



Information n° 2

In harmony with the universal Church, the XI General Chapter of the Society of St. Paul has assumed the methodology of Discernment, proposed by Pope Francis already in his first apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. The initial phase of this methodology is called "recognizing", that is, becoming aware and assuming the Pauline reality with its lights and shadows.

This was the first task of the Chapter. After the reports of the Provinces (31 May), the reports of our ten Regions followed: Argentina-Chile-Paraguay, Canada-France, Congo, Korea, Nigeria-Ghana, Peru-Bolivia, Poland-Ukraine, Portugal-Angola, United States, Venezuela. It was a moment of intense information, with challenging situations to be understood together along with the promising steps especially of the young or renewed Regions, which reflects the new vocational and apostolic geography of the Society of Saint Paul in the world.

In the afternoon of the same day (1 June), the Superior General explained the methodology chosen for the deepening of his "Report on the State of the Congregation", presented together with the six General Councilors and other Officials. Fr Valdir invited the Capitulars to a fraternal confrontation, at the same time open and sincere, not hiding or cheating reality. He encourage everyone not to be afraid of asking questions and exposing problems and difficulties, because it is the task of the Chapter to find the right ways for the future, with realism, that is, having "our hearts on high" but with our feet firmly on the ground.

A Congregation with numbers that diverge (the average age that rises and the members that decrease) and with many riches to discover or develop. If on the one hand we are an "aging" congregation, on the other this offers us the opportunity to grasp the experiences of so many Paulines who have built our history and offer witness. A strong Congregation, with a solid structure, but which must think creatively, asked to be true "artisans", which allows itself to be "transformed" to respond better to today's humanity. A Congregation less and less Eurocentric, more peripheral and multicultural, full of challenges yet always colored with expectations and dreams.

With great frankness and honesty, all the data concerning the 8 points of the Superior General's Report were addressed during the days of 2 and 3 June: 1. Persons and communities; 2. Creative fidelity to the Pauline charism; 3. The apostolate in the culture of communication; 4. Pastoral care of vocations and



integral formation; 5. Areas and services of the General Government; 6. The Pauline Institutes of Secular Consecrated Life; 7. The Pauline Cooperators Association; 8. The women's congregations of the Pauline Family. After the group and individual reading, on Wednesday evening, the Capitulars were urged to share their visions, proposals, questions for clarification and suggestions in the light of what Pope Francis indicates. : "look at the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, embrace the future with hope".

We thus prepare for a significant step, one that leads from the phase of "recognizing" to "interpreting". At the end of the phase of recognising, starting this afternoon, Friday 3 June, we are going to the next stage of reflection and deepening, before proceeding to the elective phase. Having visualized the "problems" and main challenges of the Congregation, the Capitulars are now invited to look ahead, seeking the necessary "interpretation" to these challenges. These are the most demanding pages of the Chapter history that the Capitulars are slowly writing.

Ariccia, Casa Divin Maestro, 3 June 2022

fr. Darlei Zanon