



*On the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the election of Father Valdir José De Castro  
the best wishes of the whole Pauline Family*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
grace to you and peace to all in Christ, our Master and Lord.

Pope Francis affirms that we do not live in an era of passage but a passage of an era, and this context concerns not only social life but also ecclesial life and our Congregation as well. Recalling the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the election of Father Valdir at the helm of the Society of Saint Paul, we must recognize that his service to our Congregation and to the Pauline Family takes place in a period full of questions but also full of opportunities.

Precisely because the times “*are not favourable*”, it is important to keep the torch of our charism bright and alive, in the sign of unity and fidelity.

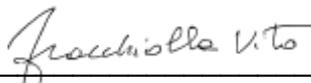
To this task, to which Father Valdir has been called, he is dedicating the best years of his life, with passion and full dedication. Our thanks have the value of renewing our closeness and our support to his person and his action of animation and the initiation of renewal processes, planting seeds that the Spirit will provide to allow them to grow and mature. Some of these processes have been initiated, such as those deriving from the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar of Pauline Publishers and those inspired by the annual Letters of Father Valdir to the entire Congregation. Others will be planted shortly. We recall the Seminar on “*Formation for the Mission*”, scheduled for next November, which will take place during the Vocation Year, which began last 25 January.

The sense of powerlessness that we may have in the face of the challenges and the transformations that today's reality poses to our “*paolinity*” should not discourage us. May the prayer of the “*Pact*” lived and carried out in our daily life, not only as a prayer, but as an expression of our covenant with God, give us confidence and hope.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us continue to support our Superior General, enwrapping him with our daily prayer, all united around him in the same spirit and in the same boat, in searching for what God wants from us Paulines today. And we pray for him and for ourselves with the words of the liturgy:

*“Inspire in your paternal goodness, O Lord, the thoughts and propositions of your people in prayer, and accompany them with your help, so that they may see what they must do and have the strength to do what they have seen.”*

Rome, 4 February 2019

  
Father Vito Fracchiolla

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