

Message to the Pauline Family

Dear sisters and brothers,

Inspired by the theme of IX General Chapter: “Rekindle the gift you have received. Creative fidelity to hundred years of Pauline Charism”, in these days we have reflected on our Pauline identity.

We have had further confirmation of the value of being Pauline Family: your presence, your support, your prayer have accompanied our works. We are well aware of the small and great experiences which make us grow as brothers and sisters in the world. For this we thank the Lord and all of you.

At the same time, we have realised that there is a long way to go for the total realization of the plan of our father Founder, Blessed James Alberione, as emphatically expressed fifty years ago during a course of retreat of one month for the first Paulines conducted here at Ariccia. He tells us that “the divine providence, along with the society of St Paul, has given birth” to various institutes of the Pauline Family, each one with its own government, norms, administration and a particular apostolate. Blessed Alberione emphasises that “all the Institutes together form the Pauline Family. All the Institutes have a common origin. All the Institutes have a common spirit. All the Institutes have converging goals” (UPS III, 185).

Regarding you, brothers and sisters of the Pauline Secular Institutes of Consecrated Life, we have renewed our awareness of your importance and specific identity in the Pauline Family, and of our responsibility, in as much as you are a “charismatic work” of the Society of St Paul. With love we wish to improve our pilgrimage with you.

We also have given thanks to God for you, dear members and supporters of the Association of Pauline Co-operators for your vocation within the mission of the Pauline Family. May the Lord help us to journey with you with enthusiasm and collaboration.

The Superiors General have decided to celebrate together 2014 as the “centenary of the beginning of the Pauline Family”. We wish that this anniversary help us to:

- Understand better the charism of being Pauline Family as desired by the Lord through our Blessed Founder.
- Relaunch the apostolic collaboration in the complementariness of our apostolates.
- Reach a “comprehensive project of new evangelization” as Pauline Family that starting from common origin and spirituality, begin the fulfilment of that convergence of goals very dear to Blessed James Alberione.

May the Lord accompany us in this journey in creative fidelity to our Founder and make us capable of “doing something for the men and women of today” together, “progressing a little each day”.

Ariccia (Rome), 14 May 2010

MEMBERS OF THE IX GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE SSP