

SPECIAL 12th General Chapter



Impelled by the fire of the Spirit
listening to contemporary humanity
we communicate the Gospel of hope

LET US LIVE OUR PAULINE IDENTITY WITH JOY



Dearest Sisters,

May the grace and peace of the Lord be with you.

For the first time I am addressing you through the pages of our online bulletin.

With the 12th General Chapter, I have been called to serve in the role of evangelical leadership as Superior General of our Congregation. It is a great and demanding responsibility, before which I feel small—yet I accept it with trust and gratitude to the Lord, desiring to be a docile instrument so that He may fulfill in me His plan of love and salvation for the whole world.

Your messages of prayer and warm congratulations have given me great courage in the face of this new and unexpected calling, which initially left me feeling overwhelmed. I thank you once again, deeply, for your generous trust and encouragement. I am especially grateful to our elderly and infirm sisters, who offered so much and prayed fervently for the success of the 12th General Chapter.

The Holy Spirit, through the 12th General Chapter, has called us to be rooted in the Word that heals and to joyfully live out our identity as Daughters of St. Paul, so that we may become channels of Christ's light and a blessing for all humanity. To enrich this Direction, I am sharing a few excerpts from the closing address of the General Chapter.

Rooted in the Healing Word

As apostles of the Word, called to proclaim it in a world of communication increasingly marked by empty and manipulative speech, we Daughters of St. Paul place the Word at the heart of our prayer, study, and mission. To be rooted in the Word means allowing ourselves, both personally and as communities, to be converted, transformed, and healed, so that we may become authentic, fruitful, and life-giving communication (cf. Jn 15:5).

Living the Pauline Identity with Joy

"Rejoice in the Lord always; I say it again, rejoice!" (Phil 4:4). We feel called to reclaim the joy that has been, from the beginning, a defining characteristic of our Pauline vocation. It is a gift of Christ within us, yet also the fruit of a fully human, personal, and communal effort that opens us to God and to the world. This effort makes us aware of both our fragility and our identity: to be apostolic women, sent to bring the Gospel to our times with the passion of St. Paul.

To Be Channels of Light

"From here I want to enlighten." That is: *I am your light, and I will make use of you to bring light; I entrust you with this mission and I want you to fulfill it* (cf. AD 157). In a time of profound social, cultural, and ecclesial change, we feel called to be channels of light, especially in the digital world, to illumine those who live in darkness and without meaning. To the extent that our lives, enlightened by the Eucharist, are healed of wounds and conflicts that hold us back, we become a living transparency of Christ and capable of humanizing the world around us.

To Be a Blessing for Humanity

Like Paul, who became "all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel" (cf. 1 Cor 9:22), every Daughter of St. Paul, in the logic of the Incarnation, is called to be a blessing for all peoples, across languages, cultures, and faiths. To be a blessing means to practice a communication, a humanizing communication, that in a world increasingly torn by war and conflict, and by ways of thinking that erode and manipulate consciences, brings forth words filled with meaning—authentic words, true words, words of peace.

With gratitude, we receive this Direction inspired by the Holy Spirit, and we now commit ourselves to putting it into practice in our daily lives, so that all of us Daughters of St. Paul may become ever more channels of the light and blessing of Jesus Christ—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—for a world wounded by injustice, war, and violence.

May God bless you, now and always.

Sr Mari Lucia Kim

*Sr Mari Lucia Kim
Superior General*

once, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas, making a straight run for Samothrace, and on the next day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, a leading city in that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We spent some time in that city. On the sabbath we went outside the city gate along the river where we thought there would be a place of prayer. We sat and spoke with the women who had gathered there. One of them, a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, from the city of Thyatira, a worshiper of God, listened, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying. After she and her household had been baptized, she offered us an invitation, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my home," and she prevailed on us.

The first thing that is evident from the text is that evangelization is not a human project. Barnabas and Paul were a tried and tested team; they had a clear plan, that had been confirmed in Jerusalem: to return to the communities they had founded to support them and help them grow. The project fails right from the start because the two apostles quarrel over Mark. At that point, Paul decides to go with Silas to Asia Minor, a fairly homogenous territory, more or less of the same Semitic culture as the Jews, in a strong religious search to be directed toward Christ.

This is the new plan. But the Spirit blocks all their paths.



Is it, then, useless to make plans? No, it is necessary to make them, but we must learn to believe that the real plan, the real project, is to have eyes that are open to reality. Because God does not act according to our ideas, which so often are the memory of

what we have done and what we still want to carry out. God is always new and speaks *even* through the reality that takes place. Emmanuel Mounier, a French philosopher, would say that the things that take place are our "interior teacher."

God's plans are not things that are conceived at a desk, that are objects of study, of tested experience, of highly competent people.... They also involve failures, which, however, must be "read." And if one road closes, it means that there is another one.

