



SOCIETÀ SAN PAOLO
il Superiore generale

Benedict XVI Announced the *Pauline Year*

Thursday, 28 June, in the homily delivered during the First Vespers of the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, His Holiness Benedict XVI has announced the celebration of the Bimillennium of Birth of the Apostle.

Here are his words: *"I am happy to officially announce that to the Apostle Paul we will dedicate a special jubilee year from 28 June 2008 to 29 June 2009, on the occasion of the bimillennium of his birth, which historians put between the 7th and 10th A.C. This Pauline Year could be developed in a privileged manner in Rome... In the Papal Basilica and in the adjoining homonym of the Benedictine Abbey, a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events can take place, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all inspired by Pauline spirituality... Likewise, in every part of the world, analogous initiatives can be realised in the Dioceses, Sanctuaries and places of worship of Religious Institutes, of study, or of assistance, that bear the name of St Paul or that is inspired by his figure and his teachings"*.

As Society of St Paul and as Pauline Family, we express to the Holy Father our gratitude and our enthusiasm for this ecclesial initiative which convolves us profoundly and which would constitute an authentic joy for Blessed James Alberione, who among other initiatives of merit, had induced also during his time a **"Year of St Paul Apostle"** (25 January 1957 – 25 January 1958).

Of a joyful coincidence this ecclesial event comes to us in concomitance with the **International Seminar on St Paul** open to all the Pauline Family, which the General Government of the Society of St Paul has programmed for sometime, as an important initiative, and which will be celebrated in 2009 (Ariccia, 19-29 April).

The affirmations programmed and actualised by our blessed Founder thus remain: *"The Pauline Family is sustained by St Paul to continue his works; it is St Paul living, but who today is composed of many members. We have not elected St Paul ourselves, it is him who has elected and called us. He wants that we do that which he would do if he is living today... He would adopt the highest pulpit erected by today's progress: press, cinema, radio, television; the greatest discoveries of doctrine of love and salvation: the Gospel of Jesus Christ"*. (Fascicolo FSP 1954; cf. *Vademecum*, n. 651).

I invite all therefore to mobilize ideas in view of initiatives that can be advantageous for each of us, for each Pauline community and for all the Circumscriptions, for the Congregation and for the entire Pauline Family, for the benefit of the Church.

Rome, 28 June 2007



Don Silvio Sassi
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