

Rome, 17 January 2009

Dear Sisters,

Here is the first information bulletin from our enlarged council meeting on the configuration of our Institute. The meeting began on 16 January with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Silvio Sassi, Superior General of the SSP. During this encounter, we are reflecting and discerning on the complex and sensitive subject proposed by our 9th General Chapter (2007): *the “redesigning” of our FSP presences throughout the world.*

The situation in which we live, the extremely rapid changes taking place in cultures, societies and the world of communications today, the new forms of poverty that are emerging...all question the quality of our life and the meaning and effectiveness of the mission we carry out around the world, inviting us to revitalize our life and activities.

In introducing our work, Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato invited us to reflect on not only the many sufferings and worries that abound in today's world, but also on the many hopes that are also present. She reminded us of several important ecclesial events that have made a strong impact on both believers and non-believers, including the celebration of the Pauline Year, which has given light, dynamism and spiritual strength to the entire Pauline Family.

After thanking the Lord for everything the General Government has accomplished up to today, Sr. M. Antonietta then focused on Fr. Alberione's recommendation to “organize the good”—a statement we feel is an imperative today. The *redesigning process* is a part of this command. She then went on to underscore the fundamental points that give direction to the redesigning process, namely: holiness of life, the Pauline mission (an essential and unifying element of our consecrated life), and the spirituality of communion—a law of life for us.

To enter into the redesigning process means to heed God's call to us today to identify the changes he wants us to make. We are well aware of our need to respond to emerging pastoral needs and to “revive” our image and our prophetic service of the Gospel. But, all together, we must take into account persons, communities, and the economic aspect of our life, organizing ourselves in a fresh manner so as to live the aspects of fraternal communion, prayer, formation, mission and ongoing formation in a balanced way.

Sr. M. Antonietta also reminded us that today our Congregation must be able to grasp the signs of the times, look to the future and search for paths that will allow our charism to reveal all its vitality. We must courageously find new ways of living our consecration and carrying out our mission, in communion with one another and with our lay collaborators. She concluded with the affirmation that she is convinced it will be easier for us to discover where the Lord is leading us if we keep our gaze fixed on the horizon, that is, on Christ, and allow ourselves to be led by the “wind” of the Spirit.

After her conference, under the guidance of the preparatory commission, we reflected on the historical evolution of thought within our Institute (1992-2007) with regard to the redesigning process, taking into consideration data concerning our number of sisters, communities and the advancing age of our members.

Dear sisters, we feel all of you present with us in this enlarged council meeting and we thank you sincerely for the many messages and best wishes we have received from you.

If you visit the “redesigning” page of our www.paoline.org website, you will find posted our daily schedule, the list of participants in the meeting, the talks of the speakers and other resources that can help you follow our work in greater detail.

Warmest best wishes to all of you!

Sr. Maria Letizia Panzetti and Sr. Iris L. Pontin