



FINAL DOCUMENT

OF THE INTERCAPITULAR ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PAUL

ALFONSO, CAVITE (PHILIPPINES) - 14-28 FEBRUARY 2013

0. PREMISE

0.1 Upon opening the works of the Intercapitular Assembly with his Report, the Superior General has wanted to mark its tone by referring to 1Cor 14,1-12. The characteristic of “**prophecy**” (an inspired speech but using words that all can understand), must be found in our assembly that therefore must be «an event of “communication” in the style of Saint Paul: a process of unity among ourselves and a true mobilization for all the Paulines in the world that here we represent».

0.2 In light of the “**culture of communication**” in which we intend to live, this has determined the style of our meeting: dialogical, pedagogical, constructive, convergent, innovative. The eighteen Superiors of Circumscription, the six General Councilors, the vice-Bursar and the Secretary General have accepted the invitation and have chosen to work in this way, and the three phases of the works: verification, relaunch, resolutions-orientations-proposals, although in the diversity of their contents, have followed this methodological journey.

1. EVALUATION OF THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1.1 The IX General Chapter of 2010, with its general objective, its 14 priorities and 33 operative lines, had entrusted to the General Government that has derived from it and to the Governments of Circumscription a burden of commitments of not little account.

Activities of the General Government

1.2 As it has happened for communication which from a mass event, and therefore one-directional and coming from the top, has transformed itself in the digital era into

an event that is social, bi-directional and multi-sourced, so the Congregation, from a “federation of circumscriptions” is maturing to become a **living body, thinking and interacting** from many languages and cultures. Playing first of all a determinant role are the international apostolic Organisms, coordinated by the CTIA, and then the vocation pastoral and the formative action, no more tied to the individual nation, followed by the SIF.

1.3 That which was not a priority or an explicit operative line, but which constituted the wirework of the entire *Final Document* of the IX General Chapter: **the interconnection between the apostolate and formation**, seems to be already an acquisition, even if with the necessary implementations. The continuous commitment in the field of the organic formation of the Pauline: his apostolic awareness, his spirituality, his collaborative capacity. To the series of material redacted by the CTIA and needed to make uniform the apostolic activity from the multimedia, ethical and administrative point of view in all of the Congregation, have corresponded and still will have to correspond urgings and indications for every formative stage on the part of the SIF. The vocation problem besieges the entire Congregation and it can be faced and resolved only by stability, perseverance, internationality and availability for the mission and solidarity among the circumscriptions.

The work of the Circumscriptions

1.4 The Congregation has been **prudently audacious**: both in new foundations and in new apostolic projects.

Her opening to technology and to the digital culture, after a first phase of urgent adaptation (e-book, e-commerce, etc.), asks of the Congregation and of the individual circumscriptions a founding, aggregating and unifying reflection regarding the application of this new communications frontier to the pastoral of evangelization.

1.5 It is not a matter of working out a clean cut from the past, but of **connecting the new with the present**, being open and ready for the future. This forces us to pass from the simple realization and diffusion of products to the competence of the interactivity of the excellence that the web imposes. Even the reflection about the updating of our international site *paulus.net* has been conducted following this line.

1.6 If until now we have limited ourselves to being aware of the importance of learning the three common languages, now the work of learning must continue in an organic way.

2. REVISION OF THE NORMS IN VIEW OF THE X CHAPTER

2.1 During the days 22-27 February the Intercapitular Assembly has dedicated itself to the examination of the draft of the revision and updating of the *Constitutions and Directory* of the SSP prepared by the Commission provided for by the IX General

Chapter (cf *Final Document* 4.2 and 4.2.1). The examination has been facilitated by the presence of Fr. Téofilo Pérez, president of the Commission. **It has been a matter of a real school of formation and sharing for everybody.** A moment of comparison, of discussion, of clarification, sharing. The articles of our “code” have been joined to our daily routine and to our charism which grows and evolves in time.

Characteristics of the revision of the Constitutions and Directory

2.2 The “draft” of the revision of the *Constitutions and Directory* does not distort the preceding text: the general structure remains nearly unchanged. The Commission, in gathering the suggestions, has however updated in several ways the norms.

2.3 The apostolic and formative structures have been reviewed and adapted; the procedures: nominations, admissions, etc.; the juridical and ecclesiastical nomenclature; the cross references to our other normative texts (*SdA.M* and *Ratio formationis*).

2.4 In particular, suggested and accepted has been the passage from the expression “instruments of communication” to **“apostolate of communication in the culture of communication,”** with renewed attention and sensitivity toward the users. A passage that has required a special study, lavished on those articles that deal about the reflection of the charismatic essence on our apostolic mission (68, 74.2, 78 and 78.1.-3), for which will still be required a supplement of reflection. In short, the Commission will still have to work and with it the General Government.

What will be done with the other Documents (SdA.M and Ratio formationis)

2.5 The Intercapitular Assembly has limited itself – for argument’s sake – to the analysis of the *Constitutions and Directory*. The Superiors of circumscription can therefore continue to «involve the communities» (cf IX General Chapter, *Final Document*, 4.2.1) on the examination of the drafts of revision relative to the *Service of Authority in the Society of Saint Paul. Manual* and to the *Ratio formationis* sent to them, and to let the eventual results be sent to the General Secretariat.

