



To the Major Superiors,
to their Circumscriptions
and to the individual Pauline Communities

After the Intercapitular Assembly in the Philippines

Dear Brothers,

The Congregation has lived the Intercapitular Assembly carried out in the Philippines (14-28 February 2013) as a “time of favor,” a moment of grace. We have felt the “youthful” pulse of the Society of Saint Paul: the will to do and to renew ourselves in a constant comparing with an ecclesial mission that shows itself to be ever more necessary and demanding. For this has cooperated in an unpayable way the reception and the participation of the Philippines-Macau Province.

Now, however, the work undertaken must continue. The verifications, the discussions on the urgent themes, the documents presented, the revision of our norms, everything must be made known to everybody by the competent organisms to the individual Communities. The General Government offers for this to the Major Superiors the organic presentation of the themes treated, following the schema of the Final Document of the IX General Chapter. In this way we intend to favor the work of making aware and continuing the work started in the Philippines.

1. APOSTOLATE

Documents – In the Intercapitular Assembly have been presented and discussed themes and documents that help us to make better the handling of the apostolate and the organic formation of the Pauline. Among these documents are: *Criteri per gli Sviluppi Multimediali San Paolo 2012-2016* (Criteria for the Multimedia Developments of San Paolo), *Protocollo Etico della Società San Paolo 2012-2016* (Ethical Protocol of the Society of Saint Paul), *Guida per l’elaborazione del Direttorio Etico della Società San Paolo 2012-2016* (Guide for the Elaboration of the Ethical Directory of the Society of Saint Paul), *Normativa sulle Risorse Umane della Società San Paolo 2012-2016* (Norms on the Human Resources of the Society of Saint Paul) and finally the Draft of the *Statuto del Centro Biblico San Paolo 2012-2016* (Statute of the Centro Biblico San Paolo).

→ They now merit full knowledge and further deepening within each Circumscription, so as to arrive at a greater apostolic awareness and to a wider collaborative ca-

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capacity among ourselves and with lay persons and for the formation and involvement of our young people in multimedia projects.

Our presence in the web – We must not lessen the apostolate carried out through the instruments of the past, but it is necessary to join it with the present means and to project all towards the future. As contribution to this opening to the future, as soon as possible we foresee the start of functioning of a newly structured institutional site ***paulus.net***.

→ The linguistic-continental Organisms CAP-ESW, CIDEP and GEC are invited to make it operational in every Circumscription and at world level, resolving the eventual problems related to connectivity. They will be aided in this by the Major Superiors who will invite all to a more assiduous and active “navigation” in the internet.

→ The reflection on the updating of the **paulus.net** site, the unification of the institutional image as also the implementation of things to be applied move on this line, having as reference common multimedia criteria.

→ Only the involvement of all the General Directors of the Apostolate and of those Responsible in the apostolic areas, through a motivated collaboration, can make grow and notably make better this innovative aspect for our apostolate.

Centro Biblico San Paolo – In order to strengthen the Pauline biblical apostolate and the projects of biblical pastoral for the benefit of all the Circumscriptions, the Congregation intends to act through the *Centro Biblico San Paolo*.

→ In full collaboration with all those who work in this sector, the *Centro Biblico San Paolo* will promote, animate and coordinate the Paulines and the resources, having as criteria of organization *solidarity* (mutual help) and *subsidiarity* (the active participation of all).

Revision of the Norms – The presentation of the proposals for the revision of the *Constitutions and Directory* in the course of the Intercapitular Assembly and the discussion that has followed it, have been a real school for the Major Superiors. The General Government will commit itself to compile the new version of it to be presented to the Assembly of the Major Superiors in view of the General Chapter in 2016. Special *Consigli di studio* (advisory study groups) of the General Government will be dedicated to the deepening and rewriting of the articles 68, 74.2, 78 and 78.1-3, about which the Intercapitular Assembly has not made any definitive pronouncement and has suggested to the General Government an additional research.

Remaining to be evaluated are the proposals of revision of the *Servizio dell’Autorità nella Società San Paolo. Manuale* (Service of Authority in the Society of Saint Paul. Manual) and of the *Ratio formationis*. The General Government will examine the *Servizio dell’Autorità nella Società San Paolo. Manuale*, providing also for the revision of the organigrams contained in the text, and the *Ratio formationis*, through the contribution of the CTIA and the SIF.

→ The respective Major Superiors are invited to continue the examination and the reflection in the individual Circumscriptions on the normative texts of the Congregation in view of a revision, activating not only the competent organisms in the apostolic and formative area, but also the individual communities. The results of this work

will be gathered and held present during the next Assembly of the Major Superiors, called by the General Government.

2. COMMUNITY AND SPIRITUALITY

Even in the field of “community life” and “spirituality” the Intercapitular Assembly has been full of cues. In general terms it has been said that our apostolic communities are born of communities of apostles; that the intercultural and intergenerational experiences that are lived in them must be based on respect and mutual appreciation (cf IX General Chapter, *Final Document*, 2.2.1); that these objectives imply a “communicative style” that favors dialog and responsible sharing among the various generations.

→ The IX General Chapter has asked to focus a particular attention on the *Community Project* (cf *Final Document*, 2.1.1 and 2.1.2), elaborated starting from the *Apostolic Project* and the *Iter formativo* of every Circumscription, adapted to the real possibilities of every community for an active collaboration. It is within this *Project* that it is possible to insert and then realize formative moments like the reading of the *Constitutions*, information about the apostolic and formative activity of the individual Circumscription, the deepenings for the updating of the charism suggested by the annual *Letter* of the Superior General and by the files that are put at the disposition of the communities, above all in view of the centenary of 2014.

