



## Information° I

On Sunday 29 May, the XI General Chapter of the Society of Saint Paul opened. As in a good book, to start a Chapter means opening new pages and encountering beautiful and surprising stories. These are pages full of life and expectations which are expressed by the 60 capitulars present in the Assembly who come from 22 different countries, from 5 continents. 52 priests and 8 disciples, between 31 and 78 years of age.

In his Opening Greeting, the Superior General and President of the Chapter, Fr Valdir José De Castro, reminded us that "we are here" as apostle communicators and as consecrated persons ". We follow Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life, under the gaze of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, and committed to live and proclaim the Gospel, in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, according to the form of life interpreted by our Founder. " It was 6.15 pm when the Superior General opened the Chapter, after having celebrated Mass at 4 pm on the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord which coincides with the 56th World Communications Day.

"Dear brothers, with joy we welcome each one of you, who have come from all over the world, to participate in the XI General Chapter of the Society of Saint Paul, an event that cannot be reduced to our Congregation, but it is essentially ecclesial." After these opening words, Fr Valdir stressed that the Capitulars are also invited to "be witnesses" (cf. Lk 24,46-53) and to listen with the ear of the heart, as Pope Francis invited. He recalled that «listening is a dimension of love and it is truly an indispensable attitude in the process of communication and in the activity of evangelization itself and much more so in the context of the General Chapter that we are living in these days". First of all we listen to the Holy Spirit, the true protagonist of this event; then to listen to all the realities that involve us and to listen to one another, in an exercise of synodality and fraternity proper to consecrated life. "We can find in the Eucharist the strength to make our General Chapter a true place of fraternity, communion and sharing", the Superior General finally exhorted.

The following day, Monday 30 May, was totally dedicated to meditation and deepening of the theme of the Chapter: "*Let yourselves be transformed, renewing your way of thinking*" (Rom 12: 2). Called to be artisans of communion to prophetically proclaim the joy of the Gospel in the culture of communication". Like Paul, every Pauline is "called" to evangelize. Today we are called to be "artisans" of communion and communication, to dialogue with the culture of communication and bring the Gospel to all its inhabitants. Dom Edmund Power OSB, former abbot of the Monastery of



St. Paul Outside the Walls (Rome), enlightened us in his reflection on the Letter to the Romans and on the passage from Rm 12:2 which acts as a bridge between the theological and the parenetic parts of the Pauline epistle. It is a sign for the capitulars who must pass from theory to practice in these days of evaluation and projection into the future, elaborating a concrete project for the next six years. Following the method of discernment (cf. *Evangelii gaudium* n. 51), the Chapter goes to the stage of "recognizing" and that of "interpreting", and then the time will come to "choosing".

Having previously approved the Regulations and the Calendar, explained by the methodologist, Fr Rossano Sala, SDB, the day of Tuesday, 31 May, began with the election of the Organism for the works in the Chapter: the two youngest Capitulars were elected as Scrutineers (Fr. Par and Fr Carlos Astorga); Fr Roberto Ponti as Secretary; Fr Danilo Medina, Fr Jose Pottayil and Fr Patrick Nshole members of the Central Commission; don Domenico Soliman and don Guido Colombo as Actuari; and fr. Darlei Zanon, as responsible for Information release.

In the afternoon and evening, the focus was on the reports of the Major Superiors of the Provincial Circumscriptions: Brazil, Colombia-Ecuador-Panama, Philippines-Macau, Japan, India-UK-Ireland, Italy, Mexico-Cuba and Spain. To these reports, which will continue in the next few days, the Chapter members are invited to listen with the ear of the heart, attentive and patient, in order to know and understand the different contexts in which our Congregation lives and works, along with the countless challenges that arise.

The Chapter members were invited everyone to follow the proceedings on the online link specially created on the institutional website paulus.net. There information, photos, materials can be found and persons will also be able to interact with some messages addressed to the Paulines gathered in the Chapter Assembly. We all feel from the first day the intimacy and communion with the confreres and with all the communities and groups of the Pauline Family in the world.

The new pages in the history of the Society of Saint Paul is being written in this XI General Chapter. Please stay tuned... many news are on the way.

*Ariccia, Casa Divin Maestro, May 31, 2022*

fr. Darlei Zanon