



**XVII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**  
**INDIA-NIGERIA-GREAT BRITAIN-IRELAND**

**28 October to 7 November, 2017**

**CRI Institute - Bengaluru**

**ST PAULS PROVINCIALATE**  
**BANDRA, MUMBAI**



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## PRESENTATION

My dear Brothers,  
Greetings in the Lord.

I am very happy to place before you *The Report and the Documents* of the XVII Provincial Chapter of our Province which was held from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, at CRI Institute, Bengaluru. It is the outcome of the study and the reflections of the Capitulars assembled for the Chapter, touching all the topics of vital importance to our life and mission.

I believe that the success of the Chapter does not depend on the quality of the PRIORITIES and OPERATIVE GUIDELINES that the Chapter has drawn up but rather on the goodwill and the determination on the part of the members of the Province who welcome and implement these *Priorities and Operative Guidelines* both in their religious and apostolic life. In reality every one of us has contributed directly or indirectly: through the delegates who were our representatives, answering the questionnaires, making personal suggestions etc., to the drawing up of these Priorities and Operative Guidelines and so it is our duty and responsibility to accept and live them fully, for our own personal renewal and growth, and for the progress of our apostolate.

The Capitulars were unanimous in their view that the Chapter was a beautiful celebration of our solidarity and the common goodwill to recommit ourselves to the Media Apostolate, as spiritual sons of Blessed James Alberione. *This renewal and recommitment is, in fact, the fruit of the Chapter.* I am sure that all of you are going to experience a certain degree of renewal in the days to come as the documents find their implementation in the Province.

As I present these Documents to the Province, let me on behalf of the Province thank Rev Fr Valdir Jose De Castro, our beloved Superior General and three of his General Councillors: Fr Celso Godiliano, Bros Luigi Boffelli and Darlei Zanon who with great love and commitment followed the proceedings of the Chapter. In fact, they were with us taking active part in the discernment process of choosing the Provincial as well as in the celebration of the Chapter, right up to its conclusion. We are truly indebted to them all for their unstinting support and contribution which they made through their in-put sessions and timely interventions.

I would like to place on record my heart-felt gratitude to Fr Michael Raj and his team who animated and guided the Province for last seven years. Special ‘Thank You’ to Fr Devasia Puthyaparambil and the Provincial Team for taking the Province ahead at a crucial and challenging moment of its history.

A word of special thanks to the members of Bengaluru community who at any given point of time, went out of their way to welcome the Chapter members to the extent of picking up confreres from the airports/ railway stations at odd times, extending warm welcome to everyone and felicitating the General Government with a cultural evening and serving a delicious dinner.

We gratefully remember Bro. Jesudas, SSP, NARBI National Executive Secretary, Br George P.T., the Director, Br Amalan, the Administrator and the Staff of CRI Institute for making available their College and the premises for us and extending a warm and excellent hospitality with meticulous planning. We remember with great gratitude our dear Sisters, the Daughters of St Paul and the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master who graciously accompanied us with their prayers and good wishes.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the Chapter members themselves and to each member of the Province for their whole-hearted cooperation and support in making the Chapter really successful.

The Chapter Documents that I hereby present to the Province speak of the vision of the Province for the next four years. They certainly challenge all of us to be ever more vigilant, creative and dynamic in our religious witness and apostolic undertakings. I am

confident that a sincere study and prayerful reflection on these documents will definitely help us deepen our apostolic consciousness which will make possible a great fruitfulness in our Pauline apostolic and religious life by “Being and Doing everything for the Gospel”.

I entrust this Document and every member of our Province to the Maternal care of Mary, Queen of the Apostles, to the protection of St Paul, our Patron and Father, and to the inspiration and guidance of our beloved Founder, Blessed James Alberione.

With fraternal love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Varghese Gnaliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name "Gnaliam".

Fr Varghese Gnaliam, SSP

Provincial Superior

December 8, 2017

Letter of the Superior General

**TO THE BROTHERS OF THE INDIA-  
NIGERIA-GREAT BRITAIN-IRELAND  
PROVINCE**

*Program Lines for the quadrennial 2017-2021*

Dear Brothers of the India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province, fraternal greetings to all of you and with gratitude for the warm welcome you have given to the Councillors General Fr **Vito Fracchiolla**, Fr **Jose Pottayil**, Br **Luigi Bofelli**, Fr **Celso Godilano**, Fr **José Salud Paredes** and Br **Darlei Zanon** who made the canonical visit to the nations that make up this Circumscription from 20 June to 20 July of this year.

I would like to thank, on behalf of the General Government, Fr **Devasia Puthiyaparambil**, as well as the Provincial Council, the Superiors of the communities, those responsible for the apostolic and formation sectors and, finally, all those who have worked together to carry on the work of the Circumscription, especially in the last months. In a special way, I wish to thank the confreres of

the first hours who, during the difficult beginnings of the Congregation, have carried forward with persevering faith and audacity the Pauline realities, as they have developed to what they are today, in this vast and complex Province. Thanks to **Fr Varghese Gnalian**, who has generously accepted the service of animation of the Province for the next four years (2017-2021). We wish him a fruitful ministry, who will certainly count on your cooperation.

This letter, in addition to presenting some practical guidelines to the Province in view of the forthcoming Provincial Chapter, invites you to deepen some aspects of Pauline life that concern your reality. These elements arise from the reflection we have made within the General Council, based on what the Councillors saw and heard during their dialogue with you. The goal is to help you with decisions that have to guide the planning of your next mandate.

The principle that enlightens us is the theme of the last General Chapter «"I do everything for the Gospel" (*1Cor 9:23*). *Paulines, evangelizer-communicators. In Christ new apostles for humanity*». This great and promising Circumscription is also called to take that theme not as a simple slogan, but as a real program of life to be resonated in all the realities of the Pauline life of the Province.

### **To do everything for the Gospel**

Following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and our Founder, Blessed James Alberione, we feel called by

God to evangelize, considering that, first of all, the “eternal Gospel” is Jesus Himself (Rev 14: 6). He, the Incarnate God, is the living Gospel. In this sense, we can affirm, *«being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction»*<sup>1</sup>.

In the encounter with Jesus, who for us is the Master, the Way, the Truth and the Life, we discover the Gospel that inspires us and leads us to live in the world with a lifestyle that must exalt all our being and all our activities. In fact, as our Founder reminds us, *«“To live in Christ” commits the totality of our being and demands an integral response, which we will seek to give in all aspects of our lives [...]»*<sup>2</sup>.

The personal encounter with Christ, necessary to “live in Him” is, in truth, the encounter with the love of God filling us with tenderness, hope, and strength, and encourages us to bring this love to all peoples. This means that the encounter with Him encourages us to break our self-centredness, guides us to encounter the other, it pushes us, that is, to the mission, a Congregation that is going out to be with

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1 Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est*, no. 1.

2 *Constitutions and Directory*, art. 10.

the Church<sup>3</sup>. In fact, «*if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?*»<sup>4</sup>.

In this missionary perspective, we are invited to re-read the meaning of the objective of our X General Chapter that says: «*I 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*». May the India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province embrace this ideal and live it in its diverse cultural realities, attentive and responding to “the signs of the times”.

## **2. Apostle-communicators of Pauline colour**

Every Christian is called to be an apostle-communicator and to do everything for the Gospel. In our particular case, we, Paulines, feel we have been summoned by God to live and to proclaim the Gospel in the culture of communication, with a consecrated lifestyle of “Pauline colour”, with a way of being and doing which finds in the Apostle Paul an important reference. In fact, «*Saint*

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3 Cfr. X General Chapter, *Chapter Declaration “To evangelize today in joy as apostle-communicators and as consecrated persons”*.

4 Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, no. 8.

*Paul has made himself for us a 'form' [...]. The original is Jesus Christ; the form is Saint Paul [...] and we must form ourselves in him. To live, that is, to think, to work, to be zealous, as he thought, as he worked, as he had zeal for the salvation of souls, as he prayed. Being really Paulines. Paulines!».*

“Communication” is one of the fundamental aspects of the “Pauline style” of following Jesus. The Pauline, “man of communication”<sup>5</sup>, has as a challenge to do everything for the Gospel, starting with his own personal witnessing, just as St Paul did, because it is the person, considered in his integrality, the first communication instrument of the Gospel. This means that it makes no sense to communicate the Gospel with the technical means of communication, in the digital environment, or in our classrooms, unless we try to live it first among us in concrete relationships with the confreres, both in the community and in the apostolate.

