



**CONVEGNO DI STUDIO
DON ALBERIONE
"FONDATORE"**

Ariccia 23-25 novembre 2014



GREETINGS OF WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION ON DON ALBERIONE "FOUNDER"

To talk about a person of the stature and calibre of Fr. Alberione in a two-day Convention, although very compact, is like scratching only on the surface of the one who has been named "the Prophet of the mass media", "the Publisher of God", "the Pioneer of evangelization with communication" and, more recently, by Pope Francis, "the great Apostle of communication." The Man, the Christian, the Religious and the modern Apostle in him will always escape our approximation of his person. It is like a ball of mercury, in which the more we tighten our grip of it in our hand, the more it will simply slip through our fingers. In the case of Fr. Alberione, the more we read and analyze his writings, many of which we have not really studied well, the more we realize that we have very little knowledge of him.

On the other hand, this Convention on Father Alberione "Founder" is intended for all of us, by analogy, to do what he himself wrote of his experience, looking back at the past through the readings of almost all types of literature. Thus, for many years he read on every subject which he considered important for his mission: "For five years, twice a day, he read a passage from Rohrbacher's History of the Church and for a further five years, Hergenröther's version. For eight years, in his free time, he read Cantù's World History before moving on to the History of World Literature, Art, War, Navigation, Music in particular, Law, Religions and Philosophy" (AD 66). He was a faithful reader of *L'Osservatore Romano*, of Church and papal documents and other major publications (cf. AD 67). From his spiritual Director, Canon Chiesa, "he had learned to transform everything into a theme of meditation and prayer before the Divine Master – a prayer of adoration, thanksgiving, atonement, and supplication" (AD 68). I can say that this was his way of reading the "signs of the times", both of the past and of the present, not only to update or inform himself but, rather, in order to be all things to all by using the means of his time, as a concrete response to his particular call from God and as a service of a faithful son of the Church and the Pope, so that souls could be saved.

Although this Convention is an acceptable offering of the Society of St. Paul, mother cell of the Pauline Family, as a fitting activity at the close of its centennial celebration, it is not to put a period to the three-year preparation to celebrate the Centenary of the Foundation of the Pauline Family. It should just be the beginning of more conventions in the future on Don Giacomo Alberione, the First Teacher and Founder of this admirable Pauline Family. There is much more to know, learn and achieve to complete what he is to us: Father, Founder, Example and Intercessor from where he is now. As the Blessed Founder himself has experienced and lived, so we his spiritual children should strain ahead in creative fidelity to the gift received from Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

With this short introduction I would like also to welcome you all to this Convention. May we all benefit immensely from what the brothers and sisters and friends of the Pauline Family will share to us; may they inspire and stimulate us to do something for God and for the men and women of today, using the actual means of communication, especially in the age of digital communication, in a most effective way as spiritual sons and daughters of Father Alberione.

May you have a good Convention.

(CCG, 23 November 2014, Casa Divin Maestro, Ariccia, Rome)