It is when every pathway seems closed that the dream comes.... After much wandering, many obstacles from the Spirit, finally there is a vision in the night, a Macedonian who begs: "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

The restlessness of the dream unsettles Paul and opens up totally new scenarios: from being a protagonist of evangelization, Paul becomes a collaborator of the Spirit.

And in this way the Church arrives in Europe. Not with noisy events but on tiptoe, through listening and encounter. There was no synagogue in Philippi, but along the river, outside the gates, a group of women gathers in prayer.

And there, in that apparently marginal space, the Word encounters a heart that is ready: that of Lydia. The text says: "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what Paul was saying." The Greek verb that is used – *diènoixen* – is the same word that describes the dilation of the uterus at the moment of birth. It is, therefore, a birth, a coming to light, a faith that sprouts from within, as if the Word brought forth what was already living in her but had not yet been spoken.

Lydia, a believing, hospitable, determined woman, becomes the first Christian of Europe. She welcomes the Word, she is baptized with her whole house, and then "she prevailed on us to accept" her hospitality, says Paul.

It is the eruption of grace: a new community is born from an encounter, from a shared prayer, from a heart that is open.

Dearest, also for us this is the time of vision, of listening, of discernment. A time to follow the compass of the Spirit, even willing to change course, allowing ourselves to be surprised and unsettled by dreams, inspired by the Word, guided by reality. Let us keep

our hearts open, like Lydia, so that the Lord can continue to generate new life through us. And, like Paul, let us become “accomplices” of the Spirit, faithful even to that which goes beyond us, but transforms us.

The General Chapter, epiclesis in action

In light of what has just been said, the General Chapter is like a continual invocation of the Spirit, “an epiclesis in action,” so that the Breath of the Risen One may be the presence that inspires, opens hearts and minds, renders them docile, placing in them his fruit that “is love, joy, peace” (Gal 5:22).

Borrowing the words pronounced by Pope Francis in his opening address of the *Synod on synodality*, October 4, 2023, we can also affirm that “we are not the protagonist of the [Chapter]: it is the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is in our midst to guide us, it will be a good [Chapter].”

Because of this, the priority of the Chapter is *listening*. In this “pause” of the congregation, but also of the Church – because the Chapter is also an ecclesial event that concerns the whole Church – we listen: to God, to the reality of the Church in the world, among us as assembly, and to ourselves individually.

The “food” for our journey is the *Word* that, thanks to the silent and subtle action of the Spirit, becomes the living word in the experience of these days. In listening to the Scriptures we will draw forth the words that we will exchange in dialogue and discussion; we will be helped to focus on urgent issues, questions, and areas of inquiry to be able to trace out reliable and authoritative directions for our future journey.

These elements, briefly mentioned here, are well summarized in the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus (We stand before you, Holy Spirit)*, a prayer that in the Catholic tradition opens every Council, every Synod, every Chapter of religious life. A prayer that we will now pray together.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down
the wrong path

nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.



“Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says....” (cf. Rev 2:7)

The General Chapter is often defined as “a new Pentecost.” But in order for it to truly become one – not only in words, but in the living truth of our experience – it is necessary, I repeat, that each one of us opens herself to listening. An interior, profound, docile listening, to welcome what the Spirit has to say, precisely to us, precisely today.

Only in this way will a new language be born, a language that is “other,” a universal language that everyone can understand: the language of love that knows how to see the other with tenderness; the language of gift that gives without calculating cost; the language of the disarmed heart that does not defend itself but surrenders itself, and precisely for this reason disarms those it encounters.

Sisters, in these days of Spiritual Exercises, let us open our hearts to the warmth of the Holy Spirit. Let us allow him to descend on each one of us as in that upper room in Jerusalem, and to transform us from within, personally and as a capitular community. The rest...will be a surprise, a surprise of the Spirit, who never ceases to blow where he wills, as he wills, when he wills.

May we be sustained and accompanied on this journey by the powerful intercession of Primo Maestro and Maestra Thecla, whose existence was so “inhabited” by the Spirit that they became prophets of life, sowers of hope, untiring pilgrims toward the future of God.

Sr. Anna Caiazza
Superior General

MY PRAYER AND NEARNESS TO THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL



The Daughters of St. Paul are preparing to celebrate their General Chapter. For my part, as Cardinal Vicar for the Diocese of Rome, I wish to express my most sincere hope that these days will be a time of grace and careful discernment, necessary to better address the often extremely difficult challenges that our times present us.

I am convinced that the charism of Fr. James Alberione remains extraordinarily timely today and of great benefit to the Church and the world. Proclaiming the Gospel using the languages of our time, particularly through the means of social communication, is a mission that takes on an increasingly crucial value, especially in the face of the new challenges posed by the rapid development of technology, including artificial intelligence.

In this spirit, I wish to renew my good wishes and prayers. We recently celebrated the Eucharist, and I wanted to entrust this Chapter to God, so that it may be lived with profound faith and serenity. I also pray for those who will be called to assume responsibilities of governance, that they may carry them out with courage, dedication, and generosity, following the shining example of Fr. James Alberione—an extraordinary priest who dedicated his entire life to proclaiming the Gospel through the powerful means of social communication.

