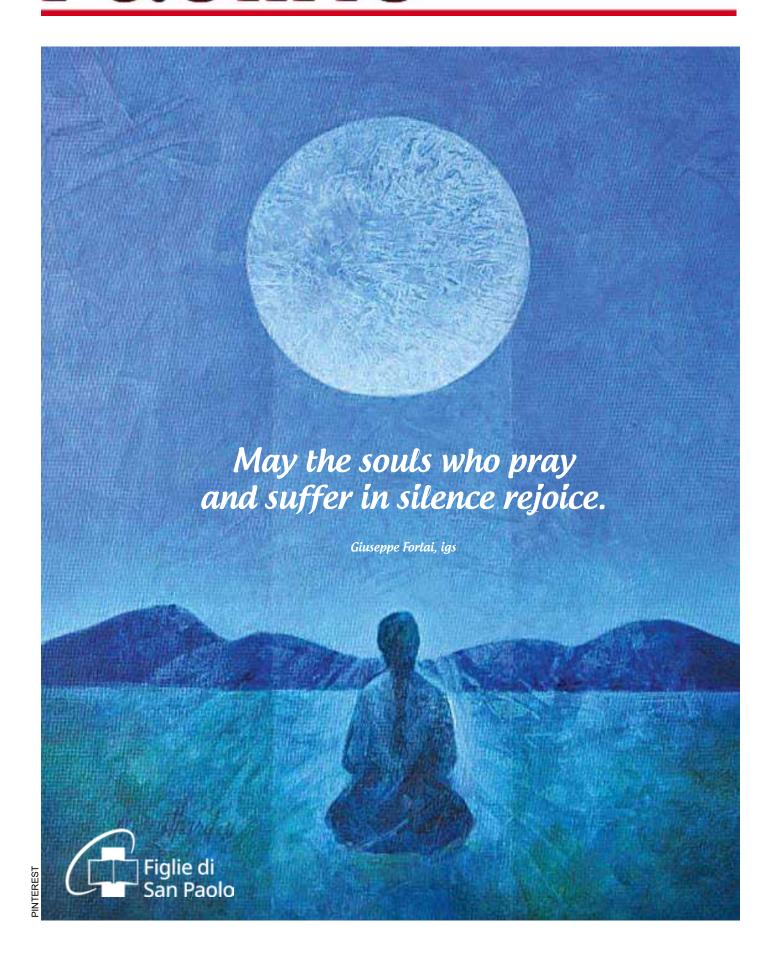
Paoline Paoline

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Dearest Sisters,

Often, from the pages of *Paolineonline*, I reflect with you on the gift and "necessity" of communion between us, an essential premise of apostolic life and fruitfulness.

Communion is a gift from

God, the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is grace received from Above and an expression of our fidelity to the charism, which "requires" us to choose every day to live in communion, trusting in the grace of God, to announce Jesus and his Gospel, making this the absolute of our life.

The communion that unites us does not eliminate the richness of diversity, that originality which is contemplated in praise and gratitude. It is the complementarity of gifts that forms organic unity, builds the Body, and confirms that we live not identical or in total agreement but united.

Fidelity to the Pauline charism also asks us to cultivate the communion that exists within the "wonderful Pauline Family" and to express the prophecy of being "Family", which witnesses to charismatic unity and at the same time seeks concrete ways to walk ever more together, announcing the Gospel in the diversity and complementarity of gifts.

We do not exist alone because, as Blessed Alberione said: «Each Institute was born to complete the others». We have a common heritage: «All the Institutes have a common origin. All the Institutes have a common spirit. All the Institutes have converging ends" (UPS III, 185). Yes, they converge in one spirituality and mission: to live and communicate Jesus Master and Shepherd way, truth and life. And this is expressed, as the Founder underlined, in the commitment to feel and act as a "body", the whole "body" which, according to Saint Paul is, "fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part." (Eph 4:16).

This common charismatic and spiritual experience impels us to live as a Family and to operate as a Family, in the diversity of the

particular gifts that the Spirit has infused into the different branches of the one Family. The challenge is to believe in this miracle, in the miracle of a Spirit who helps us to speak not a single language but permits us through our communion and collaboration in Him, every son and daughter of God can understand in "their" language the announcement of salvation, of new life.

A few weeks ago, speaking at the online meeting to celebrate the 25 years of the formation course on the PF charism I offered the following reflection on *Common Elements for a journey as Family*:

The common elements are there for a true family journey. However, at times, they are like that powerful scent of aromatic nard destined to spread its fragrance but sealed in a jar that is difficult to open. Perhaps the "right key" needs to be found.

Thinking and praying, I seem to have identified this "key" in the *Pact* that Fr. Alberione made with the Lord at the dawn of the Pauline Family and which today inspires a renewed awareness of our mission. That "promissory note" - we know - is an intense expression of faith in the providence and mercy of God and it impels us to "seek first of all the kingdom of God and his justice", certain that, even in our poverty, He will not fail to give us much more than we dare hope for.



We must believe that this is the "secret of success" to revitalize that common heritage and find together a renewed spiritual and missionary impulse that produces fruits of life and faith that the Paraclete wants to continue to generate on the centuries-old tree of our Family.

I will therefore dedicate a few words on the "spirituality of the covenant", a very Pauline and Alberionian spirituality, a spirituality to be re-founded...

The spirituality of the covenant is, first of all, a *spirituality of humility*, because, as Deuteronomy reminds us, "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love upon you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples; but it is because the Lord loves you" (Deut 7: 7-8).

The spirituality of the covenant is, moreover, a *spirituality of trust*. We are supported by a certainty: God has not regretted his covenant. The situation is complex, the resources are insufficient, the numbers speak clearly, we are not always able to collaborate... but we trust God, who has made a covenant with us and will not fail to keep his promise. And this trust extends to the world, to humanity which we often say is lost, but which continues to be inhabited by the love of God.

The spirituality of the covenant is, again, a *spirituality of waiting* because it rests not on results but on faith in the seed sown...

Humility, trust and faith are the indispensable conditions for renewing today, together, our covenant with the Lord and the commitment to "seek, in life and in the apostolate, only and always the glory of God and peace to all peoples". We are collaborators of the Spirit and we are asked, first of all, to let ourselves be taught by Him on how to weave and reweave every day communion among our Family so as to cooperate in His mission, for which we have been given a "good spirit, grace, knowledge, and the means for doing good".