2.6 On its part the General Government, with the collaboration of the work Commission, will provide for the revision and the drawing up of the draft relative to the two documents which it will submit to the next meeting between the General Government and the Superiors of Circumscription, to achieve together a text to be presented to the X General Chapter.

2.7 In the course of the Interchapter, besides the documents elaborated by the CTIA (*Ethical protocol of the Society of Saint Paul 2012-2016* and *Guide for the Elaboration of the Ethical Directory of the Society of Saint Paul 2012-2016*), the ***Directory of the Association of Pauline Cooperators*** has been presented and approved. It’s a propitious occasion for also reflecting on our rapport with our lay collaborators. It is an area of first-hand testimony: the persons with whom we work pick up daily our true essence, they can be attracted, fascinated, scandalized or pushed back by it.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE: THE NOVELTIES IN THE CONGREGATION

The opening to the digital

4.1 Speaking of novelties is perhaps exaggerated. Certainly, the charism that from Fr. Alberione has passed to the Paulines – and that the Church has not quickly known to discern –, evolves because it is not tied to a means but to an end that is e-vangelical and strongly incarnate.

4.2 We assist at a new mode of communicating. And if it is true that *behind* the new “social” means, as already *behind* the mass media one could hide an organizing and sometimes manipulating mind, this does not authorize us to not make use of it. The same old principle is valid: the good preparation and competence of the communicator, the knowledge and valorization of the expressive potentialities of the instrument and the correct identification of and respect for the interlocutor cannot not generate good communication.

4.3 However, we cannot make ourselves be colonized by the barkers of the moment. It is necessary to study, evaluate, select, plan, learn to work truly together... pray.

4.4 Neither must we repudiate the past and the things of the past that give us stability. **Prudence** imposes itself: if we can develop the new, it is thanks to the economic sustenance that in good part comes to us from the apostolic activity of the Paulines who have anticipated us. And as it is necessary to accord and valorize the presence of the elderly and the young in our communities, so we must know how to handle with opportune graduality and respect the passage from one apostolic form to another (*nova et vetera*).

4.5 One thing is certain: if we have reached the centenary, we cannot allow ourselves to be “centenarians” in our mind.

To be at the level of our mission and to have our vision opening to the future, we must not limit ourselves to be executors but creators, thinkers, leaders. Always to be **available**: the first apostolic destination, for example, which as is known, is reserved to the Superior General, can then become a sign of the concrete awareness that our Congregation is not a grouping of islands, but grows, **in a joint way**, in the spirit of being missionaries.

Apostolate and formation walk together in unison

4.6 One of the acquisitions of this first phase of the post-chapter, greeted by many with satisfaction, is the close collaboration between the apostolate and formation. In the organigram of the circumscription the General Director of the Apostolate has a correspondence in the General Coordinator of Vocation Promotion and Formation. There should not be formators who ignore the apostolate and viceversa. *Apostolic project* and *Iter formativo* go hand in hand.

4.7 Then there has been the rediscovery of “teaching” as the expression of that “magistracy” which gives meaning to our being “clerical” and which has always belonged to the thought of the Founder.

Condition to be “teaching” is caring for specializations and their coordination. Part of this reality are – without exhausting it – the FAPCOM (Brazil); the COMFIL (Mexico); the SPSF (Philippines); the SPICE (India). Thus also the cultural platform that sustains the *Centro Biblico San Paolo*. The Intercapitular Assembly has approved its Draft Statute *ad experimentum* which will be presented to the X General Chapter. In this period of implementation the Center will elaborate that «project that coordinates the biblical pastoral of the Congregation» (*Final Document* 1.2.2). In this case, the General Government has preferred to structure first a competent organism that is in the best condition to elaborate a project.

5. THEMES FOR THE X GENERAL CHAPTER

5.1 Among the questions addressed to the Superiors of circumscription in view of the Intercapitular Assembly there was also the one on the theme of the next General chapter.

From the answers and the Brainstorming that took place during the Assembly, we have focused on the following nuclear themes:

- The “new evangelization,” or simply evangelization,
- The “culture of communication”
- The digital world

as frame of reference or area for

- The new Pauline apostles
- A new Pauline.

To this there is a request to add an explicit sending to the Apostle Paul through a quote from his Letters.

6. PREPARATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PAUL

6.1 It has been asked from everybody that the celebrations of the Centenary take place not as a fact that is merely commemorative but as an occasion for apostolic re-launching, with initiatives that stimulate to look at the future. There will be three pilgrimages, there will be a series of events. **Also, it will have to be an event of the Pauline Family**, a propitious occasion to testify that the branches of the great Pauline tree belong to a single trunk that the divine farmer continues to take care of, but not without our involvement.

6.2 In the individual Circumscriptions there is already operation in this direction – this was the orientation given to the General Governments in the meeting of January 2011 –, and there are many ongoing spiritual, cultural and apostolic initiatives.

6.3 The SSP aims at the organization of a **Convention of studies on the figure of Fr. James Alberione** that involves scholars, Pauline or not, from all the world. The purpose is greater knowledge of the Founder whether inside the Pauline Family outside of it; the modernization of his thought; the revitalization of our apostolic ministry at the service of the men and women of our time.

Alfonso, Cavite (Philippines), 28 February 2013

THE INTERCAPITULAR COMMISSION