

## COMMUNICATION N. 5

Dear brothers and sisters,

On Saturday, May 8, at 18:10, Fr Silvio Sassi was elected Superior General and he will lead the Society of St. Paul for the next six years. Here is the summary of the first inspiring intervention of the new Superior General: “Dear brothers, through all of you who are representing the Pauline communities around the world, I would like to express my gratitude for the trust and confidence you have shown me. By accepting this office, I know well what awaits me, but I believe that with God’s help and with the collaboration of all the Paulines, we can not only keep the congregation on its feet, but also will have the force to strain ahead. The Paulines have a nomadic and itinerant charism and woe if in certain moments or in some aspects of their life they become dormant or have nostalgia. Dear brothers, one of the phrases that often came to my mind these days was that of Primo Maestro who says in his Eucharistic vigil: ‘Do something for the people of today.’ Our Chapter wants to continue this missionary spirit and it is from this missionary perspective that we must have the courage to develop our apostolic project. As the Constitutions say, the Superior General is the father and the pastor of the whole congregation. I want to be so, and thus let us together try to esteem each other. I think that the best thing is to be proud of being a congregation that strains ahead, to be a congregation that journeys into the future, and this is what I want to communicate, especially, to the young Paulines, to the young priests and brothers who are listening to us, to the elderly members, to the sick brethren; the congregation needs everyone and everything; it is not a privilege of those who have health, education and those who are well, the congregation is a mystical body. So, we are enthusiastic and proud to be Paulines. Thank you.”

The works during the chapter are not limited only to the phase of election. The days before the election of the Superior General, on Friday 7 and on Saturday 8, we dedicated ourselves to specify the general objective and the priorities of the congregation for the next six years. There was also space for common reflection in the chapter hall on our relationship with the institutes of the Pauline Family. The afternoon of May 6 was reserved for discernment and for prayer in view of the election of the Superior General and his Council. On May 8, we began the day with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Silvio Sassi, the President of the Chapter. At 9 o’clock we came to the chapter hall to invoke the Holy Spirit. Afterwards, each one solemnly pronounced this promise prescribed in the Constitutions: “Before Christ the Lord, who will judge me, I promise to elect him, who according to my conscience is worthy to be elected.” And the president and the scrutinizers took the promise to faithfully fulfil their duty.

After the Sunday break to visit the Royal Palace of Caserta, today, Monday May 10, we started voting for the election of general councillors.

Brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family, we have strongly felt the power of your prayers these days. We also know that we have two new intercessors before God: Brother Paolino Camparmò of the community of Via Alessandro Severo, Rome, who died on Thursday 6 May, and Ms Guadalupe Gutiérrez de Montauriol, member and a great benefactress of the institute of Holy Family in Mexico who was called to the eternal reward on May 9.

We continue to trust in your prayers before the Lord.

*Ariccina (Rome), 10 May 2010*

*Fr. Antonio Rizzolo, Information secretary*