

**MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE PAULINE CENTERS OF STUDIES IN COMMUNICATION
OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PAUL
(São Paulo – FAPCOM, 15 February 2017)**

INITIAL GREETING

In welcoming you and thanking each one of you in the name also of the General Government for your presence in this meeting, I want to express also my personal thanks to the Superiors of your Circumscriptions for having willingly adhered to your direct involvement in this Commission for the Pauline Centers of Studies in Communication.

While making a brief retrospective analysis, we remember that, regarding the apostolate, action line 1.2.1 of the X General Chapter which took place in Ariccia from 25 January to 14 February 2015, asked that *“The General Government, through the International Technical Committee for the Apostolate (CTIA) and the International Secretariat for Vocational Pastoral and Formation (SIF), establish guidelines for pedagogical identity, to which may refer the Centers of study promoted by the various Circumscriptions, and promote their mutual collaboration.”*

Considering this request, the General Council, in its meeting dated March 2016, has established a Commission composed of four Directors of the centers of active studies in the Congregation (COMFIL, FAPCOM, SPICE, SPSF), with the task of promoting mutual collaboration and of redacting a draft of the guidelines of pedagogical identity of those centers, to be submitted to the CTIA and to the SIF.

It is important to remember that the idea of forming a commission to establish some common criteria which define the identity of our centers of study in communication was already present in the preceding General Government. In fact, in line with what the IX General Chapter of 2010 had asked, an équipe to carry out this work had already been started. Unfortunately, it has stopped because of the unexpected death of our Superior General, Fr. Silvio Sassi.

With the constitution of the now Commission, we reprise the task of pushing ahead the apostolate of our centers of study. From this meeting will have to be born an initial draft of the guidelines of pedagogical identity which will have to be successively evaluated by the CTIA and by the SIF to arrive, at the end of the journey, at a final document which will be presented to the General Government.

You are the representatives of the centers of study in communication active today in the Congregation. The sharing of your experience will certainly be useful for the execution of the task entrusted to you. It is about a field that is relatively new in the sphere of our apostolate. In fact, as an institution we have enough experience in the field of editorial, a challenge that we must continue to carry ahead with courage and creativity. With regard to the academic field, however, an entirely special attention is

required, so that we can lay down sure foundations that may help us in the development of initiatives that are also like the ones in other Circumscriptions, especially those where the latter already have in project such an activity.

I thank the Brazil Province, in the person of Fr. Luiz Miguel Duarte, the Provincial Superior, which hosts this meeting, the direction of the FAPCOM, the relators and the CTIA, in the person of Br. Darlei Zanon, General Councilor present here and who with Fr. Jose Pottayil have organized this event.

May this project help us in our mission to do, in following Jesus Master, everything for the Gospel, with the same zeal of the apostle Paul and of blessed James Alberione.

Fr. Valdir José De Castro
Superior General