I extend my heartfelt best wishes for your work, and I assure the Daughters of St. Paul of my prayers and nearness.

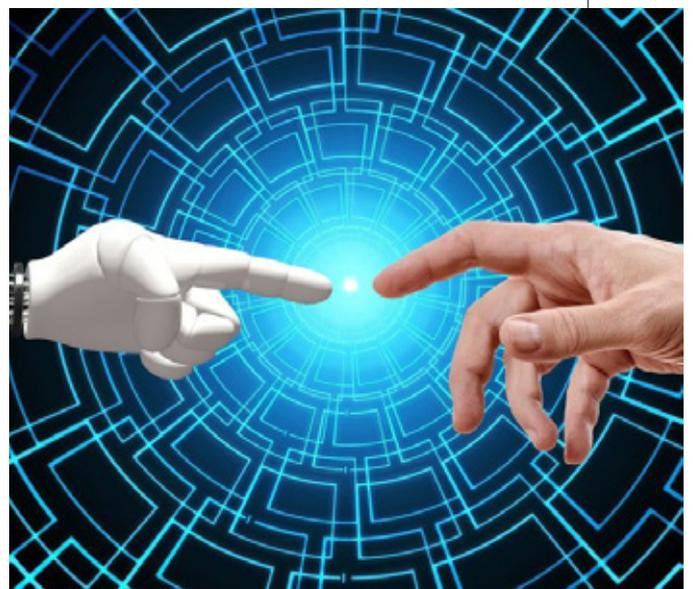
*His Excellency, Archbishop Baldassare Reina
Vicar General for the Diocese of Rome*

HOPE AND THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL IN THE AGE OF INTELLIGENT MACHINES



Artificial intelligence today is above all an environment, a culture, that forces us to let the machine think and perhaps even prevent us from thinking. I believe it is important for the Church today to proclaim two things: the beauty of thinking and the importance of protecting our fragility which the machine somehow tends to cause us to forget. In these times in which we live, and especially in the times we will live in, it is important for young people and adults to discuss these issues and find together, in the light of the Gospel, a path forward and a direction to take.

*Father Luca Peyron
Contact for the Pastoral Care
of Techno-Scientific Culture
of the Archdiocese of Turin
Coordinates the Digital Apostolate Service*



“EFFATA!” THE GENERAL CHAPTER – LISTENING TO THE CRY OF HUMANITY AND DISCERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE SYNOD



My name is Sister Jolanta, I am a Claretian missionary, and I was invited by Mother General to accompany the Chapter journey this morning. We focused on listening to the cry of humanity, in order to discern a synodal path for the Congregation together with the Church.

We began precisely with listening, because if mission is the essential service of a General Chapter—that is, discerning God’s will for the Church and the world today—then listening is a fundamental dimension.

We “broke open” this word, listening, exploring it in all the dimensions of the human being, but also in the light of community life and in the context of the General Chapter itself. While, opening ourselves to listening “in God’s way,” we sought to grasp humanity’s cry in the situations that challenge us, to discover what invitations and calls they contain, and to discern which of them we are called to respond to in a particular way, according to a synodal spirituality and style.

The Synod offers us light through its method, which begins precisely with listening, and through its spirituality, which presupposes openness to the voice of the Spirit. It requires us to be communally sensitive in listening to the Spirit, including in this space of listening to all the voices that come from our apostolates, from the environments in which we work, and from the specific invitations the Church extends to us today.

We live in a difficult time of human history, marked by so much pain and hardship. We cannot ignore it. We cannot stop at compassion alone: we are called to make it visible in concrete gestures, in healing responses.

The Word, which is at the heart of Pauline spirituality, is a flame of light that guides and enlightens us. We therefore focused on the Gospel passage of the healing of the deaf-mute, surrounded by the disciples and with Jesus’ gestures as a reference and model of listening and healing.

I hope this has been a propitious moment to reflect together on the journey the Chapter is taking.

*Sister Jolanta Kafka
Claretian Missionary*

WALKING WITH THE HOLY PEOPLE OF GOD



The Diocese of Albano has a particularly deep bond with the Daughters of St. Paul, and I would say with the entire Pauline Family. Blessed James Alberione wanted all the institutes of the Pauline Family to be present in the Diocese of Albano.

On the occasion of their Chapter, my hope for the Daughters of St. Paul is that they truly take their chosen theme seriously, allowing themselves to be enkindled by the fire of the Holy Spirit. It is He who moves us to be an outgoing Church, capable of listening, in dialogue with humanity and the world, finding the courage to reach out to the people of our time.

We now live in an age in which we can no longer simply wait for people to come to us. It’s time, as a Church, to step out, to be extroverted, to meet the situations that require our witness today: as consecrated persons, as baptized persons, as a synodal Church that desires to walk alongside the Holy People of God and all humanity.

