

**WELCOME ADDRESS  
OF THE  
SUPERIOR GENERAL FR. VALDIR JOSÉ DE CASTRO**

AT THE 10<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CIDEP

São Paulo, 8 November 2015

In giving to each of you the welcome to this 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of CIDEP, I greet and thank, in the person of Fr. Luiz Miguel Duarte, Provincial Superior, all the confreres of the Province of Brazil, especially those of the community of the Provincial House and Vila Mariana which, with care, welcome us these days.

We are gathered for the Extraordinary General Assembly, after the unexpected circumstances experienced by the Congregation with the death of Fr. Silvio Sassi on 14 September 2014; the successive convocation and the celebration of the X General Chapter held at Ariccia from 25 January to 14 February 2015, sixteen months ahead of schedule; and the consequent formation of the new General Government.

After these events, and considering that this year there was also the renewal of the government of four out of seven Circumscriptions that belong to the CIDEP area, I have reflected with the new General Council about the opportunity to meet you in this Assembly before 2016. Following the consultation and the positive feedback of the members of the Council of Major Superiors, its President Fr. Juan Antonio Carrera has called the formal convening of this meeting last 31 July.

The Assembly which we now begin has the task not only to evaluate the past with a grateful heart and to scrutinize with attention and passion the present situation, but also to project CIDEP towards the future with hope, just as the Year of Consecrated Life encourages us. We can say that during these days we will try to answer this question: «What do we want from CIDEP for the coming years?» We hope to make a deep reflection, inspired especially by the Final Document of the X General Chapter that traces clearly the goal for the whole Congregation (2015-2021): *«I do everything for the Gospel. Attentive to the signs of the times, renew the impetus of our apostolic action, converting ourselves, our communities and our apostolic structures, to reach everyone, especially in the periphery, utilising likewise the new languages of communication»*.

We are called, in fact, to do everything for the Gospel, taking it as a first reference of our reflections and to make relevant decisions, remembering that *«while not speaking only of religion, but of everything in a Christian way we offer the Gospel to all; it is not a set of concepts or normative formalities, but the Person of Jesus*

Christ, Way, Truth and Life, the unique Master, the Savior of the world»<sup>1</sup>. With the Lord we want to evaluate our journey and renew the thrust as «apostles and communicators and as consecrated persons», in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul.

The Program for this week, which contemplates the many areas of Human Resources, Editorial, Diffusion and Administration-Economy, was prepared by Fr Juan Antonio Carrera (President of CIDEP), with Fr. Salvador Armas (Executive Secretary of CIDEP) and the Councilors General Fr. Jose Pottayil (President of the CTIA) and Brother Darlei Zanon (Methodologist of the Assembly). To them our thanks! Next Wednesday I will have the opportunity to share with you some points that I consider indispensable to our reflection and projection into the future.

Now, at the beginning of this 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, we are going to celebrate the Eucharist. With open hearts «*let us thank together the Father, who has called us to follow Jesus in adhering fully to his Gospel and in service of the Church*» – with communication and in communion – «*and has poured into our hearts the Holy Spirit who gives us joy and it makes us bear witness to the world of his love and mercy*»<sup>2</sup>.

Let us also pray for all the Paulines present in the Circumscriptions that make up CIDEP and for all the needs of our Congregation, so that with renewed creative fidelity to the charism of the Founder and in communion with the entire Pauline Family and the Church, called to evangelize in joy, we can respond to the needs of today's humanity, especially the most needy.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, the Apostle Paul and Blessed James Alberione and Blessed Timothy Giaccardo accompany us on this journey.

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<sup>1</sup> Declaration of the X General Chapter of the Society of St. Paul.

<sup>2</sup> *Apostolic Letter of the Pope Francis to all the consecrated persons on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life*, 28.11.2014