



Final Message

Dear Brothers,

during the last few days, we have informed you about the works of the Interchapter. We would like again to present to all of you – the young, the adults, the old, whether in full activity or resting – recalling one of the miracles that happened here in Aparecida: a faithless knight who tried to break into the church with his horse in contempt of the sacred place and of the image of *Nossa Senhora*. The horse remained mired on the entrance steps and the knight, after being converted, entered the sanctuary as a true devotee.

We, members of this Assembly, know the situations that the Society of St. Paul experiences, the sad and worrying aspects, the joyful ones and those full of hope. This is why we would like first of all to make our journey to be transformed, like that of the converted knight, to become rich in faith in Christ Master, Way, Truth and Life. We are convinced that the renewal of our faith, shared in the community, will bear fruit in the pastoral care of vocations, in the formation, in the apostolate. These are simple and already known affirmations, but removing these bases, the Pauline life and the mission would risk faltering.

Reclaiming then what the declaration of the X General Chapter says, let us feel called to “evangelize today in joy as apostle communicators and as consecrated persons”. The path of communitarian and personal conversion will involve – and it is our responsibility to realize this – the whole Congregation in diversity and in unity of its 18 Circumscriptions scattered across the 5 continents, as well as the Pauline Family and, in particular, the Institutes of consecrated secular life and the Cooperators, who are celebrating this year their centenary of foundation.

The Gospel – emphasized by the Superior General in his intervention – is the only way to save the meaning of religious life and to assume a path of true humanization. Communication today is increasingly on the Internet, which is relational. We therefore take care of our relationships in order to make Paul’s affirmation realistic for us: “I do everything for the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:23).

We are grateful to the confreres of the Brazilian Province who welcomed us with great availability and made sure that everything took place in a serene atmosphere. We also thank the organizing committee led by the Vicar General, Fr. Vito Fracchiolla, for conducting the work. Finally, heartfelt thanks to the sisters and brothers who accompanied us with their messages and prayers.

Finding ourselves together soon in our communities, we will be more attentive to transmit with greater accuracy the contents treated at the Interchapter. And, like the converted knight, we will enter together in our chapels to praise in spirit and truth the Lord for all his benefits.

In Saint Paul,

The Interchapter Participants

Aparecida, 24 February 2018