

## COMMUNICATION N. 8

Dear brothers and sisters,

The IXth General Chapter of the Society of St Paul concluded on Saturday 15 May with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the Superior General Fr Silvio Sassi at 11 o'clock with the participation of some of the members of the Pauline Family. During his homily, Fr Sassi said: "Nearly 100 years ago, through Blessed James Alberione, we have received a "charism" that with the 9th General Chapter, we wanted to rekindle in creative fidelity. We are proud to have reaffirmed our "faith" in the Pauline Charism to commit ourselves to value the specific aspects which we intend to continue to offer to the Church today: with the spirituality and the apostolic method of St Paul, to evangelise in communication with communication". Here we respect our entry into the digital continent of the 21st century in its originality: "Not just an "instrument" of communication", reminded Fr Sassi, "but "field of life", "parallel world", "new mentality". In this communication of "new way of existing", "there is a place only for offering, for proposal, for a "ministry of witness" because the witnesses do not speak for themselves, but make transparent the reality they represent. The Superior General concluded his exhortation inviting us to open ourselves to a "project of "new evangelisation" in to the digital continent of communication and encouraging the Paulines all over the world with the words of Blessed James Alberione: "March ahead, always march ahead!... Measure the height and the profoundness, the length and breadth of the Pauline mission."

The concluding days of the General Chapter saw very intense activities. After the election of the Superior General and his Council, the chapter continued its works in groups to delineate the priorities and operative guidelines which were examined in the assembly point by point. Every point was discussed in the chapter assembly. There were many changes and additions, and finally the document in its entirety was approved by two thirds majority as required by our norms. These, together with the general objective for the coming six years, the priorities, and the corresponding operative guidelines are committed to the new General Government. The document is organised around the following areas: starting with apostolate, we passed on to community, spirituality, vocation promotion and formation, and concluded with administration and service of authority. At the end, there is an area dedicated to the Pauline Family. The discussion and the approval of the final document in the assembly took place between Thursday 13 May and Friday 14 May.

In the entire document, we have decided to insert an extended synthesis of Pauline identity as we have arrived at 100 years of the foundation of the Society of St Paul. It is the fruit of reflection of the first few days of the Chapter and it tries to emphasise the relevance of Pauline charism for the Church and for the world of today. In short, "from hundred years since foundation, following the footsteps of St Paul, we Paulines, priests and disciples, with creative fidelity commit ourselves to rekindle the gifts received from God through Blessed James Alberione with renewed apostolic impulse, faith, enthusiasm and generosity. With the same spirit of unity that characterised the first generation Paulines we hope to realise a new "Pauline spring".

As chapter members, we also thought of sending two messages to our lay collaborators and to the Pauline Family. As reminded by Fr. Silvio Sassi in his concluding remarks of the homily, "Blessed James Alberione has mobilised all the states of life for evangelisation: priests, consecrated laity, sisters, laity who live their consecration in secular life, married couples, and men and women collaborators".

We thank each one of you, brothers and sisters, for the interest with which you have followed us and for the constant prayers with which you accompanied us these days.

*Ariccia (Rome), 15 May 2010*

*Fr. Antonio Rizzolo, Information secretary*