

this spring to quench the thirst, together with our fellow travellers, with the living water, which gushes forth for eternal life.

Life

Before the editing apostolate

O Jesus, Divine Master, I offer you my pen and this work of my apostolate with the intentions with which you did preach your Gospel. May everything be solely and always for the glory of God and the peace of all men and women. May every creature know you, O Jesus the Truth! May everyone meekly follow you, O Jesus the Way! May all hearts love you, O Jesus the Life! Give me a clear intelligence, grace in writing, and an upright heart. May my pen repeat your words; may Saint Paul the writer guide me; may every edition be modelled on the Divine Book. O Mary, Mother, Teacher and Queen, you have given to the world the Incarnate Word; look lovingly upon me and bless this apostolate which I shall fulfil with you and through you.

Psalm 78:1-7

Give heed, O my people, to my teaching,
listen to the words of my mouth!
I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter mysteries of the past,
which we have heard and known,
and which our fathers have told us.
We will not keep them hidden from their children;
we will announce them to the coming generation;
the glorious deeds of the Lord,
his might and the wonders he has done.
He issued decrees for Jacob and set up a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers to teach their children,
so the next generation would learn
and teach their own children.
They would then put their trust in God,
remembering his deeds and keeping his commands.



“PROCLAIMING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL”

Our mission is linked to the joy that comes from the Gospel, that is, from the person of Jesus. A personal joy, therefore, born from the relationship with the Master. This meeting redefines our way of life and being apostles with the languages of modern communication. Aware of our vocation, as Paulines we share in the joy prepared by the Lord for every person, thus perpetuating the evangelizing work entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and continued over the centuries by the Church.

Truth

■ *Listening to the Word of the Apostle Paul*

These words of Saint Paul outline the identity of the Apostle. He is “the fragrance of Christ” and his recipients are a “letter written in our hearts”, “known and read by all men”. Let us ask the Spirit for the grace to enter Paul’s heart to see how Christ worked in him, making him apostle of the gentiles.

From The Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (2:15-17; 3:2-6; 4:5-6)

We are Christ’s fragrance rising up to God, and perceived by those who are saved as well as by those who are lost. To the latter, it is the smell of death and leads them to death. To others it is the fragrance of life and leads to life. But who is worthy of such a mission? Unlike so many who are like peddlers of God’s word, we speak with sincerity. Our mission comes from God; it is exercised in God’s presence and in union with Christ ... You are the letter. We bear it in our hearts, yet all can read and understand it. Yes, who could deny that you are Christ’s letter, the result of our ministry – a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, carved not on slabs of stone but on slabs of human hearts. We say this because we have confidence in God through Christ. We do not dare consider that our work is due to any ability that we could claim as our own; our ability comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of a new covenant, no longer depending on a written law but on the Spirit. The written law kills, but the Spirit gives life ... For it is not ourselves, that we preach, but Christ Jesus as the Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’s sake. God who said, *Let the light shine out of darkness*, has also made the light shine in our hearts to radiate and to make known the glory of God, as it shines on the face of Christ.

■ ■ **Listening to the Word of the Magisterium**

As a member of the body of Christ who is the Church, we too give continuity to the proclamation of the Gospel. The joy experienced by the first Christians for the encounter with the Risen One is a gift to be shared in all cultures.

From the dogmatic Constitution “Dei Verbum” (n. 7)

God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all peoples should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and be transmitted to all generations. Therefore, Christ the Lord, in whom the Revelation of the most high God is summed up (cf. 2 Cor 1:20; 3:16; 4:6), commanded the Apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. This Gospel was to be the source of every saving truth and moral discipline. This was faithfully done: it was done by the Apostles, who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received – whether from the lips of Christ, from his way of life and his works, or whether they had learnt it at the promptings of the Holy Spirit; it was done by those Apostles and other men associated with the Apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing. In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church, the Apostles left bishops as their successors. They gave them “their own position in teaching authority” This sacred Tradition, then, and the sacred Scripture of both Testaments, are like a mirror, in which the Church, during its pilgrim journey here on earth, contemplates God, from whom she receives everything, until such time as she is brought to see him face to face as he really is (cf. Jn 3:2).

■ ■ ■ **Listening to the Founder's Word**

Our apostolate gives 'body' to the Word and in unity with the Church, reminds us of the Founder, allows us to give voice to true joy, the one that does not go down, living as apostles like God who is the “first Apostle of the Press”.

From “Apostolate of the press” (pp. 4-5)

It is God's custom to use man to dispense divine doctrine and communicate His will, to invite to Heaven through holy and wise ways. He spoke once through the mouths of the Patriarchs and Prophets, addressing the chosen people... He spoke through the missionaries who in every century left from

Rome for the whole world, to bring the Good News. He will speak until the end of the centuries with infallible voices assisting the Church indefatigably: “I am with you always until the end of this world” (Mt 28:20). God spoke by voice, God imprinted his words on paper, scrolls, ancient monuments. It is always one and the same truth; one and the same Author; one and the same end; whether it is spoken word, whether it is an impressed word or a written word... Every man can read the genuine letter the heavenly Father addressed to His children. God is the first Writer, the first Apostle of the Press. Let us imitate God. The oral preaching in a certain way corresponds to the tradition; the preaching through printing, in a certain sense corresponds to Sacred Scripture.

Way

The words of the Superiors General of the Pauline Family are a real encouragement to be creative in the proclamation of the Word, especially in this Year of the Bible. May the Word run in our hearts, in the digital network and in every place so that all can quench their thirst with living water.

From the “Letter of the Superiors General for the Pauline Family’s Year of the Bible” (2020-2021)

We recognize ourselves as heirs of the tenacious passion of our Founder for the work to which he feels that the Pauline Family has been chosen: the spread of the Word of God. The Year of the Bible is a gift to be welcomed and lived as an opportunity for a new beginning, for a renewed awareness that, generated by the Word, we are called by vocation to become a Word, loving it, attending it, because “He who reads the Divine Book takes divine language, speaks divine language, acquires divine effectiveness”. For this reason, we exhort one another to liberate that creativity which comes from the Holy Spirit so that through us the Word may run also at this so difficult a time and reach the hearts of many persons, bringing grace and consolation. Together we are making a journey of true family and the Year of the Bible can help us to strengthen the common mission by sharing – also through the site dedicated to this event – ideas, texts, initiatives. A sharing that will open us to amazement at seeing how the Word becomes flesh in different realities and cultures, nourishing the desire and commitment to live and communicate it... “What is Sacred Scripture for us? For us it is the source of everything,” said Fr Alberione back in 1933. The hope that we reciprocally make in this “new beginning” marked by the Year of the Bible is to be able to draw together from