If this is the "right key", the aromatic nard will be able to release its fragrance or, leaving behind the metaphor, we will be able to implement Fr. Alberione's dream: to be a symphony of voices for the announcement of the Gospel where the Spirit calls, making us companions on the journey of humanity, listening attentively and humbly to the questions that we can only know if we stand alongside the men and women of today, as Jesus did on the road to Emmaus, as Saint Paul did, who has taught us the passion that moved our Founder.

Together we go out to the existential and peripheres of thought, towards which we move with very delicate care and with the concerted contribution of our different gifts, because the covenant with God and between us passes through the places of life. We cannot miss this opportunity, for generative witness.

Sisters, it's nice to be and know ourselves as Family. And it is beautiful for us to feel this as a precious legacy received from Blessed Alberione and Maestra Thecla, in whose footsteps we wish to walk to strengthen the bonds of communion and collaboration among us, members of the PF scattered and operating throughout the world.

Dearest, I would be very happy to receive the gift of your reflections and sharing, even as a community, on this very important and essential topic for the future that the Lord is preparing for the Pauline mission.

With affection, in communion of joy and hope.

Sr. Anna Caiazza Superior General



CALENDAR OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

(July, August, September 2024)

25 July - 13 August 2024 Fraternal Visit A

Fraternal Visit America Australe Sr. Anna Caiazza

5 September - 4 October 2024 Fraternal Visit India

Sr. Donna Giaimo Sr. Anastasia Muindi

Sr. Shalimar Rubia

from 20 September

Sr. Annamaria Gasser

26 September - 7 October 2024 Fraternal Visit Africa Australe

Sr. Bruna Fregni

Sr. Clarice Wisniewski

ARGENTINA

PAULINES AT THE BUENOS AIRES BOOK FAIR



The Book Fair was held from April 25th to May 13th, at the Rural of Buenos Aires.

On April 27, 2024, the restyling of the Pauline brand was presented in the Ernesto Sábato Hall. Participants, including friends, collaborators and the general public, followed the screening with enthusiasm. Expressions like *I really liked it; it is simple; how beautiful to see this evolution of the Paulines* were some of the comments expressed. In general, people have been struck by the simple, open and inclusive blue line that spans the world to reach everyone with the announcement of the Good News.

Among the cultural activities organized by the Paulines was the presentation of Gustavo Orellana's book El cielo te espera (Heaven awaits vou), which invites us to overcome fear. A Storytelling workshop was also held in the Children's Space, animated by the author José Sepi, which was much appreciated by the children accompanied by their parents. Also presented on this occasion was the book The Hour of Francis. a collection of the main teachings of Pope Francis during the 11th anniversary of his pontificate. It was an emotional meeting in which Pope Francis' greeting dedicated to the authors, who host a weekly radio program entitled *The Francis* Hour, was heard. There have been testimonies from people who knew Pope Francis and who recognize his leadership throughout the world.

People from other countries also appreciated the presence of the Paulines at the International Book Fair in Buenos Aires. Some digital influencers have been drawn to publications with the same desire to evangelize.

BRAZIL

COMMUNICATION SEMINAR ON THE CHALLEN-GES AND PROSPECTS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



To delve deeper into the theme of Pope Francis' message for the 58th World Day of Social Communications: Artificial intelligence and wisdom of the heart: towards fully human communication, Sepac (Pastoral Communication Service) of the Paulines, organized from May 2 – 4, a 4th Communication Seminar, in collaboration with the Catholic Communication Association (Signis Brasil) and the Archdiocese of São Paulo.

The first two days of the seminar took place online, while the last meeting, which took place on Saturday May 4th was an in-person event at the Paul the Apostle Auditorium of the Pauline Sisters. This event was also broadcast through digital media.

The first conference was led by Professor Elizabeth Saad who spoke on the *Practical applications and possible paths humanity can take with artificial intelligence* (AI).

The Daughters of St. Paul also offered talks: Sr Joana Puntel, fsp spoke about the Church's interest in this topic and the pastoral implications of AI. She stressed that the Church recognizes and "rejoices in the extraordinary achievements of science and technology. The teaching of the Church knows that artificial intelligence will become increasingly important".

The conclusion was entrusted to Sr. Rosa Martins, fsp who analyzed Pope Francis' message for the 58th World Day of Communications.

Also present was Cardinal Odilo Pedro Scherer, Archbishop of São Paulo, and other dignitaries who enriched the event.

PHILIPPINES

58th World Day of Communications



In view of the 58th World Day of Communications, which was celebrated on the solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord, the Society of Saint Paul and the Daughters of Saint Paul of the Philippines organized a conference on the theme: Artificial Intelligence and Wisdom of the Heart: Towards fully human communication. The meeting was held at the Alberione Auditorium of the Daughters of Saint Paul which welcomed the participation of over 200 students, ministers of social communications from the parishes, religious and seminarians. The event was broadcast live via the Facebook page created for the occasion. The program began with a choir leading everyone in prayer and worship, asking the Lord's graces for a fruitful and meaningful celebration of the 58th World Day of Communications. The Holy Bible was enthroned, signifying the presence of the living Word of God, who spoke and guided the participants in the day's activities.

The interactive program conducted by three priests of the Society of Saint Paul and a Daughter of Saint Paul was an opportunity to delve deeper and reflect on the relationship between faith and AI, recognizing that AI is a marvel of human genius that reflects the genius of God. While the Church welcomes and recognizes modern technologies as gifts from God, it also recognizes the need for discernment, reflection and balance in the use of these gifts.

ITALY

PAULINES AT THE TURIN BOOK FAIR



The 36th edition of the Turin International Book Fair, Italy's largest and most important publishing event, took place from 9-13 May 2024. This year's theme was *Imaginary Life*. The International Book Fair has been promoting books, reading and culture ever since it was launched in 1988. Each year in Turin, the Fair brings together the entire book chain at the Lingotto Fiere - publishers, writers, booksellers, librarians, agents, illustrators, translators and readers – to celebrate a major international festival of culture.

Like every year, the Paulines participated with new literary proposals and many events. In these 5 days, their booth also offered the authors of their publications a welcoming space in which to become acquainted with their readers.

THE HUNDRED YEARS OF SISTER M. ADRIANA MANERA



We want to share the best wishes sent to Sr. Adriana by her community in Alba.

«Dear Sister Maria Adriana, with joy we participate in your *Centenary on May 19, 2024*.

We bid you best wishes on behalf of all the Daughters of Saint Paul in Italy and around the world.

With you we thank the Lord for the wonders he has accomplished in your 100 years of life.