We are aware of our limitations and we know it is not always easy to communicate effectively. Nevertheless, we cannot lose our spirit. We must continue to believe and always insist; never miss out on taking initiatives that favour the encounter, which requires for ourselves,

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5 I remember that this is the theme of the VI General Chapter of the Society of St Paul, 15 March-16 April 1992.

as a fundamental attitude, listening. «*Communicating means sharing, and sharing demands listening and acceptance. Listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication, and calls for closeness. Listening allows us to get things right, and not simply to be passive onlookers, users or consumers. Listening also means being able to share questions and doubts, to journey side by side, to banish all claims to absolute power and to put our abilities and gifts at the service of the common good*»<sup>6</sup>.

This aspect is important to us, Paulines, for on this depends to a great extent the quality of our community life and the development of our apostolate. It is evident that wherever one tries to live a qualitative communication, where one listens and promotes dialogue, despite human limitations, it is easier to work as a team in order to find solutions to different challenges. We count on your efforts to grow more and more in the quality of communication, of a communication that is inspired by the Apostle Paul, both in the way of being and in doing, in accomplishing, so that your Province can grow in collaboration in the community as well as in the apostolate.

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6 Pope Francis, *Message for the 50<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day*, 24 January 2016.

### 3. Community life and spirituality for the mission

After this brief reflection, we enter in the theme of community life, which is the vital environment, a starting point for the mission, a concrete place where we are called to live the Gospel and to develop our communication. As our Constitutions say «*since the specific goal of the Society of St Paul is attained through an apostolate that is par excellence communitarian, all the members are to cultivate fraternal collaboration and friendship and to give to one another that mutual help to correspond to their common vocation*»<sup>7</sup>.

What, then, does “common life” mean? Fr Alberione helps us in answering<sup>8</sup>: «*It means unity of thought, unity of works, the same direction in talking, unity of sentiments, unity of ends*», adding that «*everyone must contribute to the principal and secondary ends: personal sanctification and apostolate*». In this perspective, I wish to underline at least two aspects that certainly would help in creating truly Christian communities of “Pauline colour”.

The first aspect concerns the commandment left by Jesus to all his disciples and which qualifies their own identity: love. In fact, Jesus ordered: «*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved*

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<sup>7</sup> *Constitutions and Directory*, art. 15.

<sup>8</sup> James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 540.

*you, so love one another. By this they will know that you are my disciples: if you have love for one another»* (Jn 13:34-35). Love is the sign of the Christian, it is the greatest gift, and it is a source of mercy and reconciliation, indispensable attitudes in community life.

Pope Francis made an interesting observation on this subject, which must make us reflect. Having noticed that in the Church there are testimonies of authentically fraternal and reconciled communities, and that this is always a light that attracts, he notes that there are also opposite situations, that is, communities in which people live in situations of conflict. Pope Francis says: *«It always pains me greatly to discover how some Christian communities, and even consecrated persons, can tolerate different forms of enmity, division, calumny, defamation, vendetta, jealousy and the desire to impose certain ideas at all costs, even to persecutions which appear as veritable witch hunts. Whom are we going to evangelize if this is the way we act?»*<sup>9</sup>. Therefore, what community do we want to build?

Another aspect that concerns community life and that becomes the true exercise of love is to live unity in the diversity of gifts. As the Apostle Paul says, *«You are the body of Christ and each of you individually is a member»* (1Cor 12:27); and he also affirms: *«See, the*

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9 Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, no. 100.

*body is one even if formed by many members, but not all of them with the same function. The same with us: though many, we are one body in Christ, depending on one another» (Rm 12:4-5).*

There is no doubt that India is multi-ethnic and multicultural, but this is not for this that the identification and belonging of all the citizens to the great nation is compromised. Equally, the India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province, as a whole, is characterized by the presence of members of various cultures and languages. It is worth taking a serious discernment to see to what extent our communities in the area are open to this rich multicultural diversity. It is necessary to verify whether there truly exist fraternal communities where, despite differences, one feels part of a single body of which Christ is the head.

Regarding community life, I present to you some indications to consider:

- a) In community projects, always give more importance to the spirituality of “Pauline colour” by letting them be guided by the words of the Founder: *«Piety is not colourless, but piety of Pauline colour, that is, piety that revolves on the Divine Master, on the Queen of the Apostles, on St Paul. This is our piety! It is the one that keeps the Pauline, that which keeps not only the Pauline Sister, but it will give joy and*

*will lead to sanctification, to a deep and profound apostolate, such that it will arrive at the conversion of souls»<sup>10</sup>.*

- b) Prayer life should not be reduced to the recitation of formulas that, though present in our Prayer Booklet, often have the taste of a soulless mechanical expression. While relying on the spirit of our prayers, let us open ourselves to creativity.
- c) May the Word and the Eucharist be the inspirational source to persevere on the path to unity, as the last General Chapter has pointed out: «*The double table of the Word of God and of the Eucharist, which build up the community, be for every Pauline the source from where he draws strength to rekindle the gift received in order to increase apostolic vigour and to overcome whatever could create division»<sup>11</sup>. May the multiculturalism present in the members that form our communities be a wealth and not a source to create opposing groups.*
- d) Enhance communication in the Province and in every community, starting with interpersonal dialogue and also giving importance to the various technical means, especially those of the digital environment. In this journey, it is also essential to

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10 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 830.

11 X General Chapter, *Priority 2.2*.

promote regular community meetings, monthly retreats and other shared moments.

- e) Review the goal of small communities, trying to define their mission and the sense of their presence in that specific territory. It will be useful to make a careful study of the opportunities and the potentials present in the territory where our small communities operate in order to expand, to diversify our apostolate, and to give importance to vocation promotion. Before thinking of closing down these small communities, many of which are located in the north and northeast, elaborate a specific project for each of them, which would give meaning and value to our presence in that territory by investing people and other resources to exploit the opportunities that undoubtedly those territories offer, to diversify our apostolate also in other cultures, such as Hindi.

#### **4. The Apostolate in a multicultural reality**

After dealing with certain aspects of community life, let us enter in the field of apostolate, considering that the Pauline community does not exist for itself but it is in the Church to serve the people of God and it has been constituted to evangelize, specifically through the charism that we inherited from our Founder.

Regarding the apostolate, your Circumscription, in communion with the whole Congregation, also has the challenge of putting into practice what the X General Chapter requires: «*To creatively renew our missionary impetus at the service of the Word with new sustainable initiatives for the non-believers, the distant ones and the poor, with new openings, in new territories, with the new languages of communication*»<sup>12</sup>.

The Congregation is grateful that in this Province the “missionary momentum” has not been lacking, concretely realized in planting the Pauline charism, with love and audacity, in Nigeria and assumed the responsibility of our presence in England and Ireland. We thank the Lord for the graces received as well as for every Pauline who made himself available to collaborate in these initiatives.

You know, however, that just a physical presence is not enough. We must also enter in the cultural and social context where we are, to reach everyone, with the means and languages available to us. For this reason, it is important to note that, since your Province is made up of different nations, these are different cultural realities, which require attention and, for this, they become a major challenge when the theme is about evangelization.

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12 X General Chapter, *Priority 1.1*.

To arrive at non-believers, to the distant ones and the poor, we must insert ourselves in the culture, both in the local<sup>13</sup> and that created by modern communication, which finds in network communication the most elaborate expression. Regarding the apostolate, I would like to present some considerations on which to reflect and to put into practice in the next four years:

- a) Integrate into the Apostolic Project all the apostolic works of the Province, including SPICE and parishes, in order to respond to the need of consolidating the organization and unity of the apostolate, as it was already in the mind of our Founder: *«Let the apostolate be one, for the whole*

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13 Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii nuntiandi*, no. 20: *«The Gospel, and therefore evangelization, are certainly not identical with culture, and they are independent in regard to all cultures. Nevertheless, the kingdom which the Gospel proclaims is lived by men who are profoundly linked to a culture, and the building up of the kingdom cannot avoid borrowing the elements of human culture or cultures. Though independent of cultures, the Gospel and evangelization are not necessarily incompatible with them; rather they are capable of permeating them all without becoming subject to any one of them. The split between the Gospel and culture is without a doubt the drama of our time, just as it was of other times. Therefore every effort must be made to ensure a full evangelization of culture, or more correctly of cultures. They have to be regenerated by an encounter with the Gospel. But this encounter will not take place if the Gospel is not proclaimed».*

*Congregation. One centre: everything there, firmly, without letting oneself be guided by small interests or particular views: all this must disappear in the common, universal good. There is a universal good to be achieved, which is to precede in giving priority to any private good: this is an obligation, it is not an advice; it is a religious obligation»<sup>14</sup>.*

- b) The apostolate is a true exercise of breaking auto-reference, to be exercised and realized also in the editorial field. In this sense, regarding contents, elaborate editorial projects in the principal languages spoken in India, other than English, according to the presence of every language that a region has, in order to reach an increasing number of people.
- c) Let the St Pauls Biblical Centre, at the provincial level, be a promoter of initiatives both in the biblical and editorial fields (print and digital) as well as in the field of Bible education, involving the Paulines of the nations that make up the Province, communities and book centres.
- d) Consolidate SPICE by giving it a more Pauline and not a generic identity, assuming the “Guidelines for Pedagogical Identity and Fundamental Operational Choices for the Pauline Centres for Communication Studies” (CPSC), already approved by the General Government.

