



Meeting of the SSP Major Superiors of Europe Rome, 11-13 May 2009

To the Brothers of the Pauline communities of Europe

On 11-13 May we have had our meeting in the General House in Rome as Major Superiors of Europe. The meeting started on Monday morning with the celebration of the Mass in the chapel of the General House, a place of prayer and of inspiration of our Founder for many years. In his welcome address at the beginning of our meeting, **the President Fr Anonio Maroño** has reminded us of the objective of constituting ourselves into as a ***Single Pauline Multimedia Publisher***. Moreover he has emphasised that our task as Major Superiors of Europe consists in defining clearly the specific objectives, indicating the policies to be put into action.

The **Message of the Superior General Fr Silvio Sassi**, unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, was then read. After his welcome address, Fr Sassi has indicated for us some methodological criteria that characterise the Pauline charism which we have to remember in making our task fruitful from principles and operative priorities in the apostolate and in vocation promotion and formation, valid for the whole Congregation, to the specific needs of the Europe Group. In particular, he has reminded us that the mission of evangelising in the actual communication constitutes the pivot of all the components of the Pauline life.

We were then presented with the themes of the working programme aimed at arriving at an apostolic and formative project for Europe. On Monday 11 May **Fr Juan Antonio Carrera**, General Councillor and CTIA President, has helped us to reflect on the following:

a) ***Editorial lines for a European Apostolic Project***, inviting us to ask ourselves who are the specific recipients we have to address to in Europe today, in a multiethnic society which is being currently formed and what are the contents once we have found the recipients. Certainly explicit proclamation is our task, but we cannot retreat from the commitment of a Christian interpretation of the personal and social realities. Which priorities bearing religious and human themes are we going to establish? In order to enrich our reflection, Fr Carrera has offered us an extract from the Final Message of the recent “International Seminar on St Paul” regarding the ***Contents of the Pauline testimony***.

b) The second argument discussed by Fr Carrera was ***the involvement of lay people in our charism***. It is necessary, as has reminded us, that the involvement of the lay should not be seen only as the result of lack of vocations, but on the desire to share with them the charism: making them

participants in the Pauline spirituality and mission. We need human resources, professionally prepared, that share with us the great Gospel values!

On Tuesday 12 May **Fr Juan Manuel Galaviz**, Councillor General and SIF President, has brought to our attention the *reference Documents for plotting the essential lines of a European Formative Project*. He has also presented to us the following:

a) *The Formation in the Pauline Family. Formative lines according to the mind of Blessed James Alberione*, document of the General Governments of the Pauline Family elaborated as point of reference of all the *Ratio formationis* of all the Congregations;

b) *The guideline of SIF for the drafting of the Formation Iter*.

From the short historical excursus emerged the richness of our reflection on these themes, the many encounters and interventions in the area of formation and vocation promotion. But we were also made aware of the difficulties we have in valuing fully these materials and in knowing how to make them objects of our ongoing formation and not only of initial formation.

The various arguments treated were subjects of a lively debate among us, of a frank exchange of experiences which was concluded with the individualisation of some indications and steps for our journey in view of reaching the general objective of becoming a *Single Pauline Multimedia Publisher* that gives life to a European apostolic and formative project. We have agreed on some common indications, chosen as the basis or hypotheses of work to be presented to the Directors General of the Apostolate and to the Coordinators General of Formation, aside from the tasks that we have to assume ourselves in the first place.

We Major Superiors consider it important, for the future direction of the Europe Group, that the **Directors General of the Apostolate**:

1. motivate the mentality of collaboration and privileged rapport among the various Pauline European editors, starting from a common biblical apostolic project for the young;
2. promote a visible link among the various catalogues in the net of the Pauline editors to arrive at a single international virtual bookshop;
3. concretise what have been already asked with regard to the common lines of formation and a deontological code for the lay people who collaborate with us before the next meeting of the Major Superiors of Europe;
4. study the possibility of a project of an international bookshop which can be

launched in the various circumscriptions, starting eventually in Rome – Via Conciliazione.

Moreover, we ask the **Coordinators General of Formation** to:

1. have the courage to start an evangelisation project with the young in the new venues where they frequent (internet, volunteer works, associations, universities, etc.);
2. engage also the young during their formative years in the vocation promotion;
3. programme together an itinerary in view of experiencing together the coming World Youth Day in Madrid in August 2011;
4. accompany every single community in order to promote in the community projects, not only prayer, but also a concrete initiative centred on the world of the youth.

Other than offering these indications to our very close collaborators, **we commit ourselves** to:

1. carry out among us constant exchange of useful materials in order to know the progress of other European circumscriptions;
2. always perform a prudent choice and give opportunity of an adequate formation to those in-charge of the vocation promotion and formation;
3. sustain the realisation of a film, the possibility of which will be studied by SIF, that would show the Pauline mission.

In concluding our work we reflected on the operative guidelines of the Europe Group. We have realized that in concluding the meeting the task of communicating to and sensitising of all the confreres begins, with the help of those who were entrusted by the General Government. Indications in this message will be verified in the days preceding the **IX General Chapter** scheduled in the next spring.

The meeting ended at 12:30 of Wednesday, 13 May, thanking God and thanking one another for the courageous staunch we take in guarding with faith our future despite the difficulties of the present moment. Our best wishes to all and happy conclusion of the Pauline Year.

The Major Superiors fo Europe
Rome, 13 May 2009

In the photo: The Major Superiors of Europe with the confreres of the community of the General House in the Chapel which has seen the Primo Maestro praying for many years (Rome, 13 May 2009).