings and best wishes to all the participants preparing for the Congress. In his letter, he underscored that “the digital media revolution of recent decades has proved to be a powerful means of fostering communion and dialogue within our human family.... At the same time, the use of digital media, especially social media, has raised a number of serious ethical issues that call for wise and discerning judgment on the part of communicators and all those concerned with the authenticity and quality of human relationships.... I would also encourage you to consider the many communities in our world that remain excluded from the digital space, and, consequently, I ask you to make digital inclusion a priority of your organizational planning. In doing so, you will be making a significant contribution to the spread of a culture of peace grounded in the truth of the Gospel.”

The approximately 300 participants in the Congress included some Daughters of

St. Paul, members of the *Signis* delegations from Asia and America. In addition, the FSPs of Korea were among the sponsors of the initiative.

ITALY
III INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON CATECHESIS



On 8-10 September 2022, about 1,400 catechists gathered in Rome from more than 80 countries around the world to reflect on the theme *The Catechist, Witness of the New Life in Christ*. Paul VI Hall in Vatican City hosted the dynamic, festive and multicultural crowd that reflected in the variety of its colors the richness of faces in the Church today. The majority of the participants were lay people involved in the ministry of catechesis, but there were also many bishops, priests, and a sizable group of women religious present, including the Daughters of St. Paul. The FSPs made the Italian-speaking participants the gift of a copy of their magazine *Parish Catechists* and offered a catechetical poster to everyone else.

The first of the two previous Catechetical Congresses organized by the Dicastery for Evangelization was dedicated to an in-depth study of the first and second parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the second focused on the profession of faith and the sacraments, and this third Congress pinpointed the Christian's way of life as it flows from the spirit of the Beatitudes. The next Congress will be held during the Jubilee Year of 2025 and the Dicastery is already preparing supplementary material and initiatives for it.

In his audience concluding this year's event, Pope Francis warmly greeted all those present, urging them to never tire of devoting themselves to their very important mission in the Church and to foster the ministry of catechesis according to the guidelines in the *Motu Proprio Antiquum Ministerium*.

KENYA
OPENING AND BLESSING
OF THE NEW ALBERIONE HOUSE



Due to the growing need to provide more ample living and work space for the Daughters of St. Paul who live and study in the Gabriella Community in Karen, Nairobi, the Delegation Government decided to build a new house. In view of this, the circumscription government contracted several companies to carry out architectural, civil, mechanical and construction services under their supervision.

On 2 October 2021, the foundation stone of the building was laid and a Bible was placed next to it. On 13 August 2022, during a Eucharistic Liturgy at the ecclesiastical residence in Nairobi, Archbishop Philip Anyolo blessed the plaque of Alberione House and symbolically imparted his blessing to all the Daughters of St. Paul who will live there, while the official blessing of the new edifice was imparted by Fr. Gerald Namunga CSSp.

Alberione House will serve multiple needs: it will be used as a retreat house, a house for the circumscription's students, and a home for its elderly sisters.

May the Lord bless and reward all the people who helped to make this project a reality.

NIGERIA
NEW PAULINE COOPERATORS

It was a day of jubilation when the Paulines of Lagos (Society of St. Paul, Daughters of St. Paul and Pauline Cooperators) gathered to welcome two new Cooperators into the Family: Joy Obochi Ileka and Cecilia Alaba Odoom, who, after two years of formation, made their promise as Pauline Cooperators in the Church of St. Paul, Iju (Lagos), Nigeria.



It is worth mentioning that both women were trained by another Cooperator, Ms. Ifeoma Iwu, under the supervision of Sr. Gladys Odigwe of the Daughters of St. Paul.

During his homily, the celebrant reminded everyone that Pauline Cooperators are men and women who collaborate with the other members of the Pauline Family by following in the footsteps of St. Paul and who take an active part in spreading the Gospel through the most modern means of communication. He encouraged the new Cooperators to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to this special apostolate and to read the Letters of St. Paul daily. The event was a moment of great celebration for the Pauline Family in Lagos! Our warm congratulations to Joy and Cecilia.

PAKISTAN PLEDGE OF THE FIRST PAULINE COOPERATOR



On the feast of St. Paul, in the presence of almost all the Daughters of St. Paul of the Pakistan Delegation, who had gathered together for the perpetual profession of Sr. Sonia Bashir, Sandra Samuel publicly made her promise as a Pauline Cooperator.

Great was her joy and that of the whole Delegation for this important event that opens the way for the Pauline charism among the laity in this land in which Catholics are a tiny minority. Sandra, the first Pakistani FSP Cooperator, who knows the Pauline spirituality and mission well, helped to translate the new Statutes of the Pauline Cooperators Association into Urdu.

We thank the Lord for this small seed—the premise, we hope, of a flourishing development that will benefit the Church and the whole Pauline Family.

PERU CARLO ACUTIS: A EUCHARISTIC SOUL



Our FSP Publishing House of Peru-Bolivia hosted a book presentation entitled *Carlo Acutis: a Eucharistic Soul*. Written by Simona Rosario Acosta, fsp, and aimed primarily at young audiences, the new publication recounts the life of Acutis, an amateur computer programmer who documented Eucharistic miracles around the world and uploaded them onto a website he created before his death from leukemia in 2006 at the age of fifteen. The text also includes a Pauline proposal for the Eucharistic life and a guide for personal or group prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The book presentation, coordinated by Father Joel Iparraguirre, head of the Archdiocese's youth ministry, was held at the closing of the Lima International Book Fair on 7 August 2022. The Fair was well attended by all classes of people, and our sisters participated in it with a stand offering a wide range of publications contributing to the formation of the people of God in Peru.

