



INFORMAZIONE N. 1

“I officially declare the X General Chapter of the Society of St Paul open.” With these words the Vicar-General, Fr Celso Godilano, concluded his greetings to the confreres who came from five continents and were assembled at the Casa Divin Maestro, Arriccia, on 25th January, the day when we celebrate the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle. The sixty Chapter Delegates (whose average age is 56.78 years), assisted by nine collaborators for translation and for the Chapter Secretariat, represent the seventeen Regions and Provinces of the Congregation.

Without concealing the difficult challenges to which we are called to confront together, Fr Celso encouraged us to look forward, above all, to the heights, “This is the moment which needs additional faith and hope.” Let us feel the closeness and prayerful support of many brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family, of friends and collaborators, of the intercession of Pauline saints in heaven where our Superior General Fr Silvio Sassi is united.

In the morning of Monday, 26th January, Fr Edmund Power, the Abbot of the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, offered us reflections on the biblical phrase chosen for the theme of the Chapter: **‘I do everything for the Gospel’** (1 Cor 9:23). There are three words which recur often in the text of 1 Cor 9: **‘all’**, **‘in order to’** and **‘reward’**. *All is most inclusive word that exists.* Do everything for the Gospel does not signify justifying everything, even those which are wrong, in the name of the Gospel, but making sure that everything I do daily is always within the horizon of the Gospel. The continual recurrence of **‘in order to/for’** talks about Paul’s great dynamism of purpose, direction, movement and encourages us to move forward with determination towards the goal that we have set for ourselves. The word **‘reward’** which symbolizes the philosophy of the world — market and capitalism, comes evangelically transformed by the Apostle: the unique reward that stays at the heart is the salvation of souls!

On the feastday of Timothy and Titus, the Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Abbot who in his homily highlighted the first two disciples of St Paul. We can assume both as the personification of the Society of Saint Paul today: “Perhaps the message is the enigma of weakness in strength, that our weakness is a necessary condition of our effectiveness because only weakness knows how to open to the door of grace.”

In the afternoon, after presenting their credential letters, the Delegates read, discussed and approved the Rules and Regulation of the X General chapter and proceeded to elect various organising bodies of the Chapter. **Fr Alphonse Abedi** (Congo) and **Fr Juan Carlos Pinto** (Spain), the youngest delegates of the chapter, were elected as scrutineers. Afterwards **Fr Paulo Bazaglia** (Brazil) was elected as the Secretary of the Chapter. Three

were then elected members who together with the President of the Chapter (Vicar General) and the Secretary form the Central Commission: **Fr Jose Pottayil** (India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland), **Fr Carlo Cibien** (General Councillor) and **Fr José carlos Nunes** (Portugal). To draft the minutes of the Chapter, **Fr Vincenzo Vitale** (the General Secretary) and **Fr Giacomo Perego** (Italy) were elected as Actuaries. At the end **Fr Agatino Gugliara** (Italy) was elected as Information Secretary of the Chapter.

*Il Segretario dell'Informazione
Don Agatino Gugliara*