



## YEAR OF FAITH AND SYNOD ON THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

The Congregation and the entire Pauline Family, as part of the People of God, accept as providential gifts two church initiatives willed by Benedict XVI: the **Year of faith** and the theme of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: “**The new evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith.**”

Through the text *Porta fidei* (11 October 2011), the Pope fixes the dates of the Year of faith (11 October 2012 – 24 November 2013) as he explains its reasons: the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II (11 October 1962) and the twenty years after the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (11 October 1992).

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, upon assignment by Benedict XVI, has published a *Note with pastoral indications for the Year of faith* (6 January 2012) which suggests initiatives on the level of the universal Church, of the Episcopal Conferences and on the level of dioceses, parishes, communities, associations and movements.

The will of Benedict XVI to mobilize all the Church for evangelization in the XXI century has also motivated him to institute the **Pontifical Council for the promotion of the new evangelization** (*Ubicumque et semper*, 21 September 2010) and to indicate as theme for the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (7-28 October 2012) the “new evangelization.”

The objective of the Year of faith can be synthesized by the words of the Pope: “Rediscover the contents of the faith as it is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed” (*Porta fidei*, n. 9) and by its nature leads to commitment to the “new evangelization”: “the need to find adequate forms to allow our contemporaries to hear once more the living and eternal Word of the Lord” (*Ubicumque et semper*).

While the Congregation and all the Pauline Family are celebrating the second year of preparation for the centenary of 2014, these events of the universal Church are to be considered, in the spirit of blessed James Alberione, as an added “riches” lavished by Providence on the Pauline charism.

During this second year of preparation, in fact, the Paulines throughout the world are committed in together reflecting about the historical period starting 1971 until today, in order to observe our responsibility in continuing the Pauline charism in “creative fidelity,” whether as single Institution or as Pauline Family.

The years during which we are observing the life of the Pauline charism coincide with the post Council period which have asked for the celebration of the Special General Chapter, the revision of the Constitutions and of the *Ratio formationis*: it has been necessary to rethink and to re-express the totality of the Pauline charism, making use of the contents of Vatican II.

The Congregation is mobilized for a new actualization of the Pauline charism in thought and practical life by means of a reading in synopsis of: **Ut perfectus sit homo Dei, the texts of Vatican II and the Constitutions.**

The particular sensitivity of the whole Church of today for the “new evangelization” helps us to deepen **art. 66** of our Constitutions: “Everything, from the concrete practice of fraternal life to consecration, to human, spiritual, intellectual and professional formation, and to the structures of government and administration, have their finality in our apostolic vocation.”

Justly Paul VI affirms: “Evangelizing is the grace and the characteristic calling of the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize” (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, 8 December 1975, n. 14). The Pauline Family and the Congregation, a part of the Church, exist for the same mission: to evangelize through apostolates that are adequate for the times, starting from the forms and languages of communication that the Primo Maestro, aided by the light of the Spirit and the approval of the Church, has conceived, described and realized as a veritable “**new evangelization**” alongside the traditional form of the parish.

The reflection and the commitment of the Church for a “new evangelization” are an important help to rethink and re-express the Pauline charism in its integrality of spirituality and mission, keeping as guide the indications of blessed Alberione: “We must save the souls of today, not those of two centuries ago when there were no radio, television, movies or other. This is because the Lord when he has willed the Pauline Family, has inspired it so that we may think we are not of the past century..... We must help the souls of today in their dangers, in their circumstances” (*Alle Suore di Gesù Buon Pastore*, 1965, n. 442).

In narrating his participation in Vatican Council II, the Primo Maestro writes: “In the Ecumenical Council Vatican II, the word that was heard most often, under the vaults of St. Peter’s Basilica, was this: ‘pastoral, pastoral,’ and that is: reach souls, save souls and invent new means” (*Vademecum*, n. 1202).

While we express our full gratitude to Pope Benedict XVI for these ecclesial initiatives, let us invoke upon each one of us a bit of that **pastoral dynamism** that has characterized all the existence of blessed James Alberione, if we want to “**keep young**” the Pauline charism.

*6th of October 2012*

*Don Silvio Sassi*

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