CZECH REPUBLIC NATIONAL YOUTH ENCOUNTER



Three Daughters of St. Paul from our Central European Delegation participated in the National Youth Encounter of the Czech Republic held in Hradec Králové from 9-14 August 2022. The motto of the event was, "Get up and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and witness of what you have seen" (Acts 26:16). The 4,000+ participants attended a catechesis session each morning and then studied the content more deeply in small groups. The mornings concluded with a Eucharistic Liturgy concelebrated by several bishops. In the afternoons, the young people had a wide range of proposals to choose from: sports, workshops of various kinds or else lectures on different topics including the Bible and the Koran, presented by Sr. Anna Matikova, fsp. Each day ended with a cultural proposal and prayer.

FSPs Sr. Andrea Hyblova, Sr. Verena Godde and Sr. Anna Matikova were present for the entire Encounter. Sr. Andrea was available to provide anyone interested with spiritual accompaniment. In addition, the participants could meet Sr. Verena and Sr. Anna at the FSP stand, which contained a wide array of Pauline publications. Several young people took advantage of the opportunity to participate in a Bible contest that offered them the chance to purchase a book of their choice at a special discount.

The experience revealed that despite the crisis caused by the pandemic and war, the desire to live the Faith with commitment and enthusiasm has not been extinguished in young people today.

SPAIN 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION IN VALENCIA



The Daughters of St. Paul of Spain recently commemorated the 75th anniversary of our FSP presence in the Diocese of Valencia. The high point of the day was a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Javier Salinas, assisted by the pastor and co-

adjutor of the parish in which our book center is located.

The simple Mass, celebrated in a family atmosphere, was attended by the book center staff, the Pauline cooperators, members of other religious institutes and friends.

In his homily for the occasion, the bishop thanked our sisters for their very meaningful presence in the Church, for their fidelity to the Pauline mission of evangelization, and for their formative and cultural role in society. Afterward, everyone was invited to a festive meal that reinforced the strong bond of fraternity among the sisters and the other participants.

Our very best wishes to all the FSPs of Valencia and for a good continuation of their Pauline activities in Spain, spurred on by the words of Fr. Alberione: "Don't speak only about religion. Instead, speak about everything in a Christian way!"

UNITED STATES

SR. ROSE PACATTE RECEIVES THE *ELIZABETH THOMAN SERVICE AWARD*



Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, was the 2022 recipient of the *Elizabeth Thoman Service Award* from the National Association for Media Literacy, USA. The Award honors those who have spent many years of valuable service in the field of media literacy.

In 1995, Sr. Rose founded the Pauline Center for Media Studies and is currently the Center's director. In 2006, she created the Advanced Certificate in Media Literacy in Faith Formation—a course that is still taught annually and recognized as a catechetical specialization in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and in other dioceses. She has written several award-winning books on media education, is a contributor to the *National Catholic Reporter*, and has served as a member of Catholic or ecumenical juries in numerous international film festivals. Sr. Rose says: "I came to media literacy education in 1990-1991 when I met Sr. Elizabeth Thoman at conferences for Catholic communicators. She spoke of media awareness and values and inspired me to pursue a graduate degree in education in this field. I am forever grateful to her because as Pauline sisters we are tasked with not only creating media but teaching media literacy to those with whom we share faith."

DESIGNING CATECHETICAL VIDEOS FOR LEARNING ON THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLE’S CREED

Sr. M. ANTONIETA MOLINA, FSP



The objective of Sr. M. Antonieta Molina’s thesis, submitted to the Institute for Pastoral Formation at the Don Bosco Center of Studies in Paranaque City, Philippines, in order to obtain a Master’s Degree in Religious Studies, focuses on the designing of catechetical videos for Grade Four Pupils, that is, it presents and discusses the preparation of the scripts for videos meant to be produced and made available online for teachers using the textbook entitled *We Live Our Faith: the Creed*, of which Sr. M. Antonieta is one of the authors. Her thesis adopts the 4-step approach used in the aforementioned textbook, namely: a) *Sharing Our Life*—related activity familiar to the students as a starting point for the explanation of the Christian message; b) *Learning Our Faith*—presentation of the doctrinal content based on the Scriptures and Church documents; c) *Living Our Faith*—activities that help apply the Christian message to one’s life; d) *Celebrating Our Faith*—the worship aspect of the lesson.

The catechetical videos, available on social media platforms such as *Facebook* and *YouTube*, served as valuable online learning resources during the pandemic. Since the videos are age-appropriate, enjoyable and interesting while at the same time focusing on the goal of learning, they can be downloaded by teachers who may opt to use them even now that in-person classroom sessions have resumed.

IMPORTANCE OF PASTORAL COMMUNICATION COMPETENCE IN THE FORMATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL IN THE PHILIPPINES

MARY ANNE PADILLA, FSP

According to the author of this study, integrating *Pastoral Communication Competence* (PCC) into the formation itinerary of the Daughters of St. Paul in the Philippines is essential in order for our young women in formation



to comprehend and enhance their competence in the area of communication. In a world undergoing a communication revolution, PCC plays a significant role in our Institute’s preparation of its candidates in the Philippines for the mission they will carry out in the future.

Sr. Mary Anne’s thesis for a Master of Arts Degree in Theology with a Major in Social/Pastoral Communication from the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School, Manila, Philippines, has a twofold purpose: first, to raise the level of awareness of the importance of PCC according to the documents of the Church on social communications, mission and the consecrated life, as well as the writings of Blessed James Alberione and the Constitutions of the Daughters of St. Paul, and second: to underscore the pastoral implications of integrating PCC into the formation program of the Daughters of St. Paul.

The fruit of this study, which involved consultative focus group discussions of FSP formators and superiors, reveals the necessity of integrating PCC into the Pauline formation itinerary because it is an essential aspect of leading people to Christ and his Church by means of the Institute’s apostolic mission.

