



**REV.
FATHER VALDIR JOSÉ DE CASTRO**

6th anniversary of your election as Superior General of the Society of Saint Paul

Dear Father Valdir,

In the message of best wishes addressed to you last year it was written that we were about to finish our service to the Congregation. This did not happen and we have to live a “suspended time” in which it is difficult to do any programming. Despite this uncertainty, your service to the Congregation continues as long as God wills, with new forms, dictated by the situation in which we live, but always with that charge of closeness and fraternity that characterizes you and that translates precisely the spirit of Paul: *«And apart from these things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is led to sin, and I am not indignant?»* (2Cor 11:29-30).

In this period, you have spent a lot of time on the phone or videoconference, various hours of the day due to the time zone, taking on the anxieties of each confrere, of each house, of each circumscription. Paul’s concern to keep communities alive and united, even in difficult times, was yours too. And this sharing, as Pope Benedict says, *«does not arise from simple benevolence, nor only from human generosity or from the spirit of altruism, but comes from the consolation of the Lord, from the unshakable support of the “extraordinary power that comes from God and not from us”* (2Cor 4:7)» (Audience of 30 May 2012).

The care of the “common home”, the support and promotion of the Pauline fraternity in joy and hope, before being words and messages addressed by you to all the Paulines of the Congregation, were seeds initiated and experienced with you in the life of the General Council and in the community of the Generalate; they have been bread broken that nourish and animate our community life, despite our weaknesses and our inadequacies.

Dear Father Valdir, we do not have the crystal ball and we do not know what surprises the future holds.

We thank you for your work of animation in making us live this period not as a time to be consumed but as “kairòs”, a time in which the Lord is showing us new paths to undertake.

We pray to the Lord for you and with you so that He may bless you and your service. May He assist you and protect you now and always.

Rome, 4 February 2021

*Father Vito Fracchiolla, Vicar General
the General Councillors
the General Government
the Generalate Community*