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14 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 1190.

- e) The book centres should not be limited only to retail outlets but, as guided by the Editorial Lines of the Congregation, should have a clear Christian identity, offering services, practicing dialogue and ecumenism, and should be constituted as true cultural centres<sup>15</sup>. Evaluate also the impact that the current mobile library has in those areas in which it operates and, if necessary, ask ourselves how we are to enrich and improve this service and if this is the best Pauline apostolate that we could do in those marginalized and poor territories.
- f) Concerning the organization, implement what the last General Chapter states: «*Act professionally and in accordance with the Pauline poverty in all the areas of our administration and to work in teams to safeguard transparency, co-responsibility and accuracy*»<sup>16</sup>.
- g) Regarding the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Chennai, transform it into an increasingly Pauline Church, changing or renewing the persons responsible at the beginning of the mandate of each Provincial Superior. The term of office, however, shall not exceed two consecutive terms. In the accounting and financial field, in order to avoid the mistakes of the past, establish a transparent procedure that allows

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15 Cfr. *San Paolo* no. 419 (November 2005), *Editorial lines, contents and recipients of the Pauline apostolate*.

16 X General Chapter, *Priority 4.1*.

the Provincial Government to closely monitor all administrative processes.

## 5. Vocation Promotion and Formation

The **integral formation**, which includes human, intellectual, spiritual and apostolic formation, is another field of Pauline life that we must constantly take as a subject of reflection, bearing in mind, *«the principle that oversees the formation of the Pauline is the one that was formulated by St Paul: “that Christ may be formed in us”. Formation will therefore be arranged in such a way that we will advance more and more in knowledge, love and imitation of Jesus Christ the Divine Master. Thus, having first been faithful disciples of Jesus Christ»*<sup>17</sup>.

The goal of formation is to shape the disciple in view of the mission. This supposes a journey that includes the experience of God, both personal and communitarian, as well as study. Indeed, as our Founder tells us, *«study for the Pauline has for its immediate end the apostolate»*<sup>18</sup>.

When we talk about study, we do it in the sense of “*studiositas*”. This means that study does not only refer to academic courses, although they have their value, but rather requires a commitment and attitude towards a

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17 *Constitutions and Directory*, art. 90.

18 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 266.

continuous *aggiornamento*. In this regard, I refer you to the reading of my Annual Letter this year, which deals precisely with “study in view of the mission”.

Formation constitutes a journey that never ends. We know well the exhortation of Fr Alberione when he states that study *«must accompany us until death. It has to commit everyone to want to learn new things. In life, we cannot always do things the same way. One has to progress every day; every day one has to perfect them. After twenty or more years, one should not be from where he started. Nor can one say, “I’m no longer a student”. All of us should be committed to learn!»*<sup>19</sup>.

Regarding Vocation Promotion, this has the purpose of accompanying young people until their entrance into our communities, which must be at the same time formative and apostolic<sup>20</sup>. Vocation Promotion is a true apostolate. In fact, the *«first apostolate of Jesus was to look and form his followers: the apostles»*<sup>21</sup>; *«The apostolate of vocations must precede and accompany the apostolate of editions»*<sup>22</sup>.

Vocation Promotion requires a good planning according to the possibilities of the territory and

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19 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 271.

20 Cfr. *Constitutions and Directory*, art. 173.2.

21 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 1109.

22 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 1112.

the commitment of dedicated full-time Paulines in this apostolate. However, we cannot forget that the witnessing of every Pauline is indispensable and fundamental. «*The strength of the witness given by those called and their ability to involve others and inspire each of them to entrust his own life to Christ depends on their holiness. Such is the way to counteract the reduction in vocations to the consecrated life which threatens the continuance of many apostolic works, especially in mission countries*»<sup>23</sup>. Regarding Vocation Promotion and Formation, I am presenting some guidelines for you to consider:

- a) All Paulines (priests and Disciples) are called upon to give their own contribution to Vocation Promotion, above all, by their own joyful witnessing to Pauline life.
- b) Let there be a full-time Pauline who would coordinate Vocation Promotion of the entire Province. Even in Nigeria, Ireland and England, let there be a reference person for vocation promotion who, in coordination with the Provincial Coordinator, would assume this pastoral work in the territory, although probably he would not be able to do it full time.

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23 Pope John Paul II, *Message for the XLI World Day of Prayers for Vocations*, 23 November 2003.

- c) Update the Formation Iter, including all stages of formation, and make sure it is attuned with the Apostolic Project. In this Formation Itinerary, give special attention to the young in initial formation, especially regarding the catechetical and cultural contents, so that they proceed to the novitiate with good basic formation.
- d) In the initial formation, try to engage the young people in some Pauline apostolic activities, giving importance to the digital field, which is a reality close to this new generation.
- e) It has been very positive in recent years that some perpetual professed have attended specialization courses. Continue this project, preparing Paulines in the various areas of the apostolate, without forgetting the specific field of Pauline formation, that is: prepare formators! Let the elaboration and execution of this project be shared with the Superior General so that this program can be directed not only towards the needs of the individual Province, but also inserted in the context of the needs of the whole Congregation.
- f) We must be strongly and seriously convinced that in the promotion of vocation and formation we put into play the future and the existence of the Congregation and of the Province, which must

be translated into successive choices by investing energies and the best human resources of Paulines in this delicate and challenging task. Therefore, it is important to make a study of the territorial geography, which will lead us to identify the most promising areas for vocation exploration in which we focus our efforts, people and energies.

- g) It is time that a serious discernment be made both on the many departures that characterize our formation cycle and the decisiveness and quality of those who come to the perpetual profession and priestly ordination.

## **6. Final considerations**

At the end of this letter, I want to emphasize that in all the nations of the Province there is at least an Institution of the Pauline Family. In addition to the possibility of ministerial service and the common celebrations of Pauline feasts, it is necessary to seek collaboration not only in the apostolic field, but also in the vocation and formation field. With regard specifically to the Aggregated Institutes, «*to promote the Pauline Institutes of Consecrated Secular Life and the Association of Pauline Cooperators*»<sup>24</sup>, to the extent that it is possible to follow them properly.

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24 X General Chapter, *Priority 5.2.*

Another point to consider is that of the Pauline geography of the Province, which is currently composed of four nations belonging to three distinct continents, which have English as a common language but with very different cultures. Even if we look only at the great India, we find a complexity of cultures and languages that we cannot disregard. The Councillors General, on the occasion of the Canonical Visit, had the opportunity to listen to you and to make a survey of the possible restructuring of this geography.

Although the majority has shown favour in a geographical reorganization, we want to submit this theme at the Provincial Chapter, which will be able to plan a path of discernment. This is not just about a simple separation. One of the essential questions to be asked is how to respond effectively today to the needs of Pauline life in these different realities. It is not enough to be present as a “branch”, but to ask ourselves how to be a living reality, inserted in the local Church, with the presence of an apostolic work and with “Paulines” who can put into practice what our Founder said: *«Know the souls, know the needs, study tendencies, study where souls can be taken, how to multiply the good, what organizations do we want»*<sup>25</sup>.

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25 James Alberione, *Vademecum*, no. 1200.

Dear brothers, we know that there are many challenges. If all, however, join the same ideal, despite the “insufficiencies in all”, the Province will certainly be able to make progress in the Pauline mission. May Jesus Master enlighten each one of you so that, in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and in the light of the charism we have inherited from Blessed James Alberione, we can do everything for the Gospel with boldness, in hope and in joy.