PAULINE THEMES IN THE TEACHINGS OF VENERABLE THECLA MERLO

M. ROSARIO AGTARAP, FSP



Sr. M. Rosario’s thesis, submitted to the Institute of Theological Formation at the Don Bosco Center of Studies in Paranaque City, Philippines, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for obtaining a Master of Arts Degree in Theology

with a specialization in Sacred Scriptures, explores the themes from the Letters of St. Paul that Venerable Thecla Merlo appropriated and how she presented them in her conferences to the Daughters of St. Paul. The thesis ex-

amines how the Congregation's first Superior General elaborated on five of the themes on which she frequently focused in her conferences, namely: *sanctification, transformation in Christ, love for God and for souls, straining forward* and *unity*, all of which are treated in the text *Un Cuor Solo, Un'Anima Sola (One Heart, One Soul)* – the definitive collection of her conferences from 1954-1963. The purpose of the thesis is to determine the impact of these themes on her teachings.

The author says that using the interface of Pauline theology and how Venerable Thecla developed the above-mentioned themes reveals her firm grasp of the words of Paul and the Pauline charism, adding that these Pauline themes, which she frequently returned to, were constitutive of the formation and development of the Daughters of St. Paul and can help today's FSPs rediscover the treasures she has handed down to us regarding how to live the Pauline religious life to the full.

Sr. M. Rosario concludes that Venerable Thecla Merlo, through her life and teachings, has clearly left a legacy to the Daughters of St. Paul, to the Pauline Family and to the people of God of a way of discipleship after the example of St. Paul the Apostle.

CATECHESIS AND THE VIA PULCHRITUDINIS: Beauty as a Path to Education in the Faith in the Sacred Art of Cláudio Pastro in Aparecida

ROSA MARIA RAMALHO, FSP



This thesis for a Licentiate in the Science of Education with a focus on catechetics, presented and discussed at the Pontifical Salesian University, Rome, by Sr. Rosa Maria Ramalho, fsp, from

our Brazilian Province, was inspired by the recommendation of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*: "All catechesis should pay special attention to the way of beauty (*via pulchritudinis*)" (n. 167). This important innovation concerning the sources of catechesis was also reconfirmed by the *Directory for Catechesis*.

According to Sr. Rosa, catechesis should be beautiful and creative, captivating and in-



Claudio Pastro

tegrative, transcending the scholastic schema so as to take into account all the dimensions of the person in the process of education to the Faith. Her thesis underscores the Pope's affirmation that it is beautiful to follow Jesus and that all expressions of authentic beauty can help a person encounter him (cf. EG 167).

If in the past the walls and stained glass windows of churches were full of visual catechesis for the illiterate, today catechesis as education to the faith, including through beauty, must propose the *credo* of the Church in such a way as to involve the whole person—not only the intellect, but all the senses. Therefore, initiation to the Faith, and catechesis in particular, cannot ignore the need to involve all the expressive and artistic forms with which culture is replete. Claudio Pastro's artistic works in the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil represent a meaningful way of using beauty to lead its visitors to the *Beauty* that is Jesus Christ.

Chapter One of the thesis, "Catechesis and the *Via Pulchritudinis* in the Magisterium of the Church from the Second Vatican Council to the Directory for Catechesis," analyzes the relationship between catechesis and the *via pulchritudinis* in different ecclesial documents.

Chapter Two, "Education and Internalization of the Faith through Beauty," considers the current understanding of catechesis as education and internalization of the Faith, and explores the *via pulchritudinis* as a privileged way of evangelization and integration of all the dimensions of the person, emphasizing the educational function of beauty.

Chapter Three, "Sacred Art as an Expression of Beauty and its Catechetical Role in the Shrine of Aparecida," is an invitation to plunge more deeply into the mystagogical and biblical catechesis of artist Cláudio Pastro, present in the sacred art within the Shrine of Aparecida.

The author concludes by asserting that the *via pulchritudinis* is a way to rediscover the evangelizing role of beauty and art in the transmission of truth.

WOMEN OF THE COVENANT: MARY MAGDALENE



There is no biblical figure more belittled and abused than Mary Magdalene, also known as Myriam of Magdala. Centuries of misrepresentation, encrusted with erroneous ideas, have tarnished and distorted her image. The tradition that has come down to the present day claims that she was a redeemed prostitute, an eternal penitent. The exegetical mistakes of which Mary of Magdala was a victim have been widely diffused in space and time. This happened because, in Luke's Gospel, the well-known story about the anonymous sinner who lovingly anoints the feet of Jesus in the home of Simon the Pharisee (cf. Lk. 7:36-50) precedes the passage in which Luke mentions the women who followed Jesus (cf. Lk. 8:1-3). Mary of Magdala was part of that group and the proximity of the two texts has created confusion. Since at one time the books of the Bible were not divided into chapters and verses, these two separate accounts seem to be a single, unbroken narrative, resulting in the misidentification of Mary of Magdala with the unnamed penitent. This error has been handed down for centuries, to the point that today Mary Magdalene is still considered by many people to be the sinner/prostitute who anointed the feet of Jesus.

Pope Francis wanted to finally correct the situation by making a significant gesture toward Mary of Magdala. On 3 June 2016, he raised the liturgical rank of the Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene to that of a Feast. In the light of the contemporary ecclesial context, his decision calls everyone to reflect more deeply on the dignity of women and the new evangelization.

With this brief historical background, let us now search for Mary of Magdala between the lines of the Gospel of John, the evangelist who sheds the most light on her. Until chapter 19, the Fourth Gospel makes no mention of Mary of Magdala and consequently she is unknown to the reader until she appears in the account of the passion of Jesus. What does John want to tell us about her by means of this choice, which was not a small one? Let us list the texts that capture her silent presence:

By the cross: "Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and **Mary of Magdala**" (Jn. 19:25).