At Baptism they called you *Maria Paolina*. You were 10 years old when you entered the congregation in Alba on 4 August 1934. You found many joyful young women, eager for good, like the name of your village *Bonvicino* (good neighbor), sisters who helped you grow and overcome your innate shyness. At the school of the theologian James Alberione and Maestra Thecla Merlo, you were enriched with knowledge, as well as spiritual and apostolic goals.

In Alba, on Corso Piave 71, the Divine Master church was under construction and the Divine Providence house was full of joyful teenagers. The St. Joseph House vibrated with apostolic initiatives. Adriana, you had become a *technical expert*, and specialist in book binding. These years were also lived amidst fears and problems but, once the war was over, many young people came from every region of Italy to learn about the new Institute, the new form of apostolate using the instruments of social communication.

In 1985 you began your service to the sick sisters in Rome and Alba, a service of love, which lasted over 30 years.

In 1999, always grateful to God for the vocation you received, you wrote: Thank you, Lord, for the life you gave me, for the humble and poor father and mother who loved me so much... Thank you for choosing me by coming to look for me in my village, just as I looked for violets in the middle of the hedges, you picked me before I even bloomed... Thank you, you accompanied me through life, leaving me free, yet you always following me with your gaze and with your hand so I wouldn't make mistakes. Thank you, for the good that perhaps I was able to give and receive. I still have many things to understand and learn. Thank you, because you filled me with your love, and now I am able to receive it and give it. Thank you, until my last breath: Lord, I abandon myself in you!

Sr Maria Adriana, in chorus we say our thanks to you for your entire life: you were an example to us, your services were always accompanied by spiritual motives, courage and prayer. You were close to us: lovable, sweet, simple, good, like the Langhe hills of the town where *Buonvicino* is situated."

PAULINES COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE AWARD 2024 BESTOWED ON FATHER PAOLO BENANTI



On the occasion of the 58th World Communications Day on the theme of *Artificial Intelligence and Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication*, the Daughters of St. Paul awarded their Paulines Communication and Culture ODV Prize 2024 to Father Paolo Benanti, a member of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, president of the Commission on Artificial Intelligence for Information of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy. He is also a member of the UN Committee on Artificial Intelligence, and advisor to Pope Francis.

The award was presented in Rome on Friday, 10 May 2024, at LUMSA University in Rome, by Sr. Bruna Fregni, general councilor of the Daughters of St. Paul in the sphere of the apostolate and communications, during a Convention promoted and organized together with different groups at work in the world of communications: the Office for Social Communications of the Diocese of Rome, the Order of Journalists for the Lazio region, UCSI Lazio, Paulines Communication and Culture ODV, the Association of Italian Webmaster Catholics (WeCa), FISC Lazio, and LUMSA University, under the patronage of the Communications Week Event organized annually by the FSPs and SSPs.

In acknowledgment of Fr. Benanti's contribution to the study of the ethics of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and robotics, the prize was awarded as follows: "To Father Paolo Benanti, in recognition of his commitment to addressing the ethical and moral challenges raised by the

new technologies through a critical reflection on the influence of these innovations on society and culture."

The Paulines Communication and Culture Award is bestowed annually on media workers, filmmakers, journalists, writers, artists, priests or associations that stand out for having given the best concrete expression, through their work or activity, to the Pope's message for the World Day of Social Communications.

REDISCOVERING THE PATH TO FULLY HUMAN COMMUNICATION



May 2024! Communication Week is back! The initiative promoted by the Society of St. Paul and the Daughters of St. Paul to relaunch on the ecclesial and social levels the importance and incisiveness of World Communications Day is now able to take place once again after a two-year absence due to the covid shut-down. In the common conviction that the relationship between communications and culture is a strategic area of pastoral renewal, the FSP and SSP book centers of Italy proposed a number of initiatives for reflection and sharing with communication workers, various associations, and the general public, on the theme chosen by Pope Francis: "Artificial Intelligence and Wisdom of the Heart: for a fully human communication."

The central event of the Week, its Communications Festival, was held this year in Pinerolo (Turin)—a welcoming, art-loving diocese that is open to change and "is willing to utilize various languages, places and modes of communication so as to become a Church for all," as Bishop Monsignor Derio Olivero said. The days of the Festival were intense ones, aimed at helping everyone understand the times in which we live and discover new ways in which to make the Gospel continue to speak to everyone.

Keeping in mind Christ's mandate: "Go out into the whole world and proclaim the

Gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15), the Paulines of Italy once again this year placed their experience in the area of evangelization with the media at the service of the Church, working in synergy with many local groups and organizations to ensure that the celebration Communications Week and its culminating Festival would be a time of renewal and revitalization all.

MEETING FOR "UNDER 60s" OF THE ITALIAN PROVINCE



From11-14 April, a meeting for the "Under 60s" of the FSP Italian Province was held at the Benedictine Abbey of Novalesa, Turin. Eight sisters from three nations (Italy, Colombia and the Congo) participated in the event. The prior of the abbey, Brother Michael David Semeraro, delivered a talk on the theme: Not Perfect but Happy: A Prophetic Consecrated Life, and FSP Provincial Superior, Sr. Annunciata Bestetti, dedicated an ample amount of time to developing the topic Fragile Future, Possible Future, sharing ideas with the participants about the future of the Italian Province. The themes of both talks reflected the reality of the Church, the Congregation and today's world.

The topic regarding the proximate future of the FSP Italian Province invited us to open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit, who makes all things new, and to open our eyes to what is happening in the world, encouraging us to look for the signs of the times in contemporary society and to reach out to all people by bringing them the Word of God.

ROMANIA

BIBLICAL JOURNEY WITH THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

The community of the Daughters of Saint Paul of Bucharest resumed, in the first months of this year 2024, a biblical formation journey



for lay people already begun last year in collaboration with Fr. Luciano Dinca, Assumptionist priest and professor at the Faculty of Roman-Catholic Theology of Bucharest.

The biblical journey with the Gospel according to Mark was enriched with the teachings of the Fathers of the Church, creating enthusiasm and a keen interest on the part of the participants.

This year the topic was developed in three stages: What is the Bible, Why read the Bible, How to read the Bible.

Each encounter was divided into three moments: content, the Eucharistic celebration and fraternity.

The biblical formation journey with the Gospel according to Mark reached its peak on Saturday, 25 May 2024. It was a day of grace, communion and sharing. For approximately two and a half hours, the Gospel according to Mark resonated, and was proclaimed by 22 readers among the participants in this biblical journey, who donated their voices with generosity and emotion to the proclamation of the Gospel. Christ, our Lord and Master, spoke to the participants with his Word, and warmed and moved their hearts through his Spirit.

