



## X General Chapter of the Society of St Paul

Casa Divin Maestro. Ariccia (Rome), 25 January - 15 February 2015

### Information No. 2

From 27<sup>th</sup> January the phase of comprehensive analysis commenced when all the members of the Chapter were invited above all to attentive and patient listening to different reports. The purpose was to get a clear picture of diverse contexts in which our Congregation lives and works, and also to learn about precise idea of actual situation with its brightness and shadows. Consequently, we begin to define the priorities to which we are called to give responses.

Fr Carlo Cibien, as the Coordinator of the Preparatory Commission, explained the results of the questionnaire in two-level: firstly, the questionnaire that involved the Provincial and Regional Governments, the Councils for Apostolate and the Councils for Formation; secondly, the questionnaire for all the members. 345 Paulines have participated at this second level. There were 1691 free-mode answers.

The synthesis of responses, grouped by linguistic continental areas, gave much material for reflections. The significant conclusion is: "The online network in which we are moving about, and the way our contemporaries go about asks us to be apostles on online and to have creative and constructive online presence. As in the time of Fr Alberione, there are adversaries who exploit and somehow influence us. No more time for us to have empty discussion or take sides with counter position, but to construct unified evangelical strategy, having the capacity to communicate *integrally* (mind, will, heart) the Gospel.

In the morning, on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, the presentation of reports, geographical area wise, were made by the respective Major superiors of Province and Regions. Going through the Pauline-world map, we discover interesting initiatives (e.g. book and café centre in Korea, the Bible Quiz in Philippines), the new presence in Sri Lanka, Uruguay and Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Cuba, Popular Republic of Congo, Angola and in Ukraine. From the report we also learn about different Pauline Study and Research Centres in Brazil, India, Philippines, Mexico and prospective centre in Colombia. With our wide open horizons and all-embracing manner, we share the riches and the poverty.

Subsequently, Fr Vincenzo Vitale, the Secretary General, Fr Alberto Fusi, the Procurator General, and Fr Giuseppe Proietti, the General Bursar, accompanied by Br Lorenzo Vezzani, the Vice-General Bursar, presented their respective reports. The statistics of Pauline personnel evidently manifests the movement of Congregation's proportionate presence out of Europe, given the spread of Catholicism which is vibrantly lived out in 'new world'.

On Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, Fr Celso Godilano, the Vicar-General, presented his report explaining the present status and situation of the Congregation and the General Government. In the afternoon, the reports of CTIA (International Technical committee for Apostolate) and of SIF (International Secretariat for Vocation Promotion and Formation) were presented respectively by Fr Ciro Monroy and Fr José Salud Paredes.

Adopting the hermeneutic method of our Blessed Founder 'the double story', the presentation of the Vicar-General went through from the 9<sup>th</sup> General Chapter deliberations, with all aspects of our life and mission in the world, both a path of delays and resistance. He also analysed the means and structures of coordinating organism. Having exposed the critical phenomena and the problems of the Congregation, Fr Celso concluded, without hiding his emotions, "Let us therefore take up again our journey with the audacity of the first Paulines a hundred years ago, under the sure protection of Mary, our Mother, Teacher and Queen. Let us live in this world, without being worldly, let us firmly believe in our Charism, let us remain passionately faithful to our mission, awaken the healthy and holy pride that was of Paul, 'I do everything for the Gospel.'"

Concluding this phase of knowing well the present condition of the Congregation, we move on next to the profound reflection before we proceed to elections. We sincerely thank the sisters and brothers who have send us the messages of support and prayer for the General Chapter. We assure them all a fraternal communion.

Fr Agatino Gugliara  
Secretary of Information