



Prot. no. 95c/17 SG

Rome, 20 August 2017  
103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation  
of the Society of St. Paul  
and beginning of the Pauline Family

**REVEREND  
CIRCUMSCRIPTION SUPERIORS  
THEIR SEAT**

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Dear Brothers,

in compliance with the provisions of our *Constitutions* in Article 223, as well as by the *Service of Authority in the Society of St. Paul. Manual* (nos. 172, 172.1, 172.2), with this letter I officially announce the celebration of the Interchapter Assembly, to be held in Aparecida (Brazil) from 15 to 25 February 2018.

The purpose of this Assembly is twofold. The first is that of carrying out a verification of the programmed plans by the X General Chapter, the objective of which was given to us: «*do everything for the Gospel*» (1 Cor 9:23). *Attentive to the signs of the times, renew the impetus of our apostolic action, converting ourselves, our communities and our apostolic structures, to reach everyone, especially in the periphery, utilising likewise the new languages of communication*». We want to evaluate to what extent we are applying this general objective, the priorities and operating guidelines, both at the level of the General Government and at the level of the individual Circumscriptions and communities.

The second aim of the Interchapter is to address the most urgent problems of the Congregation, in the sense of seeking a relaunching, that is, to see what are the strongest and most urgent commitments that we must take for the next three years.

The organizing Committee will provide the guidelines in their individual details. For now, I inform you that all participants must arrive in Sao Paulo (Brazil) by the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> February. From here, we will go together to Aparecida in the morning of the next day. Everyone must stay in Sao Paulo, at least, until Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. The reason for this choice is to devote the 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday, to a cultural program.

The reference Persons for the preparation of the Interchapter are the Councillors General Fr. Vito Fracchiolla (Coordinator), Fr. José Salud Paredes and Fr. Jose Pottayil. They shall transmit to you, on behalf of the General Government, all relevant information for an effective preparation and participation in the meeting.

Our Interchapter will be celebrated next to a Marian shrine, that of Our Lady of Aparecida, which reminds us of the many other Marian shrines spread throughout the world. Let

us remember that it is in the shrines «where we can see how Mary brings together her children who with great effort come as pilgrims to see her and to be seen by her. Here they find strength from God to bear the weariness and the suffering in their lives» (EG 286). We can also go to her, as pilgrims, and to feel closely the people of God, to whom we are called to serve through the pastoral ministry of communication.

May Mary, the Publisher of the Word, whom we invoke with the title of Queen of the Apostles, be a reference to us in the challenge of doing everything for the Gospel in the culture of communication, in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and Blessed James Alberione. Under her protection, let us put our Congregation, the Pauline Family and, in particular, our Interchapter.

Fraternally,



*Valdir José De Castro*  
Fr. Valdir José De Castro, ssp  
Superior General