*Monsignor Vincenzo Viva
Bishop of Albano*

INTEGRAL FORMATION IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF HOPE



Dear Sisters, Daughters of St. Paul, it is with great joy that I communicate to you that we are praying for all of you during this General Chapter. I also thank you for your invitation to be here with you.

I am Sister Bernardita Sotelo, current Superior General of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master. The theme I would like to share with you today is *Integral Formation in the Light of the Gospel of Hope*.

In this theme, it is essential to recognize that Jesus the Master is the true formator: it is He who shapes our minds, our wills, and our hearts. Of course, He waits for us, His disciples and daughters, to enter into His school, because He desires to form us according to His style.



Our Founding Father, Fr. James Alberione, teaches us that formation must be integral; therefore, we Pauline Disciples of the Pauline Family are called to make room for Him in our minds, hearts, and wills, so that He can form us in His school.

Father Alberione affirms that it is necessary to form the whole person for a total love of God. This means knowing how to take charge of our history—personal and communal—starting with the gift of life, for which we are responsible. We are called to transform our history into a history of salvation, to make our life a holy sacrifice pleasing to God.



This requires a constant process of transformation, until we can say, with Saint Paul: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

This journey requires assiduous, daily formation, which accompanies our entire vocation and mission.

Dear Daughters of Saint Paul, I hope that this theme may enrich your life and ours, and that you may truly experience the joy of being able to say:

“It is no longer I who live,
but Christ who lives in me.”

This is the wish I extend to you, on behalf of our entire Congregation. We are with you, we love you dearly, and we pray for you, that this Twelfth General Chapter may produce abundant fruits of holiness, for the good of the Church and all humanity.

Our heartfelt gratitude.

*Sr. Bernardita Sotelo
Superior General of the PDDM*

CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT AT THE SYNOD TABLES

A cordial greeting to all of you, Sisters of the Daughters of St. Paul, whom I reach from this beautiful Chapter Hall. I am Sister Tiziana Merletti, a Franciscan of the Poor. I am Italian, and a canonist. For a couple of years, we have been walking together, particularly with the General Government and the Chapter Preparatory Commission, to ensure that this moment is truly a time of grace, in which all your contributions and everything you wished to express in light of the theme chosen for your 12th General Chapter converge.

As you know, all the Chapter members have the *working document* in their hands, and this week, as I gather with the 57 Chapter members, we are examining it word by word, line by line, page by page, receiving everything you have brought here.

We are listening to the Spirit with a methodology that seeks to be authentically synodal. Seven tables were set up in the hall, around which the sisters, step by step, shared, discerned, and expressed their views to understand where the Spirit wishes to lead your Institute over the next six years. From this journey, a direction emerged that can illumine your path.

This resulted in seven calls, representing the priorities identified by the Chapter members. We are now examining the various pro-



posals, and discernment will subsequently lead us to vote and express an opinion on the concrete actions that can accompany the implementation and incarnation of these inspirations.

The atmosphere is very beautiful, and I am very happy. I hope that all this work will reach you and encourage you to live your charism with renewed enthusiasm, because the Church truly needs you.

My warmest greetings to you all.

*Sr. Tiziana Merletti, SFP
Secretary of the Dicastery
for Institutes of Consecrated Life
and the Societies of Apostolic Life*



THE PAULINES CAN TEACH THE WORLD THAT COMMUNICATION IS BORN OF COMMUNION



We are not living in easy times: it is a difficult time, but we should not be discouraged. What, then, can the Paulines offer to such a confused, polarized age, a time in which we communicate so much but often say nothing, and we end up alone, each one of us locked up in our own solitude?

I believe the Paulines can teach the world that true communication is born of communion, that authentic communication springs from love. The many languages we use, that we have learned, or that we will still invent, can be signs of a profound rediscovery of what unites us, of the beauty of the communion that binds us to one another.

The Paulines are a network, an even more beautiful network than one made of wires or algorithms. They are a network of sisters who, in turn, know how to communicate their love within a wider network: that of non-consecrated people, young people, and those who frequent the Pauline bookstores and meeting places.



I believe that today, more than ever, we must recover this sense of community, this awareness that love unites us beyond all distance and language. We must commit ourselves, together, to making this happen.

You can help the Church realize this dream: to convert the digital world, not just by inhabiting it, but by transforming it; not just by living in this time, but by renewing it; not just by remaining true to yourselves, but by involving those younger than you, so that they can accompany you when you are older and point out the way to a tomorrow that is advancing so rapidly.

Following the charism of the Paulines and the teachings of Mother Thecla, Father Alberione, and Saint Paul, “becoming all things to all people”, means weaving today a network of communion in an increasingly divided world.

Paolo Ruffini
Prefect of the Dicastery for Communication



LET THE FIRE OF THE SPIRIT MOVE YOU



Dear Sisters,

It is a joy to greet you here from Ariccia. We, as the Dicastery for Consecrated Life, are present in person, myself and that of the Pro-Prefect, Cardinal Ángel Airtime, to greet you and share a moment with your Chapter members.