SINGAPORE

30 YEARS OF BLESSINGS



On 1 May 2024, the Daughters of St Paul, affectionately nicknamed the "media nuns", celebrated three decades of their presence in Singapore with a solemn Mass and a warm celebration lunch at the Church of St Francis Xavier, in Serangoon.

The Mass, presided over by Friar Derrick Yap OFM and concelebrated by 12 other priests from different religious orders, attracted over 300 participants including clergy and lay people. Among them were the Paulines of Petaling Jaya Selangor, the Pauline Cooperators, generous benefactors, devoted collaborators and dear friends.



In 1994, their presence in Singapore began modestly, they were welcomed by the then-Archbishop Gregory Yong. This foundation was begun by Sr. Lorenzina Nota, an Italian Sister, together with Sr. Mary Grace Lee, born in Singapore, and Sr. Agostina Hiromoto, a Japanese sister. They initially found hospitality with the Sisters of the Child Jesus in Jurong West, a bond that lasted 27 years. Through the goodness of the Lord and the support of the Congregation, a permanent house was built in Lorong Chuan, Serangoon in 2021 after considerable fundraising. During the homily, Friar Derrick reminded those present that «the Paulines have become indispensable pillars of support for the Catholic community, nourishing faith and embodying the light of Christ in their service. Embracing technological advances, they continually explore new media avenues, promoting dialogue and cultural development, relevant in the digital age in order to reach a wider audience."

The local community heartily thanks all those who have supported the mission over the last thirty years, including the sisters from Italy, India, Japan and the Philippines. Looking to the future, they pray for the continued development of the apostolate, trusting that their commitment will continue to touch hearts and transform lives for years to come.

THE WORD OF THE CROSS: THE CHARACTER OF PAULINE PREACHING IN 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-2:5

AMANDA MARIE DETRY, FSP



Sr. Amanda Marie Detry earned her Master of Arts in Theology from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

The title *The Word of the Cross: The Character of Pauline Preaching in 1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5* already opens up a profound reflection.

In 1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5, Paul claims to reject "eloquent wisdom" and "lofty words" in his proclamation of the Gospel. Many schol-

ars have chosen to interpret Paul's statements against the backdrop of Greco-Roman rhetorical culture, which leads them to conclude that Paul rejected one or more elements of rhetoric in his preaching. This thesis revisits this claim by exploring the extent to which Paul and his ministry can be understood against Greco-Roman rhetorical culture. In her work the author argues that, while the dynamics of Greco-Roman rhetoric can inform our understanding of first-century Corinth, they are insufficient to understand Paul. The thesis explores three characteristics of Pauline preaching - the ecclesial orientation, the Christocentric character and prophecy - which strictly rhetorical approaches to Paul tend to neglect. With these characteristics in mind alongside the Greco-Roman framework, Sr. Amanda rereads 1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5 not as a disavowal of rhetoric, but as an exemplification of a new and distinctive application of rhetoric made possible through the cross of Christ.

The thesis concludes with some proposals for how Paul's engagement with the communication culture in Corinth can shape the way the Church proclaims the Gospel in our contemporary digital environment.

CONCLUSION OF THE FORMATION COURSE ON THE CHARISM OF PAULINE FAMILY

The formation course on the charism of the Pauline Family concluded with: the presentation of the work carried out during the year in groups; a "multicultural lunch" on May 30th; and the handing out of the certificates at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Celebration in the sub-crypt of the Regina Apostolorum Sanctuary on May 31st, the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is to her whom all of us students have entrusted ourselves as we return to our countries.

An affectionate thank you to all the sisters and brothers, our professors for this course; the executive management of the course; the sisters and brothers who supported us with various services during the course; the brothers and sisters of the general houses and the various communities in which we have been guests in these past eight months and who have contributed to making this course

very enjoyable and run smoothly. They have made themselves available and present in so many ways and helped us with their technical, graphic and editorial expertise. They also manifested their interest, through the support of prayer, encouragement... and so much more. May the Divine Master rewards each one with many blessings.

A sincere and fraternal acknowledgement from all of us. In communion.

The sisters and brothers of the 25th Formation Course on the Charism of the Pauline Family



APOSTLE OF THE INTERIOR LIFE

THE INTERIOR LIFE OF MARY



Mary is holier than all: therefore, she is the first apostle; in fact, she is the Apostle.

Mary in the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, in the Church, offers her principal support with her holiness: a vigorous and

abundant life. Her fullness: «Full of grace»¹, is poured out on all souls: from John the Evangelist to John Bosco; from the Martyrs to the Virgins; from Popes to the pious worker.

Mary is, by divine election, constituted the great Mother of those redeemed by Christ. She is the head of the new family that Jesus Christ formed. Like Eve, mother of the human race; Mary inaugurated a new, Christian and holy race. As our spiritual mother, she transfused her life into us, generating us in the anguish of Calvary. In the Salve Regina the Church proclaims her as "life".

A mother transfuses her blood, often her character, qualities and tendencies into her children. Mary instills her tendencies, tastes, love, her very self into souls. And this happens, all the more so, the closer a soul gets to her: "In me all hope of life and virtue"².

Mary is Queen. What belongs to the Queen also belongs to the subjects. People are all the more powerful when the sovereign is more powerful. Happy are we who have such a great Queen: «Exalted more than any other creature»³; her gifts and powers are all for us: she uses them for the benefit of her subjects and children. Mary has become the hope of everyone: the sinner, the sick, the just, the poor, the shipwrecked: everyone. She is called the *omnipotent advocate*.

Saint Peter Damiani writes: «When Mary presents herself at the Throne of God, she does so not so much to supplicate, but to explain her desires. She does not approach God as a servant, but as a Mother and as Queen».

This declaration is made to Mary: "What the Lord does by nature, you do by grace."

Mary's graces are therefore innumerable: light of the Fathers, wisdom of the Doctors, eradicator of heresies, life of the Church. She carries out an immense, perpetual, and very

effective apostolate from heaven. Saint Germain says of her: «No one is freed from an evil, if not for you, O Most Immaculate One; no one receives a good except from you, O Most Merciful Lady; no one achieves the final victory, if not for you, O most holy Virgin. "Mary's prayer began the public ministry of Jesus in Cana: «Jesus did...the first of his signs in Cana of Galilee»⁴.

THE APOSTOLATE OF EVERYONE

May the souls who pray and suffer in silence rejoice.