Fraternally,

Rome, 20 August 2017

*103<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Foundation of the Society of St Paul  
and beginning of the Pauline Family*

Fr Valdir José De Castro  
*Superior General*

## **THE MEMBERS OF THE XVII PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

Very Rev. Fr Valdir José De Castro: Superior General  
Fr Celso Godilano: General Councillor  
Br Luigi Bofelli: General Councillor  
Br Darlei Zanon: General Councillor

### **PROVINCIALATE**

Fr Varghese Gnalian (Provincial Designate)  
Fr Devasia Puthiyaparambil (Director General  
of Apostolate)  
Fr Thomas Mangamthanath (Director of Formation)  
Fr Saju Ellickal Delegate

### **BENGALURU**

Fr Joseph Thenanasseril Delegate  
Fr Sebastian Elavunkal Delegate

### **CHENNAI**

Fr George Chathanatt Superior  
Br Jolly Thenamkalayil Delegate

## **GUWAHATI**

Fr Francis Dalmet	Superior
Fr Alfonso Elangickal	Delegate

## **IBADAN**

Fr Blaise Kandathil	Superior
Fr Joe Eruppakkatt	Delegate

## **KOCHI**

Fr Sebastian Kanayamakunnel	Superior
Br Blaise Thadathil	Delegate

## **MUMBAI**

Fr Jose Paul Chittilappilly	Superior
Fr Michael John	Delegate
Fr Dominic D'silva	Delegate

## **NEW DELHI**

Fr Paul Kottackal	Superior
Fr Francis Xavier	Delegate

## **PUNE**

Fr Gregory Rayappan	Superior
Fr Devassy Athalathil	Delegate
Fr Anselm Poovathanikunnel	Delegate

## **ENUGU**

Fr Peter Perunnilathil	Superior
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## **RANCHI**

Fr Philip Muthukulam

Superior

Fr Herman Dungdung

Delegate

## **VIJAYAWADA**

Fr Saji Chakkezhath

Superior

## **ALBERIONE GROUP**

Fr Jikson Mullasseril

Delegate

Fr Robert Corea

Delegate

## **GIACCARDO GROUP**

Fr Felix Vadakkedath

Delegate

Fr Shaiju Vadakkemury

Delegate



## **ADDRESS OF THE PROVINCIAL TO THE CHAPTER MEMBERS**

My dear and loving Brothers,

It is my joy and privilege to warmly welcome all of you: members of the General Government: Very Rev Fr Dr Valdir Jose De Castro, our beloved Superior General, and his Councilors; Rev Fr Celso Godilano, Rev Br Luigi Bofelli and Rev Br Darlei Zanon. I also welcome the principal office bearers of India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province: Rev Fr Thomas Mangamthanath, Director of Formation, Rev Fr Dr Devasia Puthiyaparambil, Director General of Apostolate, Superiors and elected Delegates to the XVII<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter which we celebrate to plan for the coming four years. I would say that it is a historic moment that could be inscribed in golden letters in the annals of the history of the Province because, this is the first time four members of the General Government participate in the Provincial Chapter of any Province. I consider it as a rare privilege for the Assembly to have them as a source of spiritual blessings for the Province.

It is indeed an occasion of great rejoicing and thanksgiving for us as we were privileged to begin the XVII<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter on the auspicious day of the Feast of Jesus the Divine Master the Way, the Truth and the Life with the Theme: **“I do everything for the Gospel”**.

The Provincial Chapter is a moment of grace, grace on the entire Province, on its members and mission. This grace can flow into us and become effective in us if only we do not put any obstacle on its way, if only we are open and be receptive to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, if only we are able to read and interpret the signs of the times and are united in the same mission. This Chapter should lead us to a greater consciousness of our mission as Paulines, chosen, called and consecrated by the Lord to proclaim the Good News to the men and women of today employing the most effective means of the day under the gaze of our holy Founder Blessed James Alberione and in the spirit of St Paul, our Patron.

According to our Constitutions and Directory, No. 195, the Provincial Chapter of the Society of St Paul, celebrated at the beginning of the mandate of the Provincial Superior, has two important functions:

1. The election of the Councillors, and
2. The setting out of Province’s programme.

The quality of our Provincial Chapter will depend upon the quality of our participation, our willingness to

listen and understand others' perspectives and above all on the level of Divine intervention in the Congregation. We may succeed to make a fantastic programme for the Province but if it is not blessed by God nothing will turn out to be successful. Some of the things that disturb me with regard to our communities and members is the weakening of values, lack of seriousness and an attitude of pessimism. We need to transmit positive energy or else we will be crippled. Charismatics call such lethargic situation as influence of evil spirits. We, as a congregation needs deliverance from evil spirits. Personal and communitarian renewal is a must in our spiritual life and commitment for the cause of the kingdom of God

#### **PAULINE APOSTOLATE:**

“Ancient spirit, new forms.” This was the operative principle of Father Alberione as he committed himself to fulfil the mission entrusted to him by God. The ancient spirit was that of the Gospel, of St Paul, of the traditions of the Church. The new forms would be for him Press, Cinema, Radio, Television and the like. We may use any means; but we should be able to do everything for the Gospel and be partners in building up of the kingdom of God. Our apostolate, be it publishing, diffusion, audio-video productions, digital media, teaching, educating or pastoral ministry, what makes the difference is the passion and the enthusiasm of St Paul, our Patron, with which we Paulines accomplish

it; that, I believe, is the uniqueness and what we call the *Pauline colour*. That passion is by and large lacking in our communities and in our Province as a whole. A rethinking on our apostolic priorities in the Province is the need of the hour.

Every effort should be made to organize and consolidate our resources and efforts in the area of publishing and distribution, at the same time we should not hesitate to venture into new forms and means of Pauline ministry of communications, for example, the area of Education and Digital Apostolate. If we remain only with our traditional apostolate, we will soon become less relevant and perhaps ineffective in the Church. Definitely we are at a moment of transition. Prudent allocation of financial resources and optimum utilization of our personnel with a forward looking and daring attitude, coupled with absolute trust in God, are to be ascertained. The eternal cry that “we have no trained people” is a myth; we are capable of accomplishing much more. What is needed is dedicated TEAM WORK and ORGANISATION. What we have been doing in our mission is less attractive and does not bring the desired fulfilment in the lives of many, especially of the younger generation. By and large there isn't optimum contribution to traditional apostolate by the members. When we are capable of accomplishing much more, can we continue to invest on sectors or

departments which are not economically sustainable and have no personnel to make them grow the way we have been doing in the past?

Most of the seniors here and also of the Province are born and brought up in an agrarian culture irrespective of geographical considerations, and our values were formed accordingly; but the younger generation, our own nieces and nephews or our grand nieces and grand nephews are exposed to an industrial and technological culture, and their values are formed accordingly and so to tie them down to an agrarian culture will be gross injustice. It is our responsibility, therefore, to find suitable avenues to let them find their right places in the modern society and be effective communicators of the values of Christ with the means they are more familiar with.

Regional language publications, their marketing and diffusion are great challenges and are to be strengthened in every possible way. Perhaps this is the cry of every Provincial Chapter. Employing any additional method, infrastructure or personnel to be employed will involve financial investment which will directly have its repercussions on the pricing of our products. Taking a lead from *Evangelii Gaudium* of the Holy Father Pope Francis, the very first priority of the Acts of the X<sup>th</sup> General chapter says: Creatively renew our missionary impetus at the service of the Word with

new sustainable initiatives for the non-believers, the distant ones and the poor, with new openings, in new territories, with the new languages of communication.

The possibility of distribution of our products through the church institutions and other neutral channels are to be explored. Our members who are exceptionally generous, hard working and daring only can be engaged in these areas. There are some members who are overburdened with apostolic commitments and there are many who are capable of contributing much but are underemployed in commercial terms. We can be much more productive if we are generous and cooperative and are willing to come out of our comfort zones and move to the peripheries. Our priorities have to change, our apostolate should become our passion; it is in this area where we really need conversion.

The Province has started new initiatives in the field of Education which are doing fairly well. TITLE WAVES Mumbai, SPICE Mumbai, SPICE Bengaluru, AICE Lagos and ST PAULS COLLEGE Bengaluru etc., are definitely changing the public face of the Society of St Paul positively and they are in perfect harmony with the priorities of the Xth General Chapter in the area of apostolate. I experience genuine dedication and tremendous energy in those members who are associated with these new apostolic projects of the Province.

