



São Paulo  
10 February 2017

The Participants  
Pauline Seminar  
Provincialate  
BANDRA- MUMBAI

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Together with Fr Michael Raj and all the Confreres of the India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province, I like to extend to you a very warm and affectionate welcome to India, the land of many ancient civilizations and age-old religions and religious traditions. You are in the midst of a people known for their traditional hospitality and religious tolerance, warm, cordial and smiling. Together with all and with folded hands I say, NAMASTE and SUSWAGATHAM!!

The four-day Seminar that you begin today is truly a grace-filled moment and a very unique apostolic event for all the Circumscriptions of the CAP-ESW Region. One among the two priorities in the area of our apostolate that the X General Chapter has presented to the Congregation is "Creatively renew our missionary impetus at the service of the Word with new sustainable initiatives for the non-believers, the distant ones and the poor (*Evangelii Gaudium*), with new openings, in new territories, with the new language of communication". The challenge for us Paulines today and specially for those of the CAP-ESW circumscriptions is *to be fully at the service of the Word with new sustainable initiatives oriented towards non believers and people of other faiths, people at the periphery and the poor*. In an effort to be creatively faithful to our specific Charism gifted to the Church through the instrumentality of our Founder, Blessed James Alberione and to respond courageously to the call of our last General Chapter, the present seminar was proposed by CTIA and approved by the General Government.

The theme chosen for the Seminar "Pauline Mission among people of different faiths and cultures: Challenges and Opportunities" clearly indicates, on the one hand, the religious-socio-cultural-linguistic realities in which we are called to be present with our specific Charism, and on the other hand, the challenges and opportunities that these realities offer to us Paulines *to speak of everything in a Christian way*. A seminar of this nature and with the above mentioned theme together with such a wide participation from all the circumscriptions of the CAP-ESW Region is a beautiful opportunity for you to reflect together, to listen to one another and to look forward to identify and formulate new initiatives oriented to people of other faiths and cultures in a spirit mutual collaboration and support among your various circumscriptions.

It is to be remembered that the scope of a seminar of this nature is not to prepare another document consisting of noble thoughts and holy desires. But it is an opportunity to prepare and articulate a plan of action with time bound projects and programmes both at the level of individual circumscriptions and at the level of CAP-ESW to actualize the objectives proposed by our last General Chapter. A commitment to do so certainly presupposes a spirit of genuine collaboration at all levels specially at international level, fraternal cooperation among all sectors within the circumscriptions and among the circumscriptions of the area.

Dear Brothers and sisters, although it was my desire to be with you all at this very important apostolic event in Mumbai, due to my various commitments in some of the CIDEP circumscriptions and the forthcoming **Meeting of the Commission for the Pauline centers of studies in communication at FAPCOM** in São Paulo, I am unable to do so. I wish to assure you my spiritual closeness and the prayers and good wishes of our confreres of the Provincial House, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

With fraternal affection and prayerful wishes for the success of the seminar,

Fr Valdir José De Castro  
Superior General