

COMMUNICATION N. 2

Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings to you from the IX General Chapter assembled at the Divine Master House in Ariccia. After the elections of the office-bearers, the assembly proceeded to the approval of the programmes. The important moments which await us are: Reflection on our identity arriving at hundred years of foundation (Saturday 1 May and Monday 3 May); Reflection on our norms (Tuesday 4 May); Programming (general objective, priority, plan of action) from 5-12 May; approval of the final document on Friday, 14 May; Election of the new Superior General is scheduled for Friday 7 May preceded by a moment of discernment on 6 May. In the following days, the work of programming and of the election of the General Councillors will take place alternatively; from Tuesday 11 May onwards, the motions will be considered. On Sundays, 2 and 9 May, we take a brief break, utilising the time to visit two beautiful places in Italy: Tuscia and Caserta.

On 29th and 30th April the major superiors and the Superior General presented their reports to the assembly. Many of the major superiors did not hesitate to utilise multimedia and video for presenting their reports. Their reports illustrated the circumscriptions as vibrant and multiform realities intermingled with lights and shadows. The report also evidenced a strong sense of belongingness to the congregation and our commitment to communicate Christ in the culture of communication.

Fr. Silvio Sassi, the Superior General, in his report on the state of the congregation, was very frank and emphatic. He emphasised the great gift of Pauline Charism which we have received; A gift which must rekindle in us the certainty of faith as reminded by St Paul, our Father: we are collaborators of God in this work where we are not masters as it is not merely a human reality; A gift which entrusts us the responsibility to bear fruits: our fidelity must be creative. Fr. Sassi, in conclusion, has launched a challenge to the congregation of a project of a new evangelization for the third millennium assuming the spirit of the Founder. This evangelization through communication in the third millennium, to be creative and faithful, must take up the criteria assumed by Fr. Alberione: “an experience of faith which stimulate the need of communicating to others, the knowledge of the actual needs of the Church, of the society, of the culture of communication and the mission of being “Saint Paul living today”. Finally, Fr. Silvio, after six years of serving as the General, thanked his Councillors, the officials of the General government, the major Superiors, all the staff of the Generalate, and concluded with a touching tribute to Br. Francesco Chessa.

The Chapter proceeds with its work through reflections done in small groups on our identity as our Congregation reaches its hundredth year of foundation. We count on your continued prayers so that we may succeed to offer a programme which will give a new “creative impetus” to the congregation for the third millennium.

Concluding note: taking a cue from the intervention of a chapter member, we wish to clarify that the official language of the chapter is Italian; during the works, there will be simultaneous translations in Italian, Spanish and English.

Ariccia (Rome), 1 May 2010

Fr. Antonio Rizzolo, Information secretary