



St. Paul, the Communicator

As a visible synthesis of the celebration of the **Pauline Year**, willed by Benedict XVI for the Bimillennium of the birth of St. Paul, an image has been selected for Paulines which represents St. Paul while he is writing a letter.

To some it can be that this image may be considered unusual, considering the abundant iconography of St. Paul in the East, in the West and also within the confines of the Pauline Family. As per every representation, this image likewise, of St. Paul writing a letter, is an elaborate interpretation based on reasons that are desired.

St. Paul writing a letter trace back, above all, to the role had in the meditation on the *Letter to the Romans* which convinced Blessed James Alberione to choose St. Paul as model for the Pauline Family: "He came across to him indeed

as the Apostle, and thus every apostle and every apostolate could draw from Him" (*Abundantes divitiae gratiae suae*, n. 64).

St. Paul writing a letter, recalls the essential definition which the Founder gives to the Pauline charism at the beginning of his foundational activity: "The written preaching alongside the oral preaching" (*Apostolato stampa*, p. 5).

St. Paul writing a letter, having beside him scrolls of paper, suggests the love of the Apostle for the Sacred Scripture. Often the Founder, drawing from the Fathers of the Church, describes the Bible as "the letter which God writes to persons" and Paulines are the "postmen" in charge of delivering it to all, with every form of communication.

St. Paul writing a letter, recalls the nature of his written preaching characterised by knowing how to find in the person of Christ, who died and resurrected, the adequate solution to the problems rising in the Christian communities which he founded.

St. Paul writing a letter and who fixes his eyes at those who gazes at him, wants to recall that which he writes to the Christians in Corinth. "You are a letter of Christ, mediated by our service, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God, not on tables of stone, but on the tables that are the Christian flesh" (2Cor 3:3).

St. Paul writing a letter continues the chosen iconography of Blessed James Alberione which, in the stain glass window of the temple constructed at St. Paul in Alba, has been made to represent St. Paul while writing the *Letter to the Romans*.

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