I would like to emphasize and reiterate the theme of your Chapter:

*“Impelled by the fire of the Spirit,
listening to contemporary humanity,
we communicate the Gospel of hope.”*

These words express a profound dynamism, a vital and meaningful movement: being impelled by a fire, the fire of love, a fire that opens the heart and mind. It is listening—externally and internally—to the needs, the cry, and the whisper of humanity today, a listening that opens new channels for communicating the Gospel and hope. This is the desire I wish not only to the Capitulars, but to each of you: allow the Spirit, the fire of the Spirit, to move you; open the ear of your heart to hear the cry and the whisper of humanity; make yourselves a living channel of communication of hope.

Warm wishes to all of you: may Mary the Mother of God and ours, accompany you every step of your journey.

Thank you and “arrivederci.”

With affection,

*Sr. Simona Brambilla, mc
Prefect of the Dicastery
for Institutes of Consecrated Life
and the Societies of Apostolic Life*

CALLED TO WITNESS THAT YOU ARE CONSECRATED WOMEN



With cordial and sincere affection, I greet all of you, Sisters of the Institute of the Daughters of St. Paul. It is a joy and an opportunity for me to address you and, even if briefly, share what I hold in my heart and what I consider a most precious gift.

It seems to me, first and foremost, that you are called to demonstrate and testify with your lives that you are consecrated women: happy in your vocation, happy in the response you have given to the Lord’s call.

We live in times in which it is essential to make faith visible and credible through a life lived in evangelical fraternity. A precious life, possessing a charm capable of attracting the attention of many young people, many girls who might ask themselves: “Is it really possible to live like this? Perhaps the Lord is calling me too...”

Finally, in a world where everything happens so quickly, where a click is enough to get instant answers, we feel—and you too feel—the profound need for a solid interior life, for great depth in God. Only in this way is it possible to walk with freshness and bear witness to the fact that we are people whose lives are centered on God, on others, and especially on those most in need. I wish you all the best.

*Card. Ángel Fernández Artime
Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery
for Institutes of Consecrated Life
and the Societies of Apostolic Life*

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

Dear sisters,

I am happy to share this moment with you, on the occasion of your General Chapter that you are celebrating, one hundred and ten years since the founding of your institute. I greet the new Superior General, as well as, with gratitude, the one who has concluded her service, and I welcome every one of you.

You come from all five continents, and this expresses the universality of the Church. Your mission, throughout many countries of the world, and the witness you offer in the most varied contexts, also attest to what the Holy Spirit has accomplished, starting from the prophetic insights of the founder, Blessed Giacomo Alberione, implemented fearlessly by the co-founder, the Venerable Tecla Merlo.

To proclaim and spread the Word, spending your life for the cause of the Gospel following Jesus the Master and seeking ways, tools and languages so that everyone may know and follow the Lord: this is the heart of your apostolate. Faced with the challenges of our time, this needs to be renewed and reinvigorated, so that the evangelical passion that inspires you may find its best expression.

It is not by coincidence that the theme you have chosen for the Chapter is: "Impelled by the fire of the Spirit, listening to contemporary humanity, we communicate the Gospel of hope". Indeed, while the proclamation of the Gospel remains at the centre of the mis-

sion, it is equally true that it is not a question of communicating generic information or abstract truths, but of entering into real history, welcoming the questions and concerns raised by real life, speaking the languages of the women and men of our time.

I would therefore like to recommend that you adopt, with renewed enthusiasm, two important attitudes: to look up and immerse yourselves inside situations.

Look up, so that you can be impelled by the Holy Spirit. Your vocation and your mission come from the Lord, let us not forget. Therefore, personal commitment, the charisms we put into circulation, the zeal of the apostolate and the tools we use must never lead us to succumb to the illusion and presumption of self-sufficiency. The Spirit is the protagonist of the mission, the Spirit drives us forward, multiplying our talents, restoring us in our labours, warming our hearts when the joy of the Gospel grows cold, enlightening our steps and offering us creative insights, so that we can become capable of opening up new pathways for the communication of the faith.

The second attitude I recommend to you is that of immersing yourselves inside situations, because an upturned gaze is not an escape but, on the contrary, must help us to have the same compassion as Christ, who divested himself for us, descended into our flesh, lowered himself so as to enter the abysses of wounded humanity and to bring us the love of the Father (cf. Phil 2:5-11). In this way, propelled by the Spirit, you too are called to immerse yourselves in history, listening to humanity today; it is a matter of inhabiting the current culture and embodying





yourselves in the real life of the people you meet. Your presence, the proclamation of the Word, the media you use – recalling in particular the publishing house you run with such dedication – all this must be a welcoming embrace for the sufferings and hopes of the women and men to whom you are sent.

