



Information no. 1

Under the shadow of the Marian National Shrine, *Nossa Senhora Aparecida*, and near the Congress Centre of the Episcopal Conference of Brazil, the works of the Interchapter Assembly began on Thursday, 15 February 2018. The Superior General Father Valdir José de Castro and members of the General Government, the Major Superiors of the 18 Circumscriptions of the Society of Saint Paul or – for some particular cases – of their Representatives, gathered for this event.

The invocation to the Holy Spirit, the veneration and enthronement of the Word and the lighting of the candles preceded the inaugural address of Father Valdir who invited the participants to retake the Objective of the X General Chapter and the inspirational citation «I do everything for the Gospel» (1 Cor 9,23). It is necessary to look carefully at the situation of all the Paulines, our communities and our apostolic structures, to understand what prevents the progress of the mission and to study new strategies and projects. As Blessed Alberione said: «Let the Congregation be listened to everywhere. By isolating ourselves, considering ourselves alone, we put ourselves in a position where charity fades away. No, let the Congregation be listened to, the Church and humanity as well».

The works that will last until 25 February include the following phases of verification, illumination, and, finally, relaunching.

The first phase began in the morning of 16 February with the Archbishop of Aparecida, Msgr. Orlando Brandes, who conducted the spiritual retreat on the theme “Silence and the Word”. It is only by silence, as we know, that true communication is born. Citing Saint Gregory the Great, he exhorted us to “keep quiet on what we should not say and not to be silent on what we need to say”.

As Father Valdir stressed in the opening Eucharistic celebration, the Lenten season shows us that «this is the favourable moment» for our Congregation.

Where does the Lord want us Paulines to go? The works of these early days will focus on the various realities of the Society of Saint Paul presented by the different reports that will help the participants to reflect on “where we are?”

On the institutional website www.paulus.net, you can find the main interventions and some photos of the most significant moments of the Interchapter.

Aparecida, 16 February 2018

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