



Rome, 27 April 2020  
17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beatification of Don G. Alberione

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Pauline Family,

May our greetings reach every one of you, with the hope of finding you in good health and – despite the difficult times in which we live because of the Covid-19 pandemic – full of courage, in the Risen Christ, to carry on with faith and hope your apostolic commitments.

The reason for this letter is to communicate with joy that, after our request, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, by Decree of 3 February 2020, has granted that the annual Memory of Saint Paul VI, celebrated on 29 May, become mandatory for the Pauline Family.

We all know the importance of Pope Paul VI's magisterium for the Church, especially for his insistent invitation to bring the Gospel to the contemporary world, from the perspective of Vatican Council II. Reading his speeches and observing his pastoral practice it is evident that *«the Church must come to dialogue with the world; the Church makes itself an expression, the Church makes itself a message, the Church makes itself a dialogue»* (3 December 1970).

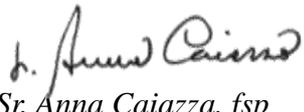
The reason why this news makes us rejoice is his particular closeness to Blessed James Alberione, both in friendship and in understanding the mission of the Pauline Family. With regard to friendship, we remember the unforgettable historical moment of his visit made to our Founder on his deathbed, just before leaving for heaven.

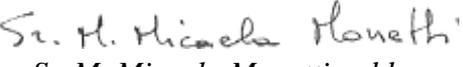
With reference to our mission, it is good for us to remember the words that Pope Paul VI addressed to him during the Audience of 28 June 1969, in which he recognizes the importance of the Pauline charism in the Church: *«Here he is: humble, silent, tireless, always alert, always collected in his thoughts, which run from prayer to work [...], always intent on scrutinizing the “signs of the times”, that is, the most ingenious ways of reaching souls, our Don Alberione has given the Church new tools to express oneself, new means to give vigour and breadth to the apostolate, new capacity and new awareness of the validity and possibility of its mission in the world and with modern means»*.

Let us pray that, through the intercession of Saint Paul VI, the Pauline Family, with the vocation to be Saint Paul alive today, can respond to its mission of evangelization in the contemporary world through its various apostolates.

With affection and gratitude,

  
Father Valdir José De Castro, ssp

  
Sr. Anna Caiazza, fsp

  
Sr. M. Micaela Monetti, pddm

  
Sr. Aminta Sarmiento Puentes, sjbp

  
Sr. Marina Beretti, ap