

COMMUNICATION N. 1

Dear brothers and sisters,

We exchange with affection the prayers and the best wishes which have reached from every part of the world to Ariccia, in the house of Divine Master, where we have come together for the 9th General Chapter of the Society of St Paul from last Sunday, 25th April. The theme which we deal with is very demanding and challenging: “Rekindle the gift you have received. Creative fidelity to hundred years of Pauline Charism”. For this, your prayers of intercession is very important so that the Holy Spirit can guide and illumine us. The total number of chapter members present is 64, coming from every part of the world. According to the official list, Fr. Pietro Campus, the Superior General emeritus, is not present for reasons of health. In the place of the delegate deacon Gilbert Alemick Mika, who could not come on account of the problems of “Visa” Fr. Francesco Campus, the substitute delegate from Congo is present.

Characteristically, the climate is humid beside the lake of Albano, and the alternative presence of rain and sun have not weakened the fraternal and friendly atmosphere which unite us. Without any delay, we began our work with great intensity. On Wednesday, 28th April, we have concluded the first introductory stage of the chapter which was dedicated to deepen our reflection on a few fundamental themes. We have, thus, succeeded to formulate definitions of a Pauline as an Apostle and a communicator, of a Pauline community and of the reality of our apostolate in the world of communication. After the presentation of the theme in the chapter hall, the material was discussed in seven groups, divided on the basis of three languages of the congregation, Italian, English and Spanish. The material on which we have discussed, together with the photos of our congregational assembly, is available on our site: www.paulus.net/cg2010.

After the first phase of reflection, on 28th April, in the afternoon at 15.00 hours, Fr. Silvio Sassi, the Superior General, has officially declared the opening of the IX General Chapter of the Society of St Paul. At the opening of the Chapter the first assignment was to read, discuss and approve the document of the *Rules and Regulations* which consist of 70 articles so as how to proceed effectively our remaining programmes. We have then moved on to the election of the office-bearers of the chapter which took place on Thursday morning (29th April). Cleric Octavio Figueredo e don José Carlos Nunes, the two youngest chapter members are elected as Scrutineers; Fr. Juan Antonio Carrera is elected as Secretary; Fr. Valdir José De Castro, Fr. Celso Godilano and Fr. Carlo Cibien are elected as other three members of the central commission; Fr. Antonio Rizzolo is elected as information secretary; Fr. Rafael Gonzalez and Fr. Michele Leone are elected as actuaries.

In the afternoon, 29th April, the chapter continued with the presentation of the reports of the Major Superiors. Meanwhile, the Central Commission was committed to coordinate the work of the following days.

We are confident of your continued prayerful support so that the chapter atmosphere may continue to be serene and constructive and thus we can truly contribute to rekindle the 100 year old Pauline Charism.

Ariccia (Rome), 29 April 2010

Fr. Antonio Rizzolo, Information secretary