

Pauline aim – prayer and service

FR JAMES Alberione, the founder of the Pauline Family, knew that as modern day apostles, his young religious family would need to be well-nourished spiritually if they were to undertake their challenging mission.

Listening deeply to the inspiration entrusted to him by the Spirit, he saw that living and proclaiming Jesus was the sole reason for the Pauline Family's existence and its fundamental purpose.

Fr James invited his followers to be deeply rooted in a devotion to Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life. He also invited them to take example for their own lives from Mary, and from the great apostles Peter and Paul, who committed their lives to proclaiming the Gospel and nurturing the life of the Church.

This remarkable man was born in Italy on April 4, 1884, and was ordained a priest for the diocese of Alba in 1907.

At the turn of the century, as a young seminarian, he had a powerful experience of Jesus and felt compelled to do something for

the people of the new century.

Over time, he would propose to the Church not one but five new congregations, as well as four institutes of consecrated secular life, and a union of lay co-operators.

All would win the Church's approval. Shortly after ordination, Fr James was put in charge of the local church newspaper and quickly saw the potential of the printed word to communicate the Gospel to people.

In 1914 he founded the Society of St Paul, a congregation of priests and brothers and, in 1915 the Daughters of St Paul, a congregation of Sisters, to use the printed word, and – later –



radio, television and films, to promote the Gospel.

In 1924 he formed a new congregation, the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, to be the spiritual support of his developing religious family through an apostolate of Eucharistic prayer and service to the priesthood and liturgy.

Fr James was prophetic in recognising the immense contribution the media could make to the proclamation of the Good News.

He also had a great appreciation of the complementary nature of men and women in mission and, in 1938 founded the Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd (Pastorelle Sisters) to collaborate with priests in parish ministry.

The year 1960 saw the foundation of the Sisters of the Queen of Apostles, to provide vocational guidance for young people.

That year, too, the institutes of lay consecrated life began: the Institute of Jesus the Priest (for diocesan clergy); the Institute of



BLESSED: Pope John Paul II prays during a Mass of beatification on April 27, 2003, for Fr Giacomo Alberione.

Our Lady of the Annunciation (for lay consecrated women), and the Institute of St Gabriel the Archangel (for lay consecrated men).

Completing his religious family, which came to be known as the Pauline family, was the Union of Pauline Co-operators, whose members assist the

Pauline mission in practical service and through prayer.

The Pauline Family now numbers more than 10,000 members and is present in more than 60 countries.

Fr Alberione, faithful servant of Jesus Christ, died in 1971. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

Searching for What?

Is Christ calling you to be his Apostle in the Mass Media?



Contact our Vocation Coordinator at:
Society of St Paul
35 Meredith St
(PO Box 906)
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(02) 9394 3400 or (02) 9394 3420

St Pauls Book Centre
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SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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"To live and to give to the world Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life" Blessed James Alberione



Following an example of a testimony to Christ

THE Pauline Family nourishes itself of Christ by means of the word of God and the Eucharist; it is in Christ that it unifies prayer, study, apostolate and religious consecration, and it is from Christ that it draws strength in order to communicate to human beings the fullness of God's salvific mystery.

To enter into this spirit Paulines follow Fr Alberione's example. His was a living testimony of Christ the Master expressed and summed up by Paul: "Christ lives in me." It is for this reason that the Pauline spirit is called 'Pauline'. To be Pauline, that is to "live in Christ", embraces life taken as a whole.

Fr Alberione's spiritual approach mirrors the Christocentric view of St Paul. He invited Paulines to come to an understanding of the total mystery of Christ by means of the gospel concept of 'Master'. Since 'he is the Way, the Truth and the Life, he fulfils all the expectations of our spirit. Indeed he infinitely surpasses them.

The character of Paulines as consecrated persons and apostles is also given by the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. For Paulines she is the Queen of Apostles since she is "the model of that motherly love with which all who join in the Church's apostolic mission for the regeneration of humankind should be animated". She "occupies a place which is the highest after Christ and also closest to us". She is the inspiration and the strength of our apostolate: "She gave us the whole Christ, Way, Truth and Life." She stands as the perfect model of complete availability to God and to neighbour.

In addition, Paulines have a special devotion to St Paul the Apostle as father, teacher and inspiration of their mission. From him Paulines learn openness to the world that implies them to bring the message of salvation to all peoples, a pastoral adaptability that compels them to become all things to all persons, and a concern to



bring to life in Christ every human value.

In keeping with their pastoral mission the Sisters of Jesus Good Shepherd (Pastorelle) also look to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to Mary, the Mother of the Good Shepherd and to the Apostle Peter for guidance and inspiration.