With great satisfaction I note that ST PAULS MEDIA COMPLEX in Mumbai has started repaying the investment. SPICE and TITLE WAVES have become well known activity hub. We have trained and confident personnel at the helm of affairs. SPICE, Mumbai with its built-in state-of-the-art facilities and the dedicated faculty has the potential to attract many more students even beyond the state of Maharashtra. It is worth noting that we have a good tie up with the Church and the Archdiocesan activities and a vast number of students are non-catholic; we also offer subsidies to deserving students.

The latest initiatives of the Province are SPICE and ST PAULS COLLEGE, Bengaluru. These Institutes have only limited facilities and class rooms, and need immediate expansion. We have capable and dedicated faculty members; they go out of their way to popularize the Institute. All the events conducted in our campus were of great success. We will do well to take both the centres forward with great urgency. To keep up the momentum, to enhance the services offered, to stay focused and to be in the forefront and to counter the stiff competition in the field, it is imperative to provide additional infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities so as to make these initiatives centres of excellence.

Alberione Institute of Communication Education (AICE) in Lagos, Nigeria, was designed and

commissioned last year. Recently the local news papers have carried the inaugural ceremony and has placed on record that the new Pauline institute will make a difference in the life and mission of the Diocese and also in the lives of the people of Nigeria. An evaluation of the services offered and the ground situation of our presence there can enable us to decide on what more can be done in the given situation to make it an institute of learning and excellence. There is great possibility of pioneering ministry in education in the area of communication in Nigeria.

### **A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW APOSTOLIC INITIATIVE:**

The unique contribution that any religious Congregation can make is primarily to enrich the Church with its particular Charism. The spirituality of the Pauline Family is centred around the Eucharist and the Word of God. Alberione spoke of a Bible for every Family and a New Testament for every Christian. In the Province we have two entities: Alberione Good News Centre (AGNC) and Pauline Spirituality Centre (PSC). Though these centres have no visibility, commendable work is done by them. Way back in the year 2014 or so, or even much before that, there was talk in the Province to build a Pauline Spirituality Centre (PSC) and Alberione Good News Centre (AGNC) for the Province as centenary memorial in Bengaluru. These have been

the topic of discussion during many previous Chapters. I suggest **ST PAULS CENTRE** in Bengaluru could combine both these activities with sufficient visibility. The centre, if designed and positioned properly can take care of the activities of both AGNC and PSC. There is a growing need in the Church for short and residential programmes, seminars, retreats, courses for the laity and religious and for other specific groups. As a growing Province we too need such an institute for our own needs, like the celebration of Chapters, renewal programmes and other meetings. When such a facility is made available the other Pauline congregations could also benefit from it. It will be a great tribute to our Founder for whom the Eucharist and the Bible remained at the heart of Pauline apostolate, and to our pioneers who acquired such a large property because of which we are empowered to develop it at this time of the history of the Province.

### **PAULINE FORMATION:**

Traditionally we have a strong training and formation system in the Province. Thanks to my predecessor and team who have designed and defined an efficient formation programme for the province, and got it approved by the General Government; but for reasons unknown it has not produced the desired result. The implementation of the formation programme does not enable and empower the members to efficiently

conduct the affairs and manage the responsibilities assigned to them in the area of apostolate. It is essential to organize initial formation keeping in mind the needs of our mission and the multi-cultural-linguistic-ethnic reality of the countries where we are present and work.

I think it is a need today to have separate formation houses for different groups. Many of our members and formators have been talking about it here and there; now is the time for a definite action. Taking into consideration the present trend in many congregations, our not-so-happy experience in the regionalized formation which we tried for many years and seeing the poor quality and quantity of the output - mainly due to the dearth of trained personnel in the formation sector and inadequate motivation level of candidates joining us - the old system of having groups together seems to be more desirable, especially in the initial years, as long as we continue to remain as one Province. Lot of modeling on and learning from senior groups happen automatically, especially in the initial years. Priority number one of the Acts of the Xth General says: “the renewal of the Congregation requires a complete updating of the processes of integral formation aimed at the mission at all levels and for all age groups within an international dimension”. We have been talking about a geographical division of the Province into regions but it should never be on the basis of language.

Another area that needs special attention is the preparation of leaders in our Province: superiors, formators and directors of apostolic sectors. Updating and training of all persons is absolutely necessary in order to give quality service in the area of our apostolate (mission). In my opinion, most of the issues and problems in our communities and apostolic sectors arise because of inadequate preparation of our members and their inability to undergo personal 'aggiornamento': be it in the animation of communities, facilitating formation of the young, the coordination of apostolate and streamlining of administration. We have to admit the fact that many of our members are withdrawing to their own comfort zones and therefore they are likely to be unhappy religious. Only by exposure, information, training, updating, learning and giving up the negative attitudes our members can live fulfilling and happy lives. Only when our communities become caring, challenging and supportive of its members, the Province will be able to make optimum contribution to its mission.

### **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:**

Without going to the details, the Province has a rather sound administrative system in place. Thanks to my predecessors who have painstakingly but successfully completed the sale of some of our properties. The Province has stability with regard to

finance. The sale of part of our property in Bengaluru with a view to utilize the funds for further expansion of our apostolate has been successfully completed. The same is the case with sale of a piece of land at Bandra. The real challenge before the Province is the optimum utilization of the sale proceeds with meticulous planning and prudent investment. As far as I understand the amount can only be used for capital investment and not for daily running of our communities. As the Provincial Chapter is the highest authority within the Province, it has the responsibility of studying the issue at its depth and to provide clear indications to the Provincial Government with regard to its optimum utilization.

The Province is financially in a position to invest on new, sustainable and productive initiatives in the area of our mission and formation. Part of the income could be used for procuring properties in different parts of our country for strategic development in the future.

## **CONCLUSION:**

I have suggested a few areas that need special attention during the Chapter. Dynamic faithfulness to the Charism necessarily involves “reading the signs of the times”. I request all the participants of the XVIIth Provincial Chapter of our Province to evaluate the present situation of our Province and make serious

reflections on the documents that you have in hand. As the apex policy making body of the Province, I expect from you a definite direction and clear-cut “Action Plan” to the Provincial Government to accomplish during its mandate.

With these words, I, Fr Varghese Gnalian, the Provincial Superior of India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province of the Society of St Paul, declare the XVIIth Provincial Chapter OPEN.

God bless us and our Congregation.

Fr Varghese Gnalian  
(Provincial Superior)



# **THE REPORT OF THE XVII<sup>TH</sup> PROVINCIAL CHAPTER**

**28 October to November 07, 2017**

The detailed report of the chronological proceedings of the XVIIth Provincial Chapter of India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province of the Society of St Paul held at CRI Institute, Bengaluru, from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 07 November, 2017.

## **Day 1: 28 October, 2017**

In the evening of October 28, Saturday, the eve of the Solemnity of Jesus the Divine Master, all the Capitulars of XVIIth Provincial Chapter reported at the Venue. At 8 O'clock all gathered together in the refectory and greeted one another. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

## **Day 2: 29 October, 2017**

Today, on the Solemnity of Jesus Divine Master, the inaugural Eucharist was presided over by the Most Rev. Fr Valdir José De Castro, our beloved Superior

General. In his homily, he invited the members to live the Pauline Spirituality of Way, Truth and Life to the living-realities of the Province.

During the inauguration ceremony held at 9 O' clock, Fr Varghese Gnalian, the President of the Chapter and Provincial Superior, welcomed Fr Valdir José De Castro, Fr Celso Godilano, Br Luigi Bofelli and Br Darlei Zanon in a traditional Indian way, offering *ponnaadai* (shawl). Fr Varghese Gnalian also welcomed each member of the Chapter with a flower, symbolising Pauline fraternity.

The Illuminative phase begins. Rev Fr Dr Lawrence, Professor from St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru helped the Chapter members to understand the spirit of the Papal document "Evangelii Gaudium". The session continued till noon and ended with some clarification of doubts by the chapter members. In the afternoon the General Government animated the Chapter members in the spirit of Xth General Chapter.

### **Day 3: 30 October, 2017**

The day commenced with the Eucharistic celebration. Fr Celso Godilano, the General Councillor, officiated at the celebration, and in his homily he highlighted the importance of Pastoral spirit of the Pauline apostolate and to be sensitive to the ground realities of India.

The illuminative stage continued till noon. In the afternoon all the Chapter members took a break and visited the Community of Bengaluru where they were given a grand reception with a cultural evening organised by the community and the students of ST PAULS College. The AGAPE that followed was a fitting finale of the whole programme. By 10.00 p.m. everyone returned to the Chapter venue.

