



**MEETING OF THE SUPERIORS OF CIRCUMSCRIPTION
AND THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
ROME 11-14 NOVEMBER 2019**

COMMUNICATION NO. 1

The 11th of November was a very intense day that saw the opening of the works of the meeting of the General Government with the Superiors of the Circumscription. The meeting will continue until the 14th of November.

On the agenda: the preparation of the XI General Chapter, with the analysis of the answers to the questionnaire sent to all the confreres of the Congregation and the identification of the relevant themes to be addressed to the Chapter; in addition, the updated reports of the officials and the various congregational bodies (Ctia, Sif, Economy, Postulation, Biblical Centre, General Secretariat, Procurator, Centre of Spirituality, Aggregated Institutes and Cooperators, Information Service).

The opening of the activities on the morning of Monday 11 November was underlined by the intervention of the Superior General Father Valdir José De Castro and the report on the Church and synodality of the theologian Father Roberto Repole. The afternoon, meanwhile, was dedicated to the presentation of the results of the questionnaire among the members of the Congregation in view of the Chapter.

The Superior General wanted to underline the importance of a synodal journey as a congregation, accustoming ourselves to listen, to discern, to speak: «All chapters happen in synodality. But that is not enough. We must bring this lifestyle everywhere and always, in the communities, in formation, in the apostolate. We must make the energies converge in the same direction. The apostolate is eminently communitarian. Evangelization is not a solitary activity. We must be men of communication and communion».

To this call to walk together with Father De Castro was echoed by the report of Father Roberto Repole, who deepened the theological aspects of the Church - people of God and Body of Christ - and of the synodality of the Church, recovering the Pauline tradition and the implicit liturgical dimension: «The purpose of synodality is the *representatio ecclesiae*, or the re-presentation of the living Christ in the Spirit, especially for what happens in the Eucharistic celebration (Mt 18:20: “where two or more are gathered in my name there I am among them”). The effect of the presence of Christ is not a majority and a minority, but the symphony, the agreement».

Finally came the themes and problems that emerged from the questionnaire addressed to all Paulines in view of the Chapter. Then there followed the more statistical data made on the continental groups (Cidep, Gec, Cap-Esw) by Father Domenico Soliman and a thematic reading by Father Giancarlo Rocca. 270 responses (31.5% of Paulines) made their contribution by presenting issues such as aging and the scarcity of vocations, the motivation and formation of members and lay collaborators, collaboration with the Pauline Family; the risks associated with business processes, the new forms of apostolate, especially those connected to the digital; leadership of the canonical and delegated authority. In short, so much material on which to reflect to walk together towards the Chapter and the future of the Congregation.

Father Giusto Truglia

Rome, 11 November 2019