

THANKSGIVINGS

Of great comfort for us Paulines is the presence of so many brothers and sisters of the Pauline Family, of the four female Congregations, of the members of the Aggregated Institutes, of the Cooperators, of the faithful of the Pauline parishes of Santa Maria Regina degli Apostoli and of Gesù Buon Pastore in this hour of sadness for the sudden departure of Fr. Silvio Sassi, our Superior General. In the name of the General Government, of all the Paulines and of mine personally, to each and everyone I give a big thanks.

We feel honored and encouraged by the presence of so many of our priest friends but in a truly special way by the presence of Card. James HARVEY, Archpriest of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul outside the Walls, who has accepted our invitation to preside over this holy Eucharist. With him I thank His Excellency Mons. Giuseppe SCIACCA, assistant Secretary of the Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature, who in this basilica has conferred the sacred order of the diaconate and presbyterate to some of our young confreres; His Excellency Mons. Sébastien-Joseph MUYENGO MULOMBE, bishop of Uvina, a friend of our confreres in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I greet and thank the Abbot of the Abbey of Saint Paul outside the Walls, Fr. Edmund POWER. His presence gives testimony to our special and fraternal ties with the monastic community of San Paolo.

Our greetings and most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Fr. Sassi. May the Lord comfort and bless them.

A truly special thanks to Mons. Guido Todeschini, Director of Telepace who through his gesture of exquisite closeness has made possible the direct transmission of this eucharistic celebration. With him I greet the technicians and operators present here.

We are finally moved deep in our hearts and feel vivid affection for the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Being committed last Monday in his meeting with the Cardinals who help him in the reform of the Roman Curia and informed about the death of Fr. Sassi, he has collected himself in prayer and has asked those present to do likewise. Thanks, most holy Father! To You is our obedience and for You are our prayers.

Lastly, I ask the Father, from whom every good thing comes, to reward all of you who with your presence have done this deed of very high human value and of holy charity. I ask for all the protection of the Holy Virgin, the Queen of the Apostles, the protection of our father Saint Paul, of blessed James Alberione our Founder, of blessed Timothy Giaccardo and of the already great array of men and women Paulines who stay in front of God's throne.