Dear sisters, you offer a valuable service to the Church and to the world, working in publishing, in the digital world, in the management of bookshops, in radio and television projects and in biblical outreach. I know that the efforts to carry out these many activities are sometimes onerous, especially because today's complex situations require high-quality professional training which, unfortunately, sometimes conflicts with the fact that personal and material resources are scarce. But let us not be discouraged! I therefore invite you to reflect on how to keep the charism alive, even though this may require courageous and demanding choices. Indeed, there is a need for careful discernment regarding the work linked to the apostolate, on how it is to be carried out and the need to renew it with a balanced view able to bring together the richness of past history with current resources and gifts of each one of you, in a fruitful alliance between the different generations.

The communion engendered by this perspective will certainly help you to overcome the risk of division between life and apostolate. Indeed, you were born to communi-

cate the Word, but it is necessary that this communication, transmitted in the pastoral sphere, also be a community lifestyle. We must be vigilant to ensure no separation between what we preach and our daily lives. Only in this way will you be faithful to the method of wholeness desired by your founder for the entire Pauline Family: Way, Truth and Life, Mind, Will and Heart. Then this unifying proposal, which appears prophetic in a fragmented world, will be coherent and credible.

Dear friends, I remind you of the encouragement you received from Pope Francis a few years ago: in this cultural and ecclesial winter we are going through, do not be afraid to risk and to continue your journey “with a contemplative gaze full of empathy for the men and women of our time, hungry for the Good News of the Gospel” (Address to the participants in the Eleventh General Chapter of the Daughters of Saint Paul, 4 October 2019). Look at the ardour of Saint Paul, his tireless joy in proclaiming Christ even in the midst of difficulties and persecution (cf. 2 Cor 6:4-10). Let yourselves be guided by the Spirit, and listen to humanity. Bring to everyone, especially the most fragile, the hope that comes from above and, as Don Alberione said, cultivate the joy of “extending the work of God in time and space” (The Publishing Apostolate, 159).

I pray for you, on the feast of the Guardian Angels, invoking the intercession of Mary Queen of the Apostles, and I bless you from my heart. Thank you.

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CONCLUSION OF THE 12TH GENERAL CHAPTER



It is with deep emotion that I have the honor and joy of presiding over this final session of our General Chapter. In my heart, and I think in yours as well, resonate in this moment so many longings, challenges, desires for good, and so much gratitude.

Our Chapter has truly been an intense experience of sharing, celebration, and deepening the charismatic riches that the Lord has showered upon us. It has been an experience of blessing.

Since the days of the spiritual exercises, we have heard the Lord's words addressed to Abraham: "*May you be a blessing.*" Through the experiences of Abraham, our father in faith, we have been led to understand God's way of acting in history and to discern his will. The gift of *blessings* was also emphasized by Sister Anna Caiazza in her opening remarks to the Chapter: "There is a profound need for blessings on the world, on humanity, and there is also a need for blessings on ourselves, so that we may grow in boldness to communicate the gospel of hope and be a blessing in every corner of the world, a blessing of peace and meekness."

The days in which we retraced the journey of the last six years were a *blessing*. Sister Anna presented to us "the beautiful face of our congregation: rich in color, diverse stories, seeds of the Gospel that continue to sprout... and daily toils transformed into an offering, like bread broken and shared." With hope, she urged us to look at the "holiness next door" to believe that—even in dark moments—God never ceases to bring forth something new. "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

During the days dedicated to our circumscriptions, we contemplated as a *blessing* the various initiatives that testify to the vibrancy and beauty of our presence in the world and the great good we accomplish, even at times in silence.

The passionate words of the various speakers were a *blessing*, as they so clearly focused on the Chapter theme, urging us to let ourselves be *impelled by the fire of the Spirit* to be a blessing to many.

A blessing were the days spent together, in a synodal style, outlining the *direction* we wish to take for the near future and the specific *calls* for our congregation at this particular moment in history. Under the wise, gentle, yet firm guidance of Sister Tiziana Merletti, SFP, we drafted the Chapter document, identifying the direction that will illumine our upcoming journey with the related calls or priorities.

A tremendous blessing for all of us, for the entire congregation, was the audience granted to us by Pope Leo. He welcomed us with such kindness and spoke words of profound spiritual and charismatic anointing. Above all, he invited us *to look up and immerse ourselves within*.

Look up because The Spirit is the protagonist of the mission, the Spirit drives us forward, multiplying our talents, restoring us in our labours, warming our hearts when the joy of the Gospel grows cold, enlightening our steps and offering us creative insights, so that we can become capable of opening up new pathways for the communication of the faith."



"Immerse yourselves inside situations, ... in history... to enter the abysses of wounded humanity and to bring the love of the Father...

it is a matter of inhabiting the current culture and embodying yourselves in the real life of the people you meet". "The media you use," the Pope continued, "must be a welcoming embrace for the sufferings and hopes of the women and men to whom you are sent."

For every gift received during these days, we raise our thanks to the Lord.

Thanks first and foremost to Sister Anna Caiazza for these years spent, as counselor and as superior general, leading the Congregation. Thank you for her wisdom, her love for each sister, her tireless commitment to being, like Paul, "all things to all".