#### **Day 4: 31st October, 2017**

The day started with the celebration of the Eucharist. Fr Varghese Gnalian, the Provincial Superior, presided over the celebration and asked the Eucharistic assembly to pray for him as he officially took charge of the Province.

The Capitulars met at 9.00 am. The first business of the day was to plan and arrive at a proper scheduling of the Chapter days. The assembly approved the schedule prepared and presented by the President of the Chapter.

The assembly then proceeded to elect the Office bearers of the Chapter.

Fr Shaiju Vadakkemury and Fr Francis Xavier, the youngest in age, were appointed as scrutineers of the Chapter.

Fr George Chathanatt and Fr Joseph Thenasseril were elected with absolute majority as the Chapter

Secretary and the Moderator respectively through secret balloting.

The assembly then proposed the names of Frs Sebastian K. V. and Joe Eruppakkatt to be the Actuaries of the Chapter. Having obtained their consent, Fr Provincial, declared them nominated as Actuaries.

The assembly appointed Frs Sebastian Thomas and Francis Xavier in-charges of liturgical celebrations and Frs Jose Paul and Blaise Kandathil as infirmarians.

When the Capitulars met at 11.00 a.m, the Chapter Secretary introduced to the assembly the importance of this phase of our Chapter. He read out St Paul's Letter to Philippians, 3:7-11 for reflection and prayer after which he led the assembly in prayer.

Fr Provincial now delivered the inaugural address. He welcomed the Superior General, the members of the General Government, superiors of the communities and the Delegates to the Chapter. He reminded the assembly that it is a historic moment in the life of our Province, especially because of the presence of the Superior General and the three members of the General Council. Their presence, indeed, is a source of blessing for the entire Province. We are privileged to begin the Chapter on the feast day of Jesus the Divine Master. He reminded the members that the quality of our Chapter depends on the quality of our active participation, our willingness to listen, and, of course, on God's grace.

In conclusion, he said we need to have dynamic faithfulness to our Charism by reading the signs of the times. He exhorted the chapter assembly to give orientation and guidelines to the new Provincial Government in order to accomplish the mission entrusted to them.

Fr Provincial, then, declared the XVIIth Provincial Chapter of India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province OPEN.

The Secretary of the Chapter, Fr George Chathanatt introduced the topic for discussion and deliberation for the rest of the day as '*Spiritual Animation and Ongoing Formation*'.

The Superior General in a brief address explained to the Assembly the points to be dealt with in this discussion: Community life as a point of departure for our mission, importance of authentic prayer life, importance of the dual table of the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist in the life of every Pauline, Communication between the members and various organizational bodies, and the need to define the role of small communities with special reference to the North and the North East.

The Secretary announced the need to work in groups in order to arrive at our priorities and operative guidelines. The assembly was divided into four groups for group discussion that would begin at 2.30 pm.

The assembly was then dispersed for lunch break.

The members assembled again at 4.30 pm. The group leaders presented the reports of the group discussions of their respective groups. *All the groups unanimously reported that a thorough spiritual renewal of the members and communities, and consequently of the whole Province, is the need of the hour.*

After the presentation of the reports, there took place a discussion on the methodology of formulating the priorities and operative guidelines. Members expressed the need for a discussion in the assembly.

There was also a discussion on whether the pre-formulated questions were required for group discussion. Various opinions emerged as to whether the questions were needed or not. Fr Provincial clarified that the core committee will address the issue and come up with a solution.

Fr Celso Godilano clarified at this stage that we need to pick up two priorities and a few operative guidelines. The Actuaries may collect all the reports and collate them as one.

The Assembly suggested the following methodology: The four secretaries would synthesize their reports and send to the Actuaries to formulate the priorities and the operative guidelines. With this the Assembly was adjourned for the day at 6.00 pm.

## **Day 5: 1 November, 2017**

On the Solemnity of All Saints, Fr Francis Dalmet presided over the Eucharist and preached a homily highlighting the importance of personal sanctification amidst different cultures. This day also marks Fr Francis' birthday and Fr Provincial, wished on behalf of the Capitulars Fr Francis God's blessings and invited the assembly to pray for him and for his dear ones.

The fifth day of the Chapter began with a reading from the Sacred Scripture and prayer.

The Provincial, with the consent of the Assembly, appointed Fr Sebastian Elavunkal and Br Blaise Thadathil as in-charges of external and food services, and photography of the Chapter, respectively. Similarly, he appointed Frs Alphonso Elenjikal and Thomas Mangamthanath as members of the drafting committee.

The President then clarified the roles of the office-bearers of the Chapter. The Provincial begins the day with announcements and clarifications, if any; the Chapter proceedings will then be conducted by the Secretary; the Moderator conducts the sessions of general discussion. Those who wish to share their views should put up their hands, so that the Moderator sees them and allots them turns.

The Provincial informed that the central committee will not be formulating questions for the group

discussions, so that the scope of discussion is not limited. The groups are to refer to the available documents, namely, the Programmatic Letter of the Superior General, Acts of the Xth General Chapter, Analysis of the responses to the questionnaire, and the Letter of the Provincial to the chapter members. The groups will formulate priorities and operative guidelines and the secretaries of the groups will share it in the assembly.

Fr Joe Eruppakkatt, one of the actuaries, presented the minutes of the previous day. The assembly appreciated the presentation of the report and passed it with certain modifications.

The priorities and operative guidelines that emerged from the group discussions of the previous day were read out. This was then put to further discussion in the assembly.

The Chapter Secretary, then, announced the next topic for group discussion: Vocation Promotion and Formation.

Fr Celso Godilano then animated the Assembly on the topic of the day. He emphasised that formation is permanent, it never ends. From the time a person is born, he never stops learning.

All the documents made available to the assembly for study speak of *renewal*. We need to aim at the

renewal of formation programme, aim at the integral formation and form the members with the Pauline colour. For this, we need to make good use of our own heritage: the writings of the Founder, the Constitutions, Ratio Formationis, and Documents of CTIA and SIF. He also said that formation and mission go together, i.e., there should be a collaboration between the DGA and Formation Coordinator.

Talking about the need to be more zealous in promoting vocations, Fr Celso reminded that we should never stop promoting vocations to Pauline Brotherhood since in the Pauline Family Brotherhood and Priesthood are complementary.

The groups returned at 4.30 p.m, and presented the report of their discussions. The topic was then open to the assembly for discussions.

Many in the assembly felt the need of having the Minor Seminary system as it was the case in the Province some years back. Later, we changed this system and adopted the system of regionalized initial formation. Now, the feeling is that it is better to bring back the old system. This would take care of the initial formation in one place. However, there were mixed opinions whether the first year should be together or regionalized. Some felt that when the various language groups are together in the first year, the Master is not able to communicate

in so many languages to the students as well as to their parents. Some also felt that for the purpose of vocation promotion, regional communities and formation can be of great support. Some others felt that when the 1st year aspirants are separately placed in regions, there are no senior groups or senior members for them to look upto and learn from.

A clarification was sought from the General Government: In earlier times, we had the opportunity to participate in the apostolate from the first year. Now, that this opportunity is not there, what activities we will get them involved in?

The Superior General responded: It has been our tradition that one who joins us participates in the apostolate right from the beginning. We owned the printing press and the students worked in the press for some time every day. Now that we do not have printing press, we have to use our creativity and have programmes to initiate the young ones into digital apostolate. We have to find out what activities can be entrusted to the youngsters in the Indian context. For example, in Albano, the novices are working on a website for the whole congregation. There are also possibilities of sharing in the traditional apostolate, like book exhibitions. The candidates are in our houses not only for study. We need to form in the Pauline way—get them to know our mission and become part of it.

The Superior General also felt that we should not have any fear in introducing the youngsters to the digital world. The novices in India have no access to the internet, while in Albano, the novices are working on the internet. If we have fear regarding the sites they visit, there are soft wares for blocking the sites. The digital apostolate can take the youngsters forward because they belong to the digital age. Instead of blocking them, we need to educate them to use it well. We can help the youngsters to understand our apostolate starting with digital means, without excluding the traditional apostolate.

The Provincial felt that the assembly needs to be more concrete in giving suggestions. For example, suggest exactly where we can have the formation houses in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. In response, some felt that we can have a new opening in Tamil Nadu, since we do not have any property in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, we could redevelop the house in Calicut. The Provincial informed that the Bishop of Palayamkottai is very happy to have our presence in his diocese and so we could open a community and a Book Centre there.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5.45 p.m.