At the tomb: "On the first day of the week, **Mary of Magdala** came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw that

the stone had been removed.... She stood by the tomb weeping" (Jn. 20:1, 11).

In the garden: "Jesus said to her: '**Mary!**' She turned and said to him in Hebrew: 'Rabboni!' which means 'Teacher'" (Jn. 20:16).

In the first community: "**Mary of Magdala** went and announced to the disciples: 'I have seen the Lord!' and she told them what he had said to her" (Jn. 20:18).

Mary's external and internal stance reveals much about her personality and the way she followed her Master. The text says twice that Mary of Magdala "stood" (*heistékei*). John uses the Greek form of the verb, *hístemi*, to indicate an action with permanent effects. The meaning of the verb "stand" in Greek ranges from simply "remaining" to "remaining in a fixed position," from "standing by" to "standing firmly" (with the solidity of a rock), from "standing resolutely" to "standing faithfully." All these interpretations of the verb can be used to indicate the manner in which Mary silently stood by the cross and by the tomb: the two places of God's utmost weakness. Everyone else ran away, but not her!

A true disciple always remains at the side of her beloved, crossing with him the dark valley of the incomprehensible. The Fourth Gospel describes Mary of Magdala as the woman who lived her love to the extreme, standing without wavering by the cross and the tomb, where God needed her to be. Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini would add these words as a kind of summary: "The story of Mary Magdalene is a sign of the 'excess' of Christian love—a love lived to the extreme, beyond normal boundaries. It is the sign of a profound truth, namely, that true balance is not achieved except by living it to the extreme by means of courageous behavior. Only excessive/extreme love is able to save."



From the Preface of the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene: *Christ the Lord appeared in the garden and revealed himself to Mary Magdalene, who had loved him in life, witnessed him dying on the cross, sought him as he lay in the tomb, and was the first to adore him, newly risen from the dead. He honored her with the office of being an apostle to the Apostles, so that the good news of new life might reach the ends of the earth.*

(Cathedral of Arezzo, Italy: Fresco of Mary Magdalene painted by Piero della Francesca in 1460.)

Francesca Pratillo, FSP

MAESTRA THECLA: STRENGTH AND TENDERNESS



“She who has knowledge, mental ability, a big heart, a spirit of sacrifice, an immense desire for holiness and a great thirst for souls...will see that the road ahead of her becomes always longer, wider and more beautiful when carrying out the apostolate of the editions” (cf. J. Alberione).

Reflecting on M. Thecla Merlo, I like to imagine the morning of 27 June 1915 when she and her mother arrived at St. Damian’s parish in Alba for their appointment with Theologian James Alberione. Mrs. Merlo went to see him first, and then her daughter Teresa. “What did the Theologian ask you?” Mrs. Merlo asked afterward. “To collaborate with him for fifteen days.” “And what did you answer?” “I said yes.”

We all know that those *fifteen days* never ended!

When I was in formation, our Pauline groups were big and numerous: aspirants, postulants, novices, young professed and older professed. We were a boisterous lot: exuberant, zealous, hard-working, spontaneous...but we *didn’t* want to be called “pious” because we had been told that “pious” sisters did not accomplish much in life. The Superior General would meet with each group—she from the “teacher’s chair” in our respective study halls and the rest of us seated at our desks. Prima Maestra’s face and words radiated her wisdom, her inner freedom and her common sense. She wanted us to be quick in the apostolate, in our comings and goings, in our conversations, in the confessional, etc. Her words were condensed into what became known as her *Decalogue of Quickness*. But she did not spend much time at the teacher’s desk. Instead, she spent a lot of time visiting the technical apostolate and our various groups of sisters. During recreation periods, she could be found sitting on a stool among the other professed sisters, cleaning vegetables. When she visited the different departments of the apostolate and our formation sectors, she listened to the sisters responsible for them and also to their mem-

bers. She was always ready to launch new projects if they were aimed at doing good. “If this project will do good to souls,” she would say, “then go ahead with it!”

Those who have knowledge, mental ability, a big heart, a great thirst for souls...

Why were the walls of our hallways and classrooms papered with maps? Why did a globe of the world sit on every desk? “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on him if they have not believed in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard of him? And how will they hear about him without someone to proclaim him? And how can they proclaim him if they have not been sent out? *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!*” (Rm. 10:14-15)



Maestra Thecla, mentally I can visualize you once again at your place in chapel—a sweet expression on your face as you gaze at your Lord! But I am sure that there was more torment than sweetness in your heart at those times because your heart was not in chapel but far, far away...intent on embracing all human beings thirsting for the presence of Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life. With you the Pauline Family prays, “May the presence of Christ the Master spread out into the world through Mary, Queen of Apostles.... May the modern means of communication lead all humanity to him!”

The Daughters of St. Paul have always been known for their quick arrivals and quick departures. Passports in hand, they set out on ships and planes...and many new red dots were added to those maps that covered the walls of our Motherhouse and General house as our Congregation reached the different continents and opened new Tabernacles. “From the Tabernacle—everything!” Prima Maestra would exclaim. “Without the Tabernacle—nothing!”

Thecla, you always walked in the steps of Paul of Tarsus because you were his daughter: "I have made myself all things to all people. I carry you all in my heart."

Ever onward toward eternity. You live in the world but you are not of the world. Blessed are the messengers of God, who bring the Gospel of love to every family....

These expressions were the Pauline "daily bread" that Thecla's heart communicated to us, causing our own hearts to overflow with serenity and joy.

She brought these intentions to the Mass and to her daily Eucharistic adorations. She fervently prayed the *Pauline Offertory*, which concretizes the specifics of our Pauline charism, mission, spirituality and life. This prayer is the true "identity card" of every Daughter of St. Paul!

