

## **BLESSED JAMES ALBERIONE**

### **Apostle of the media**

A vision made into a programme, a project that takes form and becomes an unstoppable enterprise: thus Blessed James Alberione, the Founder of the Pauline family, revolutionized the concept of evangelisation from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He visualised the most modern instruments of communication that technology could offer as the most efficacious means for effective proclamation of the Gospel. His Holiness Pope Paul VI through the Decree *Inter Mirifica*, had consecrated the ideas of Alberione. The pope said: “our Father Alberione, always intent to scrutinise the signs of the times, that is, the most brilliant forms of reaching souls, has given the Church new instruments to express herself, new means to give vigour and range to her apostolate, new capacity and new awareness of the validity and possibility of her mission in the world and with modern means”.

In the Cathedral of Alba, Italy, on the occasion of the closing of the Holy Year, during a vigil of adoration before the Eucharist in the night between December 31, 1900 and January 1, 1901, the young seminarian Alberione felt the impulse of the Spirit to dedicate himself to a special mission. Alberione was deeply disturbed by the Spirit and it took a few years to clarify the inspiration and decisively launch the ‘special mission’.

Blessed James Alberione is the founder of five Religious Congregations, four Institutes of Secular Consecrated life and an Association of Pauline Co-operators of apostolic laity: together called the Pauline Family, the first among them being the Society of St Paul. He is an instrument chosen by God to carry the light of the Gospel to the men and women of our times, in the spirit and style of St Paul, using the most modern and efficacious means of communication. Today the sons and daughters of Alberione make use of print medium to digital technologies as means to spread the Good News and Gospel values across the world and to sanctify their lives with the life of consecration.

In his autobiographical sketches, Fr Alberione wrote, “I intend to belong to the Pauline Family: as a servant here and hereafter in heaven, where I will look after those who use the most modern and efficacious means for doing good: in sanctity, in Christ, in the Church”. All those who want to witness Christ through the media and digital communication of today’s culture, will find in Alberione a sure patron and intercessor. St John Paul II said: “Blessed James Alberione felt the need to make Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life known ‘to all people of our time with the means of our time. May there be a group of saints to use these means.”

Blessed James Alberione, rightly called the ‘Apostle for our times’, is the media marvel of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and an exceptional founder of the Pauline Family. Every year on November 26<sup>th</sup> his spiritual children all over the world celebrate his feast. This issue of *The Examiner* that is in your hands is dedicated to Blessed James Alberione. The leading articles herein explore the Man, his Spirit and the history of Pauline mission in the Church. Alberione is presented as a pioneer of modern evangelisation; in our times his vision of mission in the Church is

developed for computerized superhighways and through the Internet to the digital space, in a universe of communication that constantly changes.

Blessed James Alberione by his courageous and humble nature, his formidable intuition, his persistent farsightedness and his untiring practical spirit became a masterpiece of mission and an icon of sanctity for people of all times and for all cultures. May his personality, spirit, vision and mission inspire our beloved readers.

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