The world provokes God to indignation and punishment! But prayerful souls hold back his punishment through reparation. They work in building up the Body of Christ, perhaps even more and in a greater way than those who travel the world, or those who exhaust themselves in tiring undertakings. A soul truly called to the cloister enters there to find God, and to exercise the most effective apostolate for souls: substituting the old man and replacing him with the new man: "Christ lives in me"⁵.

Paul's heart was the heart of Jesus Christ.

The most pure Heart of Mary was the most apostolic heart after that of Jesus. The supernatural goods of humanity all came from the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary.

After the Heart of Jesus, no heart loved mankind as much as the Heart of Mary.

It is often well said: one less work, but a half hour more time for God by meditating and praying; or: works yes, but life-giving works.

Yes sow, but water with prayer. It is a truth of faith: "It is only God who gives the growth"6. Dig a water source to irrigate the sown field. A large and perfect electrical system is necessary, but electricity must be fed into it for the city to be illuminated; for the factory to function and actively produce. We seek holiness; but let us seek it through Mary. Let us remember with certitude that a soul cannot be truly devoted to Mary if it does not thirst for souls, like Jesus. It would not resemble either Jesus the apostle or Mary the apostle; only those who imitate Mary are her children and are united to Jesus. How can anyone who does not possess the mind and heart of Jesus and Mary live a life in union with Jesus and Mary?

To all lovers of God, Jesus reminds us: "There is a second precept similar to the first: You shall love your neighbor".

Giuseppe Forlai, igs

¹ Lk. 1:28.

² Sir. 24:25.

³ Dante Alighieri, Paradise, XXXIII, 2.

⁴ Jn. 2:11

⁵ "Mihi vivere Christus est" (Gal 2:21).

⁶ 1 Cor. 3:7.

TECLA MERLO, A MOTHER FOREVER



t all started for me, one Sunday at the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. I was only 11 years old at that time. I announced to my parents my choice to become a

Sister. My father immediately forbade me to talk about it in the family because, even though we were a good Christian family, according to our cultural traditions, being the only girl amidst seven children of which I was the second, I carried the responsibility of financing the marriages of my brothers.

At about the age of 17, I joined a vocation and spiritual renewal group with the consent of my mother, who always encouraged and supported me in the search of my vocation. In the vocation group, twice a month on Sunday, we took care of people abandoned by their loved ones because they were considered witches. Our services involved cleaning, maintaining their environment, and sharing the Word of God with them for that particular day.

The aspect that most challenged and questioned me was the sharing of God's word with them. After the sharing the people were so radiant and happy. This experience roused a question within me: "What can I do to bring this same joy to other people who live in distant villages and whom we could not reach?

During a retreat I discovered that there was a Congregation that evangelizes through the media. This was for me the answer to my question to God. These Sisters, the Daughters of St. Paul, also broadcasted a radio program on the Sunday Gospel and published Pauline books. I was so happy, and my parish priest supported my discovery.

Now I had to convince my parents, especially my dad. One Sunday, after evening prayer, my mother asked my father this question: "If God took your daughter to heaven today, what would you gain? Now God is asking your daughter to serve him, don't you want to give her to him?" My mother's question greatly disturbed my father. A week later his response was: «My daughter, you are free to follow your call. You have my blessing."

I immediately wrote to the Daughters of

Saint Paul who responded positively and joyfully to my request. In the envelope they sent me, together with a letter, was a small picture of Sr. Thecla Merlo in prayer. This was my first encounter with her, an encounter with a Sister rich in virtue.



When, I entered the Congregation, I deepened my relationship with Sr. Thecla. I understood that she was a person of deep and tender faith, a faith expressed by trust in God and translated into the prayer "on my part I can do nothing, but with God I can do all things". Maestra Thecla was an intelligent and simple woman, a true apostle of the Divine Master, with a big heart, a contagious smile and ready to do good and serve everyone. She was a true mother for everyone but especially for her daughters scattered throughout the world. She always sought to do God's will and to advance the Pauline apostolate. She knew how to value every culture, diversity in every form, and see the good side of every person. She never showed herself to be attached to her role but, placing full trust in the Founder, she was a docile instrument that gave shape to the life of the entire Congregation.

At this school of Maestra Thecla, I felt fully at home, living out my vocation in her footsteps.

In leaving my Congolese land and my family, I also left my mother, my confidant, the one who always understood and supported my choices. Today, I am now in Alba, the land that saw Maestra Thecla take her first steps. It is here that I am happy to have found a mother in Maestra Thecla. She will always be a mother in my life. "From heaven, Maestra Thecla support me with apostolic zeal and in my journey towards holiness of life, a life like yours".

Sr Générose Sibay Ngandju, fsp

WHERE GOD FOUND ME



There is nothing extraordinary about my vocational call. It was through ordinary circumstances that I discovered God's will and his great love - that's where He found me.

The first memory, which I consider the seed of my vo-

cation, is that since childhood I felt the desire to "do good". I didn't have the faintest idea how this would happen, and maybe I didn't even try to understand it, because it was a very well-kept secret within me.

I come from a Catholic family of six brothers, residing in Surubim, a municipality in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil. Although my parents were not very involved in church life, they encouraged us to participate. I spent a good part of my formative years in a Marist school. I participated in the children's liturgy in my parish and in the youth group at school. It was in this family and school environment that the seed of my vocation was silently being cultivated. I was quite shy, and therefore I didn't talk to anyone about my desire to follow God's call. I believed that one day it would be clear to me what God was calling me to do and that somehow, he would help me understand his will. Religious life was not an unfamiliar vocation for me, since in the city of Surubim where I grew up, there were a few religious congregations and the minor seminary for the diocese. I met the Daughters of Saint Paul through a schoolmate (Sr. Verônica Firmino) and began vocational accompaniment. As soon as Veronica finished secondary school, she entered the Aspirancy of the Daughters of St. Paul and I continued studying mathematics and working in the Marist school.

The separation of my parents and the difficult reorganization of my family contributed to me focusing on family matters, my studies and my work. But God has his timeline... and he came to meet me again when, years later, I received two letters from Sr. Líria Grade, then a vocationist in my region. I didn't pay much attention to these letters and didn't even answer them. But shortly after receiving these letters I met Sr. Líria during a missionary week in my

parish, where I was part of the organizing team. On that occasion, I decided to resume my vocational accompaniment. I always joked with sister saying that she found me in the 'dead archives', but she replied: "no, it was simply the 'passive archives'".

