

to express, new means to give vigour and breadth to its apostolate, new capacity and new awareness of the validity and possibility of his mission in the modern world and by modern means". Let us address our prayers to the Apostle Paul and give thanks with the song "Te Deum".

Prayer to St Paul

O holy Apostle, who with your doctrine and charity have taught the whole world, look kindly upon us, your children and disciples. We await everything from your prayers to the divine Master and to the Queen of the Apostles. Grant, O Doctor of Gentiles, that we live by faith, that we save ourselves by hope, what charity alone reigns in us. Obtain for us, o vessel of election, docile correspondence to divine grace, so that it may not remain fruitless in us. May we always know you better, love you, imitate you, so that we are the living members of the Church, the mystical body of Jesus Christ. Raise up many and holy apostles. Pass over the world with the warm breath of true charity. May everyone know and glorify God and the Divine Master, Way and Truth and Life. And you, O Lord Jesus, who know how we have no confidence in our strength, through your mercy obtain that to be defended against everything adverse through the powerful intercession of Saint Paul, our teacher and father.

Te Deum laudamus

O, God, we praise You and acknowledge You to be the supreme Lord.

Everlasting Father, all the earth worships You.

All the angels, the heavens and all angelic powers,

All the cherubim and seraphim, continually cry to you:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.

The glorious choir of the apostles,

The wonderful company of prophets,

The white-robed army of martyrs, praise You.

Holy Church throughout the world acknowledges You:

The Father of infinite majesty;

Your adorable, true and only Son;

Also the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

O Christ, You are the King of glory!

[...]



"PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL PROPHETICALLY"

In the light of the mystery of Christ's Incarnation, his Passover and the bursting out of meaning into human history, the conscience of Christians is called upon to walk ever new paths towards a future different from the one that already appears marked. The prophetic proclamation of Christ's Gospel challenges human conscience at all time, placing it before the existing contradictions. The prophet's voice recalls that the possibility of change is entrusted to the free responsibility of women and men on the way, considered both in their individual and social dimension. As an expression of this voice, the Pauline is called to make a Christian reading of reality, to speak "of everything in a Christian way", to live the Gospel to help understand it "today" in the elight of salvation. All this by virtue of the prophetic office received in baptism and amplified in the Pauline charism already lived and transmitted by Don Alberione.

Truth

■ Listening to the Word of the Apostle Paul

The sensus fidei enables us to listen to the Spirit and shows us the gift of the witnessing to which the Risen One calls and enables us to face the challenges of the present life.

From the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians (4:11-16)

As for his gifts, some are to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. So he prepared those who belong to him for the ministry, in order to build up the body of Christ, until we all united in the same faith and knowledge of the Son of God. Thus we shall become the perfect man, reaching measurability with the fullness of Christ. Then no longer shall we be like children tossed about by any wave or wind of doctrine, and deceived by the cunningness of people who drag them along into error. Rather, with sincere love we shall grow in every way towards Christ who is the head. From him comes the growth of the whole Body to which a network of joints gives order and cohesion, taking into account and making use of the function of each one. So the body builds itself in love.

■ ■ Listening to the Word of the Magisterium

Addressing the people of God and in particular to young people, Pope Francis invites a reflection on the Church which, taking into account her evangelical roots, must be

attentive to the present, with a look to the future, with a view to the new times that await to be imbued with the Good News of Jesus.

From the post-sinodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus vivit* (n. 199-200)

If we journey together, young and old, we can be firmly rooted in the present, and from here, revisit the past and look to the future. To revisit the past in order to learn from history and heal old wounds that at times still trouble us. To look to the future in order to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to blossom. Together, we can learn from one another, warm hearts, inspire minds with the light of the Gospel, and lend new strength to our hands.

Roots are not anchors chaining us to past times and preventing us from facing the present and creating something new. Instead, they are a fixed point from which we can grow and meet new challenges. It does us no good “to sit down and long for times past; we must meet our culture with realism and love and fill it with the Gospel. We are sent today to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to a new age. We need to love this time with all its opportunities and risks, its joys and sorrows, its riches and its limits, its successes and failures”.

■■■ Listening to the Founder's Word

Speaking of the Chaplet to Paul, the Pauline Fr Saverio Boano said: "The Primo Maestro said that this chaplet had served in a moment of great need. It was prayer for vocations and the Pauline spirit." The Primo Maestro thus wanted to attest among the three intentions with which to recite it, in particular the Pauline spirit in the apostolate as his prophecy, "so that this may be understood, loved and accomplished according to our Father, the one we chose as our model."

From *L'Apostolo Paolo, ispiratore e modello* (pp. 211-212)

"St. Paul's heart was all full of love for Jesus Christ and souls, all full of love for the Church: and what a contribution did he make to the Church, so as to be able to say: "I have worked more than the others"! [1Cor 15,10]. And he had suffered so much, and had struggled so much, that he did not want to be a burden to anyone, and he earned his bread with the sweat of his forehead, even through material work, following the example of Jesus whom we adore and admire in the house of Nazareth. St. Paul's great love for souls is expressed in that "The love of Christ presses us;" it presses him to do everything to everyone. He felt the needs of all, the joys of all, and attests to this in his Letters.

Do we love souls? Those who have no zeal for their souls, will have no zeal for the souls of others. But those who have true zeal in sacrifice, will certainly think, desire, and be zealous for the salvation of the neighbour, too.

Do we understand the Pauline mission? It must extend to everything and to all. It is also the mission of Jesus Christ: "Go all over the world, preach the Gospel to all creatures" [M. 16:15]. Do we practice the apostolate of editions, of prayer, of, works and of the word?

If we want the prize of St. Paul in Heaven, we must follow his steps, his examples, and ask that he light our hearts with his fire".

Way

In these ideas for reflection of Don Valdir De Castro and Don Silvio Sassi, Superiors General, we want to grasp solicitations for a Pauline prophetic tension:

The Holy Spirit is the first to guard and always keep alive and actual the memory of the Master – our Way! – in the hearts of the disciples. It is he who ensures that the richness and beauty of the Gospel are a source of constant joy and novelty. Mary, Queen of the Apostles teaches us to be always docile to the action of the Spirit and, as Mother, she is always beside us to help us walk together to be credible witnesses of the Gospel and prophetic signs in this change of age (Don Valdir de Castro, *Conclusion of the Annual Letter*).

The reference to the person of the Primo Maestro, his writings, his words and his works, represents a source of youth for everyone and for the whole Pauline Family. The effort of creative fidelity, if it does not want to end in a mechanically repetitive myopic fundamentalism (because nothing needs to be changed) or encroach on an imaginative improvisation (because everything seems to begin now), must make an effort to know well the person and the work of Don Alberione in order to then work out an interpretation that is effectively new. Ultimately it is necessary to refer to the person of the Founder as an example of preaching the totality of Christ the Master Way, Truth and Life to the integrality of the person, mind, heart and will, in order to make a radical change of “mentality and pastoral method” (Don Silvio Sassi, *Il charisma di Giacomo Alberione, [Current affairs and prophecy]*).

Life

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the departure of our Founder, we still remember him in the portrait painted by Paul VI, his great admirer: "Here he is: humble, silent, tireless, always vigilant, always recollected in his thoughts, which run from prayer to work, always intent on scrutinizing the 'signs of the times', that is, the most ingenious ways of arriving at souls, our Don Alberione has given the Church new tools