Thanks to Sister Clarice, Sister Shalimar, Sister Anastasia, Sister Donna, Sister Bruna, Sister Micaela, Sister Carmen Christi, and Sister Annamaria for their service to the General Government, which is now concluding.

Thanks to the Pre-Chapter Commission, which arranged everything for the success of these days.

Thanks to the Facilitator, Sister Tiziana Merletti SFP, who accompanied us with true wisdom and expertise.

Thanks to the members of the Central Commission and the various teams: editorial, communications, liturgical, recreational and the reading of the minutes.

Thanks to the translators, who made communication possible among us all.

Thanks to the group moderators and secretaries.

Thank you to the sisters who silently performed various services to help us progress more smoothly.

Thank you to the sisters of SICOM who managed the website, bringing our faces and voices to every corner of the world. Thank you to Sister Saveria for her silent and swift work, even as a nurse.

Thank you to the Pauline brothers and their collaborators, who welcomed us into this home and created a family atmosphere.

Thank you to all our communities, to the Pauline Family, and to the various cloistered congregations who prayed and obtained so much light for us.

Thank you to the elderly and sick sisters who offered and prayed so much for us.

Thank you to all of us, the Chapter Sisters, for your commitment, seriousness, shared

responsibility, and for the serious, industrious, and responsible atmosphere that characterized every phase of the Chapter.

And a heartfelt thank you to the sisters who agreed to share with me the privilege of serving the Congregation in the general government.

Let us Strain Ahead

Joyfully embracing the Pauline motto, "I strain ahead," we now look onward with bold faith to the journey that awaits us, a journey with a very specific direction, the direction that emerged from our Chapter discernment:

Rooted in the Word that heals,
we joyfully live our Pauline identity
to be channels of light
and a blessing for humanity.



Rooted in the Word that Heals

We were born to communicate the Word, but first of all we are called to root ourselves, immerse ourselves in the Word, in that Word that generated us, shapes us, guides us, and sets our hearts on fire. Like Paul, we *are entrusted to the Word* to become always more "women of the Word," "women of the covenant," apostles who with faith and humility nourish themselves on the Word. Holding "the Word high," clothe this Word in the colors of beauty, and break it into pieces so that it can touch the hearts of all and bring life, light, hope, and peace. May it reach the peripheries and new frontiers of thought, of prophetic dialogue with religions and culture.

Apostles of the Word who are committed to rekindling faith to "speak the words of God" and communicate his thoughts (see PP, p. 696).

We Joyfully Live Our Pauline Identity

An identity rooted in the experience of the Apostle Paul, our Father. The Pope invited us to “Look at the ardour of Saint Paul, his tireless joy in proclaiming Christ even in the midst of difficulties and persecution.” But he also urged us not to create separations between what we preach and our daily lives, to be faithful to the method of integrality rooted in Christ the Master, Way, Truth, and Life. It is a call to unleash the energies of the charism, to bring it to life in our persons, and then to pass on to future generations the prophetic torch that has been entrusted to us.



To Be Channels of Light and a Blessing for Humanity

This expression echoes the Founder’s words in *Abundantes Divitiae*, spoken in a Eucharistic atmosphere: “*From here I want to cast light*. That is, that I am your light and that I will use you to illumine; I give you this mission and I want you to fulfill it... Let each one recall that she is a transmitter of light, a loud-speaker of Jesus, a secretary of the evangelists, of Saint Paul, of Saint Peter...” And referring to these channels, Sister Simona Brambilla, Prefect of the Dicastery for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, urged us to have solid roots, drawing from the tree of the Institute so that the vital energy that reaches its recipients may pass through us.



The direction that the Spirit has inspired in us, accompanied by the various calls, will be truly challenging. We feel small and are therefore in the right position so that miracles of grace, holiness, and apostolate may continue to be accomplished in us and through us. For this, we entrust ourselves to Maestra Thecla, who always felt small and poor in the hands of God. Fr. Alberione himself urged us to follow the path traced out by Prima Maestra:

The Institute is in the will of God: walk on the path traced out by Prima Maestra... Know Prima Maestra always more so as to imitate her; ask for her same spirit. She has opened a deep channel for you: God will always be with you (CVV 264).

It’s a wish we’ll hold dear to our hearts.

The Chapter has concluded its functions, but now begins a new journey, a spiritual journey of listening and seeking God’s will, in which the Holy Spirit will be the protagonist.

In faith and love, we begin from this Cenacle to share the fruits of our work with the sisters, feeling particularly true the words of our Founder, which always passionately move us: “The Congregation is in our hands, which are good hands...”

We entrust ourselves to Jesus Master, Way, Truth, and Life, through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and to Saint Paul. Following the example of Blessed James Alberione and Venerable Sister Thecla Merlo, we commit ourselves to joyfully living the vocation of the Daughters of Saint Paul, courageously proclaiming the Gospel of hope.

Best wishes to all!