I spent a year as an aspirant still with my family. But then I entered the community in Recife in 1996, while completing the last credits of my degree in mathematics. This significant step was taken with the knowledge that I was leaving my family, my job and my friends to enter a new reality. It was not a simple whim, but a path for seeking a response to the restless calling I felt within me from God.

Between overcoming my natural tendency towards a desire for security and abandoning myself to the ways the Spirit leads us, I was defeated, like Paul on the road to Damascus. I had the grace of having people around me who truly helped me in my vocational journey. In particular, I am grateful for my "Maestre" during each stage of formation, who with such dedication and patience showed me the fundamental values of choosing the Pauline consecrated life. In my encounters with Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life, the Queen of Apostles and Saint Paul the Apostle, I discovered the way to love and serve God and my brothers and sisters.

The courageous dream of Fr. James Alberione and Sr. Thecla Merlo to live and proclaim Jesus Master has also become mine. I experience the joy and gratitude of being a Daughter of Saint Paul. My father said on the day of my first profession: «I feel very honored and happy to have a daughter, who is a Daughter of Saint Paul».

I made my first profession in 2000. In these almost 25 years of Pauline life, I have had the grace of living the mission in the branch houses and in the central sectors of our Brazilian province, working mainly in the administrative sector. A little over a year ago I took over the management of our publishing house, the place where I daily dedicate myself to the cause of the Gospel.

God did not come to call me in a violent or stormy way, but in an almost unnoticed gentle but insistent breeze that moved my resistance and my fears to face life with a single security: His loving faithfulness towards me. So, not through my strengths and abilities, but through my fragility do I offer thanks for so much love. Here I am, Lord! Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!

Ágda Maria S. de França, fsp

EVEN ONLINE THE MEANING IS ALWAYS JESUS CHRIST



ne of the themes on which the synodal path is focusing is the "digital mission". A recent document (14 March 2024) from the General Secretariat of the Synod specifically says: "Chapter 17 of the Summary Report constitutes the horizon within which to grasp the importance for the Church of carrying out the mission of proclaiming the Gospel also in the digital environment, which involves every aspect of human life and must therefore be recognised as a culture and not only as an area of activity. However, the Church is struggling to recognise action in the digital environment as a crucial dimension of its witness in contemporary culture (see Summary Report, 17b)".

When we talk about "digital mission" - as the document suggests when it talks about "culture" and not just activities - we are not talking about it from the perspective of mission as an action to be carried out ad extra, towards others, but above all as a dimension of the personal and ecclesial Christian journey which, essentially, is a journey of those who "stay with Jesus" and together with Him walk through the streets of the world. Therefore, from the point of view of method, the "digital mission" before being a "task" is a dimension to live. We are called to find ways to bring Jesus into the digital world.

We are called to live the missionary dimension of the Christian experience in a world in which the vital environment is now an analogue-digital environment. This is what is meant by "digital mission". Reflecting on this topic, I propose here - obviously without any claim to completeness - some points of reflection for a Christian journey from the dimension of digital mission.

"PASTORAL" DIMENSION

Every experience of life, of mission, which is truly Christian, can only be lived in the company of Jesus, following him. "Being with him" means living every experience of the digital environments as a "Christ" experience, which is always an expression of our living with Jesus. We are not called to simply bring Jesus into the digital world but to live as his disciples in the environment (even) a digital environment, not wasting any of the encounters that take place in it so that they truly become "salvific encounters".

Certainly, every environment that one wants to live in with awareness, requires "access keys", cultural and linguistic skills, and everything that is necessary in order to live it with responsibility and competence. But all this cannot be confused with a technical or worse, functional approach. Our every breath must be an expression of faith since faith is always vital ("faith without works is dead").

"Spiritual" DIMENSION



New life in the Spirit must be the foundation of all our actions, since, in reality, it is the "first action" that we are called to carry out: for us, living is Christ. This is why even the digital mission can only be experienced as an "overflow" of the Love of Christ that fills our hearts.

To be digital missionaries you must therefore be men and women who live in Christ, who pray, who entrust themselves to Him who truly works through our poor hands. This principle makes our actions even more responsible because there cannot be any place, any meeting that cannot become a place of encounter with Christ;

and therefore, there cannot be any environment that cannot be inhabited by missionaries of His Spirit of Love.

"Personal" DIMENSION

Saying that in the digital world we are online does not mean thinking of a chaotic environment, without references, without direction, without meaning. This "meaning" is always Christ: It is Christ who draws us to himself. And this attraction is always a personal encounter experienced in the heart of the Church. It is therefore necessary to move away from the logic of flattening and "relational noise" that often occurs on the internet, but to always seek an encounter that is true, personal, direct. An encounter that can open the doors to the Encounter (with a capital E) to the other: being one with Jesus. An encounter that is concretely realized through our gaze that is capable of "looking into the eyes" of the other with a depth of love and brotherhood. An encounter that also asks one to be brought into the concrete experience of life, made up of digital and non-digital environments. Not to escape from the digital world but to live it in an integrated way through physical contact, the sharing of experiences, as well as personal, direct, and intimate relationships.

"HEALTHY" DIMENSION



So how can we monitor this need for an "integrated life" within the various environments? Always reminding ourselves that our mission is to meet not so much with another person, but with our brothers/sisters. Every communicative act is not a stone thrown into the net but a significant event with which we respond in faith to the gift of meeting this brother/sister. It is a gift to be cherished, which one feels responsible for and whose sacredness is constantly monitored so that there is no longer simply the other person

but always a brother/sister. An individual with whom we can build real relationships, for whom we can open up places of welcome, to whom we can offer words of truth (and not just condescending remarks) that always know how to change hearts, open paths of conversion, heal wounds. Let's think about how many discomforts are expressed online and how the digital mission can be a "field hospital" where many sufferings (often hidden) can be alleviated with the oil of Love.