I want to close this reflection on Thecla with a brief personal memory:

On 30 June 1962 a large group of us were

gathered in the foyer of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary in Rome. We were milling around, big smiles on our faces, as we congratulated one another and exchanged best wishes with great joy. We had just made our perpetual religious profession and Maestra Thecla had received our vows. I went up to her and said, "I would love to be hugged by my sister, Sr. Cecilia, but she is in Canada." With a warm smile, Prima Maestra threw her arms around me and said with great tenderness, "I will very gladly stand in for your sister and hug you on her behalf!" For me, this was just one more reminder that Maestra Thecla was both a strong and tender mother.

Thank you Jesus Master for the gift of Maestra Thecla, of Primo Maestro, and of the spirituality, charism, mission, modernity and universality of the Pauline vocation. Help me to always be my own unique expression of Pauline holiness, not a copy of someone else!

M. Atanasia Seganfredo, fsp

ITALY

THECLA MERLO, MYSTIC AND APOSTLE



On Saturday, 24 September 2022, an in-presence and also live-streamed event was held in the St. Paul House at the Generalate to commemorate the Centenary of the first religious profession of Sr. Thecla Merlo and the first group of Daughters of St. Paul (22 July 1922). Many members of the Pauline Family participated in the encounter.

The theme, *Thecla Merlo: Mystic and Apostle*, was presented with competence and originality by Sr Ana Paula Ramalho, fsp, who recounted the important stages of the life of the Prima Maestra Thecla according

to the stages of bread preparation: wheat (her youth); first fruits (her first profession and the time of congregational expansion); the grinding of grain (internal and external problems); bread making and baking (obscurity and confirmation of her vocation), broken bread (the offering of her life for the holiness of her daughters).

Sr. Ana's talk was followed by the testimonies of some members of the Pauline Family who had known Prima Maestra personally. A common thread running through these contributions was that Thecla Merlo had always cultivated a profound relationship with God, who had shaped her into a woman of great humanity and apostolic action.

The event concluded with input on the part of Fr. Dominic Soliman, the previous postulator general of the Pauline Family and current Superior General of the SSP, the Juniors of the FSP course of perfection, and a communal intercessory prayer to obtain the beatification of Prima Maestra Thecla.

The full event is posted on FSPSicom Youtube.

"FOR THEM, GOD IS EVERYTHING"



I was about eight years old, it was a hot summer afternoon and I was on vacation at the seaside with my grandmother in the village of Pinarella (Ravenna), Italy. Together we went to visit the parish church, which contained a beautiful painting of Christ, almost six meters (20 feet) high, depicting him with a smiling face and open arms. The painting fascinated me because it seemed to say: *Come to me with confidence!* Next to the church, the Daughters of St. Paul were holding a book display. We stopped there to buy some items. One of the sisters smiled at me and I was struck by how joyful and serene her smile was. On the way home I asked my grandmother, "Why are nuns so happy?" Being a woman of faith, she replied, "Because, for them, God is everything." Her words filled me with enthusiasm and I exclaimed: "Then I too want to be a nun when I grow up!" My grandmother was a little worried and replied, "But you have to have a vocation to become a nun!" The mysterious word *vocation* intrigued me, but after awhile I forgot the episode. I recalled it only many years later, when I was already a postulant and two Daughters of St. Paul from the Milan community, one of whom was my teacher, told me that they had been taking care of that seaside book exhibit when I had stopped by during my vacation all those years ago. I had found that smile again!



When I was young, I loved to read, in particular short stories, adventure stories or books on spirituality. Among the latter, two became my "traveling companions": *The Story of a Soul* by Therese of Lisieux and *The Interior Castle* by Teresa of Avila. In fact, the fascination and attraction to God that I had felt

when standing before the painting of Christ had remained in my heart and had grown within me, not only when I was in church but always—even when I was riding my bicycle along the country roads on the outskirts of town. The beauty of nature communicated to me a Presence that loved me, enveloped me and wanted me for himself.

One day I experienced more intensely than usual his invitation to make him my "all" and I was both joyful and alarmed at the thought of saying yes to him. Was this the meaning of the mysterious word *vocation*? And where would it lead me? The answer came one spring morning when, in the cathedral of my hometown, Mantua, two Pauline sisters came up to me and invited me to participate in a summer vocation camp. I realized that this was the sign I had been waiting for. During that camp and the succeeding ones, as well as during the FSP retreats that I had begun to attend together with some friends from my parish, I discovered the beauty of the Pauline mission, the figure of Fr. Alberione, the various components of the Pauline Family, their way of life...and I felt very much "at home" among them.



I was enthusiastic about the way the Pauline sisters and priests guided our prayer sessions and celebrations, using modern songs and audiovisual languages, as well as their animation of catechetical encounters centered on the Word of God and a reading of contemporary history through the lens of faith. I wanted to share this experience of vibrancy and vitality with others in my parish, where our glorious polyphonic choir had been disbanded and the cineforums that had once been frequent were now a thing of the past. The songs we sang were always the same, our Liturgies were dull and routine, and the pews that had once been filled with young people were now sadly empty. My discouraged pastor was an elderly, good-hearted person but he had a stern face and spent hours playing the organ alone in church. How could I convince him to

give us permission to play the guitar during our liturgies and radically change our repertoire, introducing new languages and experiences? Yet once I had mustered my courage and made the proposal, he agreed to give it a try and the reaction of the parishioners was so positive that I was astounded. As Sunday followed Sunday, our parish community went from boredom to joy: it began to blossom again, like fields when they pass from the fog of winter to the sunshine of spring.

It was the same wonder, the same thrill of amazement, that one feels at the miracle of a personal and/or collective inner rebirth—a reality that I have experienced time and again in my life as a Daughter of St. Paul, for instance during Bible missions, in encounters aimed at listening to the Word, at cineforums or discoforums, Gospel days, “itinerant” contact with catechists, young people and the general public in which participants begin to rediscover their faith and transition from a religiosity lived by tradition or habit to a personal and revitalizing encounter with Christ Way, Truth and Life.