→ The confreres who have attended the *Charism Course* can and must be valorized for the spiritual and charismatic growth of the Circumscription where they belong, for the benefit also of the whole Pauline Family.

→ The General Government will commit to continue the reflection on the *Spirituality of communication*. The theme, which is always actual and already present inside the Seminar on *Actualization of the Pauline Charism in the third millennium: spirituality and mission*, has been urged in several intercapitular reports and even during the presentation of the revision of the norms.

→ The General Government will urge the *Center of Pauline Spirituality* so that it may see to the drafting of brief files introducing the principal writings of Fr. Alberione which favor the reading and the direct study of the texts present in the *Opera omnia* contained in the site *paulus.net*.

→ It is necessary to meditate on and value art. 13 of our *Constitutions*: «The Pauline spirituality is our prophetic voice in the Church, within which we have a specific responsibility: it is therefore the task of each one of us to spread it». This certainty spurs us to not consider the spirituality given us by blessed Alberione and the life testimonies of the “holy” Paulines as exclusively “ours” and pushes us to know them ever better to be able to share them with the whole Church.

3. VOCATION PASTORAL AND FORMATION

The Intercapitular Assembly has welcomed and underlined the urgency of a vocation pastoral and of a formation aimed at mission. On this line is placed the “pedagogical choice” indicated by **priority 1.3** to be realized, in particular, through the coordina-

tion of the specializations on the level of Congregation and through a program adapted to the “formation of the formators.” Also a form of realization of this commitment are the *Centers of Study* on communication that the Provinces of Mexico, Brazil, Philippines-Macau, India-Nigeria are cultivating. Also the solidarity of Pauline personnel, willing to be transferred for a determined time to other Circumscriptions to share their skills is “a school” of apostolic and missionary generosity.

The contents of the two international Seminars: *L’attualizzazione del Carisma Paolino nel terzo millennio: spiritualità e missione* (Ariccia 18 June – 3 July 2008) and *San Paolo* (Ariccia 19-29 June 2009) need to be deepened and valued.

→ The SIF will commit itself to make of them a guided reading which will allow their utilization, above all on the part of the one given charge of the formation and apostolate. Already prepared is the reading of the *Final Document* of the first of the two Seminars and which develops its central theme: *Pushed by the Spirit to make actual the Pauline charism.*

→ Every Circumscription can count on apostolic and formative organisms which are directly responsible – together with all the communities – for vocation pastoral and formation in all the stages, including the permanent one. But what motivate a young man to embrace missionary choices which support him in the formative stages are individual persons, their interpersonal rapports, their witnessings and their examples. This applies in a special way during the periods of immediate preparation for the perpetual profession and during the following years, not always easy and not lacking in second thoughts.

→ It is necessary to call to mind that the Governments of every Circumscription, by mandate of the IX General Chapter (cf *Final Document*, 3.1.2), are charged with the preparation of their project of vocation pastoral and that they must verify its realization.

→ Fr. Alberione has taught us that there are no Paulines “in pension” and therefore exempted, at a certain moment, from apostolic commitments. As recommended by the IX General Chapter (cf *Final Document*, 2.2.1), the Superiors are to involve everybody, including the sick and the elderly within the allowed limits, in that apostolate which, realized through prayer and the offering of suffering, is not because of this less precious.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE OF AUTHORITY

For a more efficient and efficacious administrative management - The CTIA has redacted a series of documents needed to make uniform the administrative activity in the entire Congregation (cf *Policies, Procedures and Administrative Control in the Circumscriptions of the Society of Saint Paul 2011-2016*).

→ The executive Secretaries of the linguistic-continental Groups and the respective General Directors of the Apostolate are to study and deepen these themes in order to realize in a coordinated manner their application in every nation where the Society of Saint Paul is present with all its works.

The Pauline Fund at the service of the Congregation – Fr. Alberione, drawing inspiration from Saint Paul, has left us as inheritance the image of the Congregation as a “mystical body”: it is indispensable that every Circumscription feel itself as part of a solid body and that although it is justly proud of its apostolic capabilities or busy with its own difficulties, it knew that it can count on the generosity of its confreres and be ready for solidarity towards others.

→ Our Father Saint Paul’s principle «One who does not want to work, let him not eat» (2Thes 3,10) is an admonition that must not make us afraid, but must motivate every Pauline to cultivate a permanent industriousness to “make himself all for all” (1Cor 9,22).

5. PAULINE FAMILY

The Intercapitular Assembly has often called to mind the responsibility, entrusted by the Founder to the Society of Saint Paul, of being the “animator” toward the entire Pauline Family: the female Congregations, the Pauline aggregated Institutes and the Association of Pauline Cooperators. Even the Centenary of 2014 must be a special occasion to revive in everybody the feeling of sharing in the one and only spirituality in the convergence of the apostolates.

→ The Vicar General will prepare a description, translated in various languages, of the Pauline aggregated Institutes to make them better known, promoting in the Congregation an exact awareness of their particular collaboration and secular specificity.

→ The General Government has in preparation a brief presentation of the *Directory of the Association of Pauline Cooperators* of the Society of Saint Paul that explains its new structure and illustrates the principal points of the renewed text.

→ It is asked of those responsible assigned in the various Circumscriptions of the Association of Pauline Cooperators to utilize the *Directory of the Association of Pauline Cooperators* and to verify its real functioning, pointing out its eventual problems to the Vicar General, Fr. Celso Godilano.

The Intercapitular Assembly, celebrated three years after the IX General Chapter, has offered the opportunity to verify what has been realized of the priorities and of the operative lines, what has not yet been done and what remains to be done because programmed for the whole six years.

The objective of the present text can be summarized by an invitation that blessed Alberione often repeated to encourage us towards the future: “Keep on walking!”

Rome, 4 April 2013



Don Silvio Sassi

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General Superior