Don Paolo Padrini

L'Osservatore Romano, 15 April 2024

PERPETUAL PROFESSION

April-June 2024

NAIROBI, KENYA 5 April 2024

- sr. Jentrix Nasirumbi OKUKU
- sr. Catherine Wanza MUTUA
- sr. Eunice Kasyoka MUTHUI

MUMBAI, INDIA 7 April 2024

- sr. Joyly Reikhan
- sr. Venci Arockia Samy

KAMPALA, UGANDA 11 April 2024

sr. Florence Lanyero

CAMEROON 14 April 2024

sr. Larissa Zhia Nge

SEOUL, KOREA 20 May 2024

- sr. Rosa Kang Min Hye
- sr. Tecla Kim Tae Hee Elizabeth

LAGOS, NIGERIA 27 April 2024

- Sr. Augustina Osinachi Agomuo
- Sr. Rosemary Zuachi

BRASILIA, BRAZIL 28 April 2024

sr. Josiane Moreira da Silva

KINSHASA, CONGO 12 May 2024

sr. Francine Nkokanga

PASAY CITY, PHILIPPINES 26 May 2024

- sr. Santa Conde
- sr. Ana Maria Casayas
- sr. Analyn Pantojan

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA 30 June 2024

sr. Lurdes Romina Baumgratz

ITALY

BIBLE FESTIVAL 2024



The 2024 edition of the *Bible Festival* took place from 6-12 May this year on the theme *Agape* (1 John 4:7-21): "*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*"

"To pay homage to the entire biblical body in this very special year," says its newsletter, "the Festival has chosen a theme that runs through all of Scripture — one powerful in its essentiality and almost radical for these times. That theme is *agape*, the most expansive and substantial form of love because it suggests how to inhabit the world as its citizens, expressed in the concrete relationships of everyday life."

The *Bible Festival*, first promoted in 2005 by the diocese of Vicenza in collaboration with the Society of St Paul, has always combined the typical style of a *festival* with the content of *Holy Scripture*, giving human society the opportunity to read current events in a new light.

various activities in the parish of St. Paul the Apostle in Fondi (province of Latina) from 19-21 April. During this intensive weekend, the Pious Disciples, and Sr. Andrea Hýblová of the Daughters of St. Paul led the parishioners in a reflection on the "Our Father" and other members of the group entertained the children with games and activities focused on specific themes.

Saturday was devoted to the preparation and animation of a diocesan group known as "The Followers," during which several testimonies of life and faith took place, including that of an engaged couple, a catechism teacher, a woman with a neurodegenerative disease, and a Franciscan friar who used magic tricks to communicate Gospel values.

During the Eucharistic celebrations on Sunday, Betka, a novice of the Pious Disciples and Sr. Andrea, FSP, both from communities in the Czech Republic, shared their testimonies of faith by recounting their personal encounters with Christ and their subsequent decision to follow in his footsteps by becoming members of the Pauline Family.

The Pauline Family Team expressed its satisfaction at how successful the weekend turned out to be and said that the event underscored the power and attraction of the Pauline Family when its different branches work together, adding that this could serve as a stimulus for future PF initiatives.

ITALY

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL



To celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations, eleven members of the Pauline Family Team "In the Footsteps of Paul" held

FIRST PROFESSIONS

KINSHASA, R.D. OF CONGO

29 June 2024

Gloire Kwetakwenda Ngundu Judith Sifa Ndombe Sidonie Mwika Sangwa

NAIROBI, KENYA 29 June 2024

Francisca Mutinda Ngove Naom Sarang'e Ongangi

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA 29 June 2024 Fridah Chileshe

LUANDA, ANGOLA 30 June 2024

Maria Ngueve Massoji Segunda Fátima Neumbe Paulino Kataleco

WINDOW ON THE CHURCH

#BEHUMAN: NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES IN THE VATICAN AND ROME IN THE SPIRIT OF FRATELLI TUTTI



#BeHuman is the title of the event, in which experts from all over the world were seated at 12 different tables organized by theme to engage in fraternal dialogue on the most pressing issues of the contemporary world. On the morning of Friday, May 10, at the Chancery Palace, Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, opened the "Table for Peace," participated by women, men and organizations awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, as well as human rights activists who have released a "Charter of Humanity" reinforcing existing charters on human rights. Their roundtable discussion focused on the big question facing the world in this time of war and fear: "How and why do we want to live together?" Pope Francis attended the event on Saturday, May 11, participating in the roundtable on "Children: the Future Generation."

WINDOW ON THE WORLD
FIRST WORLD DAY FOR CHILDREN



The first *World Day for Children* proclaimed by Pope Francis took place in Rome on May 25th and 26th 2024.

On May 25, the event kicked off at the Olympic Stadium with the greeting of foreign delegations and guests of national and international fame leading up to the most antici-

pated moment: a dialogue of boys and girls with the Holy Father.

On May 26 the event then moved to St. Peter's Square for an introduction to the Eucharistic celebration and the Celebration itself, presided over by the Holy Father. It concluded with the Angelus and the Pope's greeting to children from around the world.

We are, the official anthem of this WDC (World Day for Children), bears the signature of the well-known author and composer Marco Frisina. His song is produced and distributed by the Paulines. The song expresses the extraordinary preciousness of children, who are a sign of hope, especially for today's world, darkened by violence, and in need of their innocence and joy. Children are the newness of the world because in their eyes there is only the future, they have no past and they are looking towards a new future that they will be able to build with the freedom and beauty of their innocence. They give hope to adults and bring love where selfishness is rampant and where pain extinguishes a smile and creates sadness.



The refrain of the hymn is joyful and solemn, it wants to express the strength of the hope that children spread with their presence, a serenity as contagious as their smile.

In addition to the song which is being streamed on the major digital platforms, the music score, the instrumental base and the video with the lyrics of the song are also available on YouTube.

WINDOW ON COMMUNICATIONS

WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY

On 23 April, we celebrated World Book and Copyright Day, an event established by UNESCO in 1995 so as to promote reading and the protection of intellectual property.



The origins of this event date back to 1923, when Valencian writer Vicente Clavel Andrés began to circulate the

idea of dedicating one day of the year to books and reading. His efforts in this regard were realized in Spain three years later. In 1995, UNESCO decided to expand the celebration of this Day to a global level.

It is no coincidence that World Book and Copyright Day takes place on 23 April, the anniversary of several great names in literature, such as William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega. Each year, the goal of commemorating these and other significant authors is to emphasize the value of books and reading. In addition, the event has also become an occasion to reaffirm the importance of copyrights and the rights of authors and publishers.

The best-known tradition associated with World Book and Copyright Day takes place in Catalonia, Spain, where it coincides with the feast day of St. George, the region's patron saint. For years, the Day has been celebrated by locals through an exchange of books and roses. Among couples, in particular, it is customary for women to receive a rose from their partner, who gives them a book in return.

SISTER THECLA MERLO: COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR HEART

THE DAUGHTERS OF SAINT PAUL: FROM REMEMBRANCE TO INNOVATION



The Daughters of St. Paul, celebrated the charism and genius of Sr. Thecla Merlo, who collaborated with Fr. James Alberione in the founding of their order. She was a unique person in the history of the universal Church, as

well as in the world of communication and publishing. This celebration took place in a way that would have pleased Sr. Thecla: launching an innovative communication project in step with the times.