It is the same emotion I have felt as the years go by and my initial “bubbly” enthusiasm has subsided into more intimate and profound contact with the surprises of Providence. Like the experience of finding myself, as a professed sister, holding a book exhibit

in Pinarella and running into the same parish priest who had been the pastor there in my childhood—which gave me the chance to tell him that the nun now standing in front of him was once a child enchanted by the painting of Christ in his church. Or like the experience of organizing in my turn vocation camps and meetings in which I crossed paths with other companions on the journey of faith and apostolate at the delicate and decisive moment when they were trying to decide what to do with their lives.

But even greater than all this is my increased passion today for communication. Moving from one service to another: from provincial government responsibilities to multimedia publishing, the animation of Communications Week, the Pauline Communication and Culture Association, and from there to the digital apostolate...I have felt growing within me, year after year, the conviction that the Pauline charism is a treasure to be shared because it contains so many precious and fruitful elements for our contemporary Church and society. My horizons have expanded even more now that I am living a new stage of my Pauline journey—one that is helping me get to know and serve our sisters all over the world.

Bruna Fregni, fsp

INDIA

FSP CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



Sr. Dorothy Adaha Kayina of the Daughters of St. Paul, India, was chosen by the Vatican Section for Migrants and Refugees to coordinate a project for English-speaking countries for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) (25 Sept. 2022) on the theme *Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees*. It was the first time such a significant project was entrusted to a women’s religious community. It involved the preparation of a Kit of various liturgical materials: booklets for a Eucharistic Celebration, a Holy Hour, the Rosary, a Prayer Vigil, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayer card, reflections and activities for children, teens and adults, as well as posters and a video.

The content of the Kit, prepared by a team

of FSPs in collaboration with lay professionals who were happy to contribute their expertise to the project, was drawn up with three considerations in mind: pastoral, communication experience and Church teachings with regard to migration. The Vatican Media Staff, which approved and endorsed the Kit, will send it to all the English-speaking nations of the Universal Church for use in dioceses, parishes and communities.

Through this initiative, the Pauline mission is truly responding to Pope Francis’ call to go to the peripheries and be present among marginalized people.

Sr Dorothy writes: “I am grateful to my provincial superior, Sr Arul Mary Susai, who encouraged and supported us every step of the way. And I sincerely thank the Daughters of St. Paul of India and our lay collaborators, who worked tirelessly to contribute their best to this initiative, which was a blessing for all of us and a truly exceptional opportunity!”

**"BEING CONNECTED"
DOES NOT MEAN
"BEING COMMUNITY"**



There is no doubt that globalization has shrunk the world and has given exponential growth to cultural exchanges. The sharing that social media rapidly facilitates by fostering a perception of proximity can be as cynical as it is supportive. Indeed, social media is the realm of illusion and "information bulimia" on the Internet, and only the reasoned and rational use of these information networks can transform them into real possibilities. As J.D. Bolter reminds us, "Our media culture is extraordinarily rich and, in its plenitude, entirely acritical. It contains an infinite amount of junk, but also a lot of interesting stuff."



In today's digital culture, a kind of reversal is taking place with respect to a not-too-distant past: whereas a few decades ago society's behavior was guided by an attitude of discretion and restraint, and the fear of being watched was a kind of nightmare, today we do everything to be observed, because we fear being abandoned, ignored, denied, excluded. It is enough to think of the logic and dynamics that predominate in the construction of influencer profiles.

Pope Francis reminds us of this very clearly in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, where he states: "While closed and intolerant attitudes towards others are on the rise, distances are otherwise shrinking or disappearing to the point that the right to privacy scarcely exists. Everything has become a kind of spectacle to be examined and inspected, and people's lives are now under constant surveillance. Digital communication wants to bring everything out into the open. People's lives are combed over, laid bare and banded about, often anonymously. Respect for others disintegrates, and even as we dismiss, ignore or keep others distant, we can shamelessly peer into every detail of their lives."

It is clear, then, that being connected does not mean being community.



We are therefore all called to reclaim personal relationality *in presence*, because "direct, face-to-face conversation," sociologist Sherry Turkle says, "leads to higher self-esteem and improves one's ability to interact with others. Once again, conversation is the remedy." It is sufficient to recall what semiologist Isabella Pezzini wrote in 2020: "The locus of the body speaks as much as the intellect: space is the locus of this discourse and structures its grammar, while distancing impacts communication and mutual understanding. The locus of the communication of tacit, intersubjective and uncoded knowledge is proximity. Being together and in close proximity can produce clan and solidary effects, and can also generate innovation."

Here, then, is how communication has changed: it has become cold by depriving itself of the manifestation of the nonverbal elements that also guide the perception of the meaning proper to verbal communication.

In fact, the social dimension includes an exchange of bodily elements such as smell and physical contact that virtual communi-

cation cannot offer. This has been evident in what is now referred to as *online learning*. In this regard, we must remember that learning is not only a cognitive matter, but also a matter of intellectual and emotional contact and “contagion” between/among the interlocutors. This dimension of the exchange of moods (from which humor and cheerfulness also derive) gives rise to social bodies like the class, the team, etc., as well as to movements (political parties, the Nation). Consequently, Pope Francis says, it is necessary *to find the right language* because “contact is the true language of communication—the same affective language that transmitted healing to a leper. How many healings we could accomplish and transmit by learning the language of contact!”

We are as obsessed with social media today as we were with TV yesterday. Social networking gratifies us because we think we can interact with the whole world (ideally at least), imagining that we have access to the most important personalities and the most exclusive circles. However, if we are not anesthetized by gratification, we also discover the strong illusory charge of the world of social media.