*Sr. Mari Lucia Kim
Superior General*



**"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. Caterina - Zolia Celestial 94 years old - 06.07.2025 Pasay CP, Philippines
- Sr. M. Angelica - Antonia Decimina Coloru 94 years old - 07.07.2025 Albano GA, Italy
- Sr. M. Dolores - Genoveva Barco 88 years old - 08.07.2025 Bogotá O, Columbia
- Sr. Anna Maria Dal Piaz 85 years old - 15.07.2025 Albano, Italy
- Sr. M. Lilia - Donina Malloru 83 years old - 19.07.2025 Albano TM, Italy
- Sr. Lia - Oliva Provenzano 83 years old - 25.07.2025 Palermo, Italy
- Sr. M. Dulce Heineck 87 years old - 30.07.2025 Curitiba, Brazil
- Sr. Benigna Maria Breda 86 years old - 08.08.2025 São Paulo, Brazil
- Sr. Shamim Agnesin Yousaf Akhter 62 years old - 25.08.2025 Lahore, Pakistan
- Sr. M. Luciana - Suzuko Yanagawa 94 years old - 28.08.2025 Kanagawa, Japan
- Sr. Redenta - Giuseppina Galliazzo 94 years old - 05.09.2025 Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Luisa Nicho Gonzales 72 years old - 05.09.2025 Lima, Perú
- Sr. M. Gesualda - Consuelo Sebumpan 94 years old - 06.09.2025 Pasay City, Philippines
- Sr. M. Emanuella - Giovanna Quiriti 94 years old - 09.09.2025 Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Agnes - Cesarina Maria Cremon 97 years old - 12.09.2025 Alba, Italy
- Sr. Silvana Maria Maestrello 74 years old - 18.09.2025 Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Patricia Pottananiyil 78 years old - 25.09.2025 Mumbai, India
- Sr. M. Domenica - M. Orsola Grones 88 years old - 05.10.2025 Alba, Italy
- Sr. M. Gabriella - Maria Costanza 93 years old - 06.10.2025 Alba, Italy
- Sr. Ancilla - Eun sook Clara Lee 78 years old - 07.10.2025 Seoul-Miari, Korea
- Sr. Imelda Veloteri 84 years old - 07.10.2025 Buenos Aires-Nazca, Argentina
- Sr. Lucia Gallus 87 years old - 08.10.2025 Roma DP, Italy
- Sr. M. Amalia Arbelaez Muñoz 87 years old - 11.10.2025 Bogotá O, Columbia
- Sr. M. Filippina Medugno 101 years old - 12.10.2025 Albano GA, Italy
- Sr. M. Lucia Righettini 95 years old - 15.10.2025 Albano GA, Italy
- Sr. Elide Zini 90 years old - 20.10.2025 Albano GA, Italy

PARENTS OF THE SISTERS

- Sr. Stella Eun Kyung Kim (father Moise Hui Cheol) from the community of Gwangju, Korea
- Sr. Maria Ki Ok Kuon (mother Anna Tong Yon) from the community of Seoul-Miari, Korea
- Sr. M. Irma Rios (father Francisco) from the community of Los Angeles, United States
- Sr. Lalaine Joseph Lilio (mother Damiana Naval) from the community of Liverpool TH, Great Britain
- Sr. Luisa Damonte (mother Laura) from the community of Novara, Italy
- Sr. Cecilia Katunge Musole (father Joseph) from the community of Nairobi CP, Kenya
- Sr. Charlotte Robert Morrison (father Robert) from the community of New Orleans, United States
- Sr. Izonete Dalla Corte (mother Gisela) from the community of São Paulo CR, Brazil
- Sr. Lidia Kyoung Ae Kim (mother Francesca Romana Kap Ja Shin) from the community of Busan, Korea
- Sr. Rosemary Mueni Mwaiwa (father James Malikano) from the community of Roma CG, Italy

PAULINE FAMILY

- Sr. M. Fatima - Graciosa Costella sjbp, 90 years old - 01.07.2025 Caxias do Sul, Brazil
- Fr. Celso Godilano Celeste ssp, 69 years old - 15.07.2025 Makati, Philippines
- Sr. M. Eloisa - Flavy Menezes pddm, 82 years old - 18.07.2025 Mumbai, India
- Sr. M. Claire - Carmelita Espiritu pddm, 76 years old - 25.07.2025 Antipolo City, Philippines
- Fr. Vittorio Pio Saraceno ssp, 90 years old - 16.08.2025 São Paulo, Brazil
- Sr. Imelda Mondin ap, 76 years old - 28.08.2025 Grottaferrata, Italy
- Sr. Gabriella M. - Elena Renier sjbp, 86 years old - 17.09.2025 Negrar (VR), Italy
- Fr. Francesco Stefano Todaro ssp, 85 years old - 3.10.2025 Rome, Italy
- Fr. Giulio Remo Neroni ssp, 90 years old - 03.10.2025 Rome, Italy
- Sr. M. Crucis - Lorenza D'Amico pddm, 100 years old - 14.10.2025 Fresno, United States