The sisters chose an original approach, in line with the communication style of the co-foundress: *SCROLLYTELLING*, "an innovative tool that allows us to preserve together the safeguarding of our roots and to project towards the future of our mission in the world of communication," as emphasized by the Superior General, Sr Anna Caiazza.

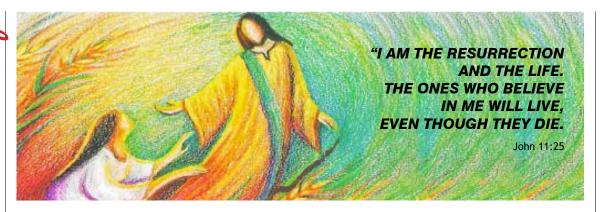
"To tell the story of Sr. Thecla Merlo," explains Luca Olivieri, director and curator of the project conceived by the communication company Mediacor, "we created a *scrollytelling*. This term comes from the combination of two English words: "scroll" and "storytelling". This digital narrative technique allowed us to use texts, images, videos and graphics in a harmonious way,

to tell the story of Sr. Thecla in an engaging way. As the user scrolls the page, the content is revealed progressively, creating an immersive experience. By applying scrollytelling to the project on Sr. Thecla Merlo, we believe we have achieved a result that is not only informative, but also visually attractive and interactive, allowing users to fully immerse themselves in her story and in the impact that Sr. Thecla had on religious communication."

The project was launched and presented to the public and the press in Rome on Sunday 16 June, at 5.30 pm, at the Auditorium of the Pauline Sisters, at Via Antonino Pio 75 (also streamed in Italian and English on the Youtube channel @FSPSicom).

Program:

- Sister Thecla Merlo, From Remembrance to Innovation: presented by the Superior General of the Daughters of St. Paul, Sr. Anna Caiazza;
- The importance of digital innovation in ecclesial contexts: a talk by Dr Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Holy See Dicastery for Communication;
- Presentation of the Virtual Exhibition (scrollytelling) on Sister Thecla Merlo: by Paolo Pellegrini, Patrizia Morgante and Alberto Chiara representing Mediacor;
- Concert performed by the Choir of the Diocese of Rome conducted by Fabio Massimillo, with lyrics by Sr. Anna Maria Galliano, described as the "Mogol" of liturgical music.



DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

- Sr. Virginie Zafiarisoa Randriamihajamanana, 45 years old 10.04.2024 Nuremberg (Hospital), Germany
- Sr. M. Emanuella Luigia Braida, 92 years old 11.04.2024 Alba, Italy
- Sr. Escolastica Candida Perotto, 92 years old -14.04.2024 Curitiba, Brazil
- Sr. Ires Masotti, 84 years old 24.04.2024 São Paulo CR, Brazil
- Sr. Amelia Zaia, 89 years old 11.05.2024 São Paulo (Hospital), Brazil
- Sr. Stella Pereira, 76 years old 26.05.2024 Mumbai, India
- Sr. Marie Helen Maria Picardo, 77 years old 31.05.2024 Mumbai, India
- Sr. Noemi Dariva, 88 years old 07.06.2024 São Paulo (Hospital), Brazil
- Sr. M. Margarita Mariluz Alija Roman, 83 years old 11.06.2024 Madrid, Spain
- Sr. M. Provvidenza Francesca Grillo, 89 years old 23.06.2024 Albano, Italy

PARENTS OF THE SISTERS

- Sr. Gina Rama (Mother Lelita) from the community of Pasay RA, Philippines
- Sr. Claudia Hyun A (Father Ha Jin Simon) from the community of Wonju, Korea
- Sr. Janith Tinong (Father Juanito) from the community of Pasay RA, Philippines
- Sr. Wladyslawa Zasiura (Mother Sofia) from the community of Rome RA, Italy
- Sr. Stella Leon Ordóñez (Mother Otilia) from the community of Bogotá CP, Colombia
- Sr. Liliana Campos Charry (Mother Teresa) from the community of Cali, Colombia
- Sr. M. Elizabeth Borobia (Mother Carolyn) from the community of Miami, United States
- Sr. Maria Rosario Agtarap (Mother Norma Luisa) from the community of Pasay RA, Philippines
- Sr. Clara Kil Sook Lee (Father Inh Yeong) from the community of Seoul-Miari, Korea
- Sr. Isidora Perez Gomez (Mother Maria) from the community of Prague, Czech Republic
- Sr. Margherita Maria Kim (Mother Hyang Sun Maria) from the community Seoul-Miari, Korea
- Sr. Abha Tigga (Father Fildius) from the community of Bangalore, India

PAULINE FAMILY

- Sr. M. Caritas Setsuko Monica Yamano pddm, 84 years old 07.04.2024 Hachioji (Hospital), Japan
- Sr. M. Santina Angelina Graizzaro pddm, 80 years old 09.04.2024 Sanfrè, Italy
- Fr. Paul Varghese Vechoor ssp, 89 years old 14.04.2024 Kochi, Kerala, India
- Br. Giuseppino Angelo Solinas ssp, 81 years old 04.05.2024 Verduno CN (Hospital), Italy
- Sr. M. Thecla Ideko Nishida pddm, 94 years old 09.05.2024 Nagasaki (Hospital), Japan
- Sr. M. Giovanna Aurora Gaffurini sibp, 99 years old 13.05.2024 Albano Laziale, Italy
- Sr. M. Carla Giulia Redaelli pddm, 89 years old 13.05.2024 Sanfrè, Italy
- Sr. M. Amada Maria Soledad Magaña Medina pddm, 78 years old 19.05.2024 Mexico City, Mexico
- Fr. Joseph Vincent Gnarakkatt ssp, 84 years old 25.05.2024 Kochi, Kerala, India
- Br. Avelino Prescendo ssp, 82 years old 27.05.2024 Campinas, SP (Hospital), Brazil
- Fr. Ezequiel Miguel Varona Valdivielso ssp, 90 years old 28.05.2024 Madrid Vizconde, Spain
- Sr. M. Luce Tomiko Cecilia Fukuhara pddm, 80 years old 31.05.2024 Tokyo, Japan
- Br. Mathew Martin Kalidukil ssp, 81 years old 09.06.2024 Rome, Italy
- Br. Augustine Angelo Pullokaram ssp, 90 years old 14.06.2024 Kochi, Kerala, India