In *Fratelli Tutti*, the Pope invites each and every one of us “to learn how to unmask the various ways that the truth is manipulated, distorted and concealed in public and private discourse. What we call ‘truth,’” he says, “is not only the reporting of facts and events, such as we find in the daily papers. It is primarily the search for the solid foundations sustaining our decisions and our laws. This calls for acknowledging that the human mind is capable of transcending immediate concerns and grasping certain truths that are unchanging, as true now as in the past. As it peers into human nature, reason discov-

ers universal values derived from that same nature.”

Thus, the strength and necessity of an honest mind free from subservience to dictators or overlords is reaffirmed—a mind that can distinguish in the plenitude of media culture “things that are garbage from things that are interesting,” as Jay David Bolter says.

Which means that being connected does not necessarily mean being someone who performs better. Indeed, far from it!

Msgr. Dario Edoardo Viganò

Vice Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of the Sciences and Social Sciences

* For further study: *The Illusion of an Interconnected World: Social Relations and New Technologies*, by Msgr. Dario Edoardo Viganò, Dehonian Editions, Bologna, 2022.



PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

July - August 2022



RESISTENCIA, ARGENTINA

2 July 2022

Sr. Noelia Raquel Toro

MARYLAND, USA

10 July 2022

Sr. Chelsea Bethany Davis

FLORIDA, USA

16 July 2022

Sr. Carly Paula Arcella

LEON, MEXICO

6 August 2022

Sr. Julia Karina Hernandez Yañez

CANTACIELO: A FESTIVAL THAT REVEALS THE SOUL OF MUSIC LOVERS



Music is a universal language that turns its gaze to heaven and speaks to the souls of music lovers. This is basically the essence of *Cantacielo*, a music festival dedicated precisely to “songs of the soul,” the first edition of which was held Italy in September 2022. Eight musical artists competed in the concluding event, aired on national television on 6 September. Natale Benazzi, head of the spirituality sector of St. Paul Editions, was among the organizers of the event. “The Festival has a double dimension,” he said, “horizontal and vertical. The idea is to provide an opportunity for many people to sing about life situations in a different way. Sometimes we lose the inner dimension and contemplate life only horizontally, overlooking the vertical aspect of heaven and soul.”

FR. VALDIR JOSÉ DE CASTRO APPOINTED BISHOP

Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Valdir José De Castro as Bishop of the diocese of Campo Limpo in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. Fr. Valdir, the Society of St. Paul’s first



Bishop, served as Superior General of the Institute from 2015 to 2022.

We make our own the words of Fr. Dominic Soliman, current Superior General of the SSP: “We are certain that Fr. Valdir will carry out his new pastoral commitment with his customary style of listening, attention to others and communion, and that he will do it with the Pauline spirit transmitted to us by our Founder, Blessed James Alberione.”

We offer our sincere best wishes to Fr. Valdir and ask the Lord to grant him a fruitful ministry.

INDIA

BLESSING OF THE NEW FSP BOOK CENTER IN SILIGURI



20 August 2022, the Feast of St. Bernard, was the joyous and emotional day on which our Indian province opened a new Pauline Book and Media Center, located in Siliguri at the foot of the Himalayas. It was the realization of the circumscription’s long-held dream to establish our Pauline presence in that region in order to reach the many people there and bring them closer together.

The new apostolic center was blessed by Bishop Vincent Aind, who delivered a short message during the ceremony, saying: “Blessed James Alberione was inspired to use the media for the proclamation of the Gospel when the media were not as common as they are today. The Daughters of St. Paul do the same, giving the values of Christ, that is, giving Jesus himself through the medium of print. This new center of light will do a lot of good for our people.”

WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

THE ECONOMY OF POPE FRANCIS: FOR A BETTER WORLD



About a thousand young people gathered at Assisi from 22-24 September for the international meeting of the Pope's initiative aimed at a renewal of the economy in favor of the poor, the common good and the care of creation.

The protagonists of the event—young economists, entrepreneurs and researchers—came from all over the world.

Subdivided into “thematic villages,” they confronted and discussed 12 topics inspired by the issues posed by the encyclicals *Laudato si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. The topics were chosen by combining concepts from the economic world with those more closely related to social issues, such as “Energy and Poverty,” “Finance and Humanity,” “Agriculture and Justice” and “Management and Giving.”

At the end of his address to the participants, the Pontiff was presented with a “covenant” that he and the young people signed together, to commit themselves in a personal and collective way to this journey toward an “economy with soul” that leaves no one behind.

PRESENTATION OF THE JUBILEE LOGO FOR 2025



Men and women from the four corners of the earth, heading toward the future, with the Cross as a reference that becomes an anchor of hope amid the rough waves of life. This, in a nutshell, is the explanation of the logo for the Jubilee of 2025.

Describing the logo, Giacomo Travisani, the winner of the international competition, explained that his design wanted to reflect “people of every ‘color,’ nationality and culture, moving forward together from the four corners of the earth toward the future, toward others, and toward the world, like sails of a great common ship, unfurled thanks to the wind of Hope, that is: the Cross of Christ and Christ himself. To ‘personify’ hope,” he said, “I immediately had a clear image: the cross. I imagined the Pope, today’s Peter, leading God’s people toward our common goal. They were embracing the Cross, which has become an anchor, a solid reference for humanity. And we the people were clinging to each other and to that anchor, symbolically evoking pilgrims of every era.”

Students, graphic design studios, religious institutes, professionals, art scholars and also many children all participated in the Jubilee Logo Contest, which focused on the motto: “Pilgrims of Hope.” 294 entries were sent in from 213 cities and 48 different countries.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

GLOBAL SUMMIT OF THE WORLD’S STREET NEWSPAPERS



From 12-15 September 2022, the Global Street Paper Summit was held for the first time in Milan, Italy. The event was organized by INSP, the International Network of Street Papers (www.insp.ngo), based in Glasgow, Scotland. The Network represents 93 street newspapers located in 35 countries and provides employment and income, through the sale of the papers, to 20,000 socially disadvantaged people.

