



Rome, 25 January 2017
Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

**TO ALL THE SUPERIORS OF CIRCUMSCRIPTION
OF THE PAULINE FAMILY**

cc: TO ALL THE SISTERS AND BROTHERS

Subject: “Month of the Word” for the whole Pauline Family

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

on this particular day in which we remember the masterpiece of grace that the Word has made in the apostle Paul, we would like to welcome the words of Pope Francis, which certainly have already had deep resonances in our hearts. A paragraph of the apostolic letter *Misericordia et misera* brings us, in fact, to the springs of the Pauline vocation and it is a strong stimulus for us to reposition, with greater enthusiasm, the Word at the centre of our life and mission.

«Through Sacred Scripture... – the Pope reminds us – the Lord continues to speak to his Bride, showing her the path she must take to enable the Gospel of salvation to reach everyone». For this reason, the Holy Father wishes that «the Word of God be increasingly celebrated, known and disseminated...», providing precise guidelines for this purpose:

It would be beneficial if every Christian community, on one Sunday of the liturgical year, could renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and more widely diffused. It would be a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people. Creative initiatives can help make this an opportunity for the faithful to become living vessels for the transmission of God’s word. Initiatives of this sort would certainly include the practice of *lectio divina*, so that the prayerful reading of the sacred text will help support and strengthen the spiritual life... (7 MM).

A response as “Family”

The Gospel is the precious heritage entrusted by Fr Alberione to all of us. The Founder reminds us: «There was a time when he received further enlightenment about a great treasure that the Lord willed to grant to the Pauline Family: the distribution of the Gospel» (AD 136). This light will inspire the typical mode of the Pauline apostolate: the Gospel in every family (cfr. AD 140); the Gospel as model and inspiration of every publication (cfr.

AD 141); the Gospel venerated with a particular cult (cfr. AD 142) ... And with force will stress that the *apostle of the press* is assiduously formed by frequenting the table of the Eucharist and of the Word (cfr. FSP41, p. 137).

Faithful, therefore, to the guidelines of the Founder and in response to the call of Pope Francis, as already communicated in the Final Message of the XXXIV Meeting of the General Governments, we wish that the *month of September* be, for the whole Pauline Family, the **Month of the Word**. In this regard – at the level of Family and where it is possible – moments of deepening and initiatives of proclamation, Days of the Gospel, Bible Weeks, be organized and actualized ...

In addition, we wish that the *last Sunday* of September be the **Sunday of the Word**, especially in the local churches where nothing is organized with regard to it.

We are confident that the Bible, the «the fiery book» (Pope Francis) that nourishes our apostolic life, move us to great creativity and fruitful cooperation, thus realizing the inspiration of the Founder who wanted us – religious and lay – a unique body, straining toward the evangelization of that “great parish” that is the world.

Greetings to all and a warm hug.


Fr Valdir José De Castro, ssp


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan, fsp


Sr M. Regina Cesarato, pddm


Sr Marta Finotelli, sjbp


Sr Marina Beretti, ap