### **Day 6: 2 November 2017**

The Holy Souls' day, the Chapter members began the day by praying for all deceased pioneer Paulines and also for all deceased Indian Paulines. Fr George

Chathanatt, the main celebrant invited the members in his homily to be effective in their mission, entrusting themselves into the hands of God and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Chapter proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> day began at 9.00 am with the singing of a bhajan, scripture reading and prayer.

Fr Provincial in his opening words noted with satisfaction that the Chapter proceedings are progressing well. But he reminded that the priorities and operative guidelines have to be more specific to help the Provincial Government to implement them. Wherever possible, in formulating priorities and guidelines, distinction is to be made between Provincial level and Local level.

Fr Provincial then announced that it is now time to elect a Provincial Councillor.

At this juncture the Superior General, Rev. Fr Valdir Jose de Castro, elucidated the characteristics of a Councillor as follows:

- He should be able to collaborate with the Provincial in governing the Province with love, communion and courage. “To govern is to love,” says our Founder.

- He should have the interior disposition to confront the problems of the province with faith, serenity and hope.
- He should be open to dialogue, within the Provincial Government and with the confreres.
- He should be able to work for unity, especially recognising the diversity, as the confreres come from diverse cultures.
- He should be open to work as a team; inspire others also to work in team.
- He should work for implementing the programme of the Chapter.
- He should be an administrator, but most of all, he is the member of an animating team.

The Superior General concluded by saying, “Now the choice is yours!”

Fr Provincial then read out the relevant numbers of the *Constitutions and Directory* dealing with the election of the Councillors. He also mentioned that there was a suggestion to have six councillors instead of four. However, he said at this juncture of our province’s history we would not need to change our existing tradition of having only four Councillors.

During the election that followed, Rev. Fr George Chathanatt was elected a Provincial Councillor in the

second balloting. Fr Provincial declared the verdict and asked Fr George Chathanatt for his consent. Fr George then gave his consent to be a Provincial Councillor.

The members took a short break to congratulate Fr George Chathanatt.

The assembly returned for work at 10.00 am.

Fr Dominic D'Silva presented the report of the previous day for publication in the official bulletin of the Province. The report, after a few amendments, was passed by the assembly.

Fr Sebastian K. V., one of the Actuaries, presented the minutes of the previous day. The assembly, after some amendments, passed the minutes.

The Secretary introduced the topics for the day for discussion and deliberation: Bible Apostolate and Catechism Series, Publishing and Press, and Pauline Periodicals.

Before the group discussion, Bro Darlei Zanon presented a few guidelines for discussion in the area of apostolate:

The General Chapter asks us “to creatively renew our missionary impetus at the service of the Word with new sustainable initiatives for the non-believers, the distant ones and the poor...” We have to look towards

the future. The initiatives that we take now will have a long-term bearing. We need also to start new ways, without giving up the traditional means. We need to be relevant and visible in the Church through our projects for the distant ones and the poor. Use all means and all languages. Organization and consolidation are very important in our planning. Keep in mind the need for inculturation, team work and to serve those in the periphery (receivers).

Biblical Apostolate: (Letter of the Superior General). Coordinate all the activities of Biblical Centre with initiatives in editorial, formation, pastoral, ecclesiastical areas.

Editorial activity should cover all the languages spoken in India in order to reach maximum number of people. The administrative problems in this sector needs to be addressed.

The Assembly was dispersed for group discussion at 11 am.

When the assembly returned at 4.30 pm, the Secretaries presented the reports of their respective groups. After some clarification, a general discussion followed. One important point of discussion was: Whether we need to separate Regional Language Publications (RLP) from the respective book centres, with sufficient autonomy. Various opinions were voiced

regarding the same. In order to strengthen the RLP we need finance and personnel. The director needs to be free from other responsibilities. Bro Darlei, clarified that all decisions regarding the editorial work needs to be carried out by the regional editor of RLP, but he has to work under the central Editorial Director of ST PAULS.

Regarding the suggestion to have a *Bible App*, Fr Devasia Puthiyamarambil, the DGA, clarified that the CAP-ESW meeting had decided to have a separate APP for NCB although at present it is available on ST PAULS App.

The assembly then went on to discuss the Priorities and Operative Guidelines on Vocation Promotion, Formation and Ongoing Formation.

Fr Celso Godilano intervened to say that the guidelines for Vocation Promotion are already in the *Formation Iter*, but if there is need for additional guidelines, we can propose them in the Assembly.

Bro. Luigi Bofelli noted that in our discussion on recruitment and formation, there is no mention of 'Brotherhood'. It is important to include in our document the dual expression of our Pauline vocation – Brothers and Priests.

The assembly was adjourned for the day at 6.30 pm.

## **Day 7: 3 November 2017**

The Chapter members started the day with the Eucharist. Fr Herman Dungdung, the main celebrant, in his homily urged the participants to formulate policies which give importance to human persons and to their holistic growth.

The assembly gathered at 9 a.m. and the meeting began with a scripture reading and prayer.

The President made the following announcements:

- Letter of the Superior General, dated 14 June 2017, had mentioned that the issue related to Chennai will be dealt with during the Provincial Chapter. He had appointed Fr Celso Godilano and Fr Jose Pottayil to deal with the issue and Dr Thomas Kandasamy as the chairman of the enquiry commission. Mr Kandasamy and team will be here on 4 November 2017, to explain their findings to the Assembly.
- Fr Shinto Perumparambil will arrive at the Chapter venue at 2.30 pm for the launch of the ST PAULS APP and website.
- If anyone in the assembly wishes to give recommendations to the Provincial Government, it can be made at the end of the Chapter so that these can be incorporated into the chapter documents.

The assembly then proceeded to the election of the remaining three Councillors. Frs Dominic D'Silva and Jikson Mullasseril were elected with an absolute majority of votes at the third and fourth balloting respectively. After the tea break the Fr Michael John, the fourth Councillor, was elected with an absolute majority of votes at the third balloting.

Fr Dominic D'Silva presented the report of the previous day and the assembly passed it. Fr Joe Eruppakkatt, Actuary, presented the minutes of the previous day's meetings. The assembly passed the minutes with a few amendments.

The Provincial reminded the assembly that we need to come out of our lethargy and be optimistic to change and go ahead with new projects. To cite an example, we have enough personnel for a spirituality centre, so we should go ahead with this project.

Fr Provincial also said that we could conduct an online Bible course, like what is done by CAP India in Bengaluru.

In the afternoon session, the President invited Fr Shinto Perumparambil and his team for the launch of St Pauls App.

Fr Shinto briefly explained the purpose behind the launch of St Pauls App. Fr Valdir Jose de Castro,

Superior General, appreciated this new initiative and officially released the New Website, *stpaulsbyb.com*. Fr Varghese Gnalian, Provincial Superior released the android version of the App, while, Br Darlei Zanon released the iOS version of the App.

The Secretary introduced the topics for the day's discussion: Diffusion and Book Centre, Audio Visual and Mini Media, and Marketing and Apps.

Br Darlei Zanon animated the assembly for the discussion:

We need to reach out to the poor and the non-Christians, to new places and new recipients. The bookshops are the most important distribution medium of the Province. Bookshops should have a Christian identity and should be a true cultural centre. We need to think of more cultural and multimedia centres as suggested by the Provincial in his letter. Also, reconsider low-cost mobile units since it is a good medium to reach the peripheries, the remote areas and parishes. Re-organize centralized and regional marketing departments with specific goals. There is also a need to enter into digital marketing – You Tube, facebook, web-radio, web-TV, etc. Think of constituting a digital media and social media team.

The capitulars came back from group discussions at 5.15 pm, and one by one the group Secretaries

presented the priorities and operative guidelines formulated by the respective groups.

A discussion was held on the mobile units. Some felt that the Jalandhar model (a small vehicle), is not practical. We should have the vehicles according to the need of the place.

It was felt that we should connect our Book Centres and centrally control it through a well developed software as it is done in Pauline book centres in different parts of the world.

Centralised purchase and common pricing policy is a need of the hour. We are pioneers in the Book Centre apostolate and are a big group in India. However, the scenario now is that we have to depend on individual importers for items required in our centres.

Finding out new customers could be done by collecting the contact details of the customers who walk into our centres for the first time. This is done today at all public service centres.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 6 p.m.

### **Day 8: 4 November 2017**

The members began the day with the Eucharist. Fr Dominic Savio D'Silva, the main celebrant, invited the assembly to reflect on the theme: Communication

Constitutes Community, and highlighted the importance of communication among members in communities.