The Summit was attended by more than 100 delegates from all over the world: from

Germany to Canada, from Argentina to Norway, from Scotland to Australia, from the United States to Brazil. The program was filled with meetings and the exchange of experiences, reflections, and ideas. The participants tried to sketch out proposals for the future of street papers, which in the past three years have faced many challenges, some of them quite significant.

NEW INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR TALITHA KUM



Talitha Kum, the International Network of Women Religious Against Human Trafficking, has a new International Coordinator: Maryknoll Sister Abby Avelino of the Philippines. The statement from the International Union of Superiors General reads: “As a member of *Talitha Kum*’s International Committee, Sr. Abby has contributed to the growth of the Network and its many initiatives around the world. We wish her every blessing for the years to come and assure her of our support.”

The Union then expressed its warm thanks to Sr. Gabriella Bottani, *Talitha Kum*’s Coordinator for nearly eight years, for her outstanding leadership in helping to establish 70 TK networks around the world.

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

**GIFFONI FILM FESTIVAL:
“THE INVISIBLES”**



The theme of the 2022 edition of the Giffoni Film Festival was *The Invisibles*, depicted by a vast sky lit by stars, whose light symbolizes the mysterious bond between distant lives, makes imperceptible ties visible, and reveals the presence of those who often remain in the shadows.

The 10-day International Film Festival for Children takes place every July in the town of Giffoni Valle Piana, in the province of Salerno, Italy. The protagonists and jurors of this year’s event, held from 21-30 July, were 5,000 children and teens from Italy and all over the world, whose work was to view the 118 films in competition from 35 countries. They discussed the films with their directors, authors and performers, and then proceeded to choose the winner for each film category. Every day, the members of the jury also met with the Festival’s 250 special guests, most of whom came from the world of film and television, in order to initiate a constructive and sincere dialogue with them.

**RELIGION TODAY FILM FESTIVAL:
“THE BEAUTY OF DIFFERENCES”**



The *Religion Today Film Festival* celebrated its 25th anniversary this year from 14-21 Sept., with the aim of promoting independent cinema on spirituality and interreligious dialogue between cultures and faiths.

The Festival, which opened in Trent, Italy with a round-table discussion from an all-female perspective, hosted 42 films in competition from 23 different countries, 11 national premieres, four European premieres, one international premiere, and a dense program of cultural appointments that included 3 exhibitions, 3 concerts, 10 debates and 10 master classes for young people.

Present for the entire Festival were 25 women from 15 different religions belonging to the *Women of Faith for Peace Movement*, founded by Lia Beltrami, and the *Golden Lion for Peace 2017*, which was established 12 years ago as a means of healing some of the divisions between Israel and Palestine.



*"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. Assunta Anacleta Labay, age 98 - 02.07.2022 - Pasay City (Hospital), Philippines
Sr. M. Carmine Teresa Maria Zanini, age 89 - 04.07.2022 - Alba, Italy
Sr. Claudia Maria De Lourdes Pegorer, age 90 - 12.07.2022 - São Paulo, Brazil
Sr. M. Paola Paolina Soru, age 77 - 19.07.2022 - Ariccia (Hospital), Italy
Sr. Juana Antonia Gonzalez Maya, age 79 - 19.07.2022 - Mexico City (Capri), Mexico
Sr. M. Lourdes Maria Josefa Atiega Elguea, age 94 - 01.08.2022 - Madrid (Hospital), Spain
Sr. Maria Grazia Maria Cirillo, age 94 - 04.08.2022 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. M. Franca Francesca Paganini, age 93 - 08.08.2022 - Rome DP, Italy
Sr. M. Stefanina Maria Argento, age 91 - 14.08.2022 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. M. Giuliana Elisa Mura, age 85 - 17.08.2022 - Rome DP, Italy
Sr. Monica Tokiko Kamimura, age 88 - 28.08.2022 - Hiratsuka, Japan
Sr. M. Gloria Maria Pia Lanzoni, age 83 - 28.08.2022 - Albano GA, Italy
Sr. Maria Alexandre De Oliveira, age 78 - 05.09.2022 - Curitiba, Brazil
Sr. M. Evangelina Masako Hondo, age 81 - 07.09.2022 - Kanagawa (Hospital), Japan
Sr. Ferruccia Budai, age 81 - 12.09.2022 - Albano TM, Italy
Sr. M. Vittoria Rosa Angela Prandini, age 82 - 19.09.2022 - Rome DP, Italy

PARENTS OF OUR SISTERS

Sr. Melissa Mancita (Father, Pedrito), of the Generalate community, Rome, Italy
Sr. Jaqueline Ferreira Da Silva (Father, Xavier), of the Recife community, Brazil

PAULINE FAMILY

Fr. Santiago Timoteo Bonomini, ssp, age 83 - 04.07.2022 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sr. M. Agnes Augusta Astegno, pdm, age 95 - 05.08.2022 - Sanfrè, Italy
Sr. M. Piercarla Giovannina Consonni, pdm, age 92 - 07.08.2022 - Rome, Italy
Fr. Tomas Rafael Martinez Rayas, ssp, age 75 - 07.08.2022 - Comonfort, Mexico
Sr. Isabel Terezinha Dalle Laste, sjbp, age 88 - 10.08.2022 - Caxias do Sul, RS, Brazil
Fr. Italo Riccardo Canciani, ssp, age 79 - 27.08.2022 - Alba, Italy
Sr. M. Edoarda Flora Slongo, sjbp, age 87 - 06.09.2022 - Negrar, Italy
Fr. Olinto Giovanni Roberto Crespi, ssp, age 84 - 19.09.2022 - Albano Laziale, Italy