The day's proceedings began with a Prayer at 9.00 am.

Fr Provincial announced that today we would be taking up the topic: Pastoral Ministry and Finance. Fr Jose Pottayil, General Councillor, and Mr Thomas Kandaswamy would be here to explain to us the problems regarding the Chennai issue. He also announced that this morning we would be having the common session instead of the usual group discussion.

This was followed by the presentation of the report for official bulletin by Fr Dominic D'Silva. The report was passed with a few amendments.

Fr Sebastian K. V., one of the Actuaries, presented the minutes of the previous day. The assembly passed the minutes with a few amendments.

Bro. Luigi Bofelli enlightened the Assembly on the topics of the day.

Speaking on Parish ministry he said it is not our specific apostolic activity. But if we are allowed to do this under some conditions, we need to carry this out with a Pauline colour. Pauline colour means much more than our devotions. It means to have activities and initiatives in the communication apostolate. So we need to ask ourselves:

- What Pauline activities do we promote in our parishes — study groups, exhibitions, radio programmes, libraries?
- Can we have a Pauline style catechesis in our parishes?

Bro. Bofelli reminded us of the Letter of the Superior General on this topic: “Regarding the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Chennai, transform it into an increasingly Pauline Church, changing or renewing the persons responsible at the beginning of the mandate of each Provincial Superior. The term of office, however, shall not exceed two consecutive terms.

Coming to the topic of Administration & Economy, Bro. Bofelli reminded the assembly of the Priority 4.1 of General Chapter: “Act professionally and in accordance with the Pauline poverty in all the areas of our administration, and to work in teams in order to safeguard transparency, co-responsibility and accuracy.”

Our working has to be by *means* and *objectives*. The more complex our activities, greater is the necessity for coordination and distribution of tasks. There is the ordinary and delegated authority; both are canonical and both demand obedience from members. There is distinction of roles based on subsidiarity and co-responsibility.

We have to integrate into the apostolic project all

the apostolic work of the province, as Superior General has reminded. Transparency must be exercised at all levels, including communities and parishes. We need to ask certain questions:

- Is it prudent to take up many projects at the same time?
- Does the current apostolic organization promote the development of every circumscriptional activity?
- Is the current administrative system able to manage and develop productively the newly undertaken projects: SPICE, Mumbai and SPICE and ST PAULS COLLEGE, Bengaluru?
- Is it possible to make a project to construct most of our bookshops and our communities on properties owned by us?

There followed a general discussion on Parish Ministry and Pastoral Care & Administration of the Province.

Since parish ministry for Paulines is an exception, it is important that the Provincial government gives strict guidelines and policies for this ministry. One member pointed out that a set of guidelines is already prepared and made available to the directors of apostolate. It was read out to the assembly from the *Directory of Apostolic Sectors*.

It was suggested that the duty of the parish priest be restricted to rendering pastoral care; administration of goods may be entrusted to another member. Based on the discussions the assembly came up with the priorities and operative guidelines for parish ministry and pastoral care.

The assembly resumed its activity at 10.35 a.m., after a short break, and there followed a discussion on the topic of Administration of the Province at various levels.

A question was asked, is there a difference in the offices of Bursar and that of the Financial Administrator in our province. One member suggested that the bursar may look after our *Trusts* while an Administrator may be appointed to look after the *Companies*.

At 11.00 am, Fr Jose Pottayil, General Councillor, and Dr Thomas Kandaswamy, Chartered Accountant, arrived at the Chapter venue to explain the situation with regard to the Chennai issue. In the afternoon, both Fr Pottayil and Dr Kandaswamy were available for clarifying our doubts and answering our questions.

The assembly was dispersed for the day at 4.30 pm.

### **Day 9: 5 November, 2017**

Fr Sebastian Thomas presided over the Eucharist and called on the assembly to reflect on our commitment to the Lord as Paulines in our apostolate.

The Capitulars gathered for the proceedings of the 9th day at 9 a.m. Fr Joe Eruppakkatt, Actuary, presented the minutes of the previous day's proceedings and the assembly passed it with a few amendments.

The assembly then discussed the priorities and operative guidelines on "Book Centre, Audio Visual/Mini Media/App" and suggested modifications and additions.

The assembly continued the discussion on the topic: *Administration of the Province*.

The matter of increasing the pocket money and holiday allowance came up for discussion, but the assembly agreed to recommend it to the Provincial Government.

It was felt that the role of DGA and Asst. DGA needs to be specified. The DGA need not be the person responsible for everything related to the apostolate. The same is true of the Asst. Bursar. There has to be clearly spelt roles with such appointments.

There was also a discussion if we need a separate Financial Administrator apart from the Provincial Bursar. This is desirable, provided there is proper coordination between the two.

Now that our activities are under two companies, it was felt that there is a need of the individual directors

sharing the financial resources with the Central Office. There has to be a CEO or a Director for each company and the individual directors function under the direction of the Director.

Some in the assembly felt that we need to maintain a digital archive of all the important documents in the Province.

In the afternoon Fr Provincial began the session by sharing the contents of the letters from the members of the Province. The Provincial also informed the assembly of the financial resources available with us for investment. He then informed of a property available between Guwahati and Shillong. Another property is available in Hubli. In Palayamkottai the Bishop is willing to part with a small property within the vicinity of the Cathedral. A property that could be for residence and for formation house is also available nearby. After listening to these and other proposals, the assembly was unanimous in suggesting to the Provincial Government to procure properties for current and future expansion. Br Luigi suggested that the Provincial Government should constitute a committee for the developmental purpose.

A discussion was held regarding the two properties in Bengaluru: the land given to St Paul's Parish and to the Clarisa sisters. We need to make arrangements with the diocese so as to recover the money spent on

developmental charges. Similarly we need to settle the issue of the land given to Clarisa Sisters. It was suggested that we constitute a commission to settle the issues.

Br Darlei Zanon animated the assembly on the next topic for discussion, namely, Education and Media Training Ministry:

Study well the letter of the Superior General regarding the pedagogical identity and fundamental operational choice related to media education apostolate. We need to consolidate various initiatives relating to Media Education of our three institutes regarding their marketing, infrastructure, etc.

We need to keep in mind that the mission of the Pauline centres of study is media education and media technology. If necessary we enlarge the scope, but always remember to keep our identity. We are called to become formators in the field of communication, Biblical formation, human, social and cultural formation.

Fr Jikson, Director of AICE, Lagos, presented a small power point on AICE, explaining the background, mission and various courses offered. He also explained the plans for the next six months.

The Administrator of SPICE, Bengaluru, showed a power-point regarding the courses offered at SPICE

and St Pauls College, Bengaluru. He explained that we will urgently need more infrastructure: Class Rooms, Psychology Lab, Library, MAC Lab, Rest Rooms, Play Ground, etc.

A member raised the question, 'why two Institutes in the same building'. The DGA explained the history of how such arrangements came about - mainly because of the affiliation issues. The Provincial said that we could treat it as one college with two faculties. The assembly felt that our educational initiatives are going in the right direction. The Superior General informed the assembly that we can go for general courses, but communication is the pillar and we relate other courses to communication.

A member from Ranchi spoke of the need to open a PU College in Ranchi, as it is a need of the people of the area. He has consulted the leaders in the village and they are very happy about this venture. He also felt that we could purchase a property in Ranchi for a Book Centre.

The next topic of discussion was Pauline Family. It was felt that the General Government and the last Provincial Chapter had insisted on this, but so far nothing has been done. This also needs to be urgently considered in the case of Nigeria. One member informed the assembly that the Institute of the Holy

Family was initiated in Pune with 20 families, but no further steps were taken. Fr Provincial said that it is a good idea to initiate this institute since we also run a few parishes. Fr Celso clarified that both Pauline Co-operators and aggregated institutes, like the Holy Family are integral part of the Pauline Family. However it is better for us to continue with the formation of the Institute of Holy Family.

The next topic was the creation of Nigeria into a region. Some members, especially those from Nigeria felt that although it is a need the time has not yet come.

The proceedings of the day concluded at 7.30 pm.

### **Day 10: 6 November 2017**

The day was started with the celebration of the Eucharist. Fr Devasia P., the main celebrant, in his homily emphasised on God's mercy, protection and providence. He also well connected the life of our Founder and the faith-experiences of Paulines with the liturgy of the Word.

At 8.45 am the Capitulars along with the members of the General Government gathered on the CRI grounds for a photo session. When the members assembled in the Chapter hall at 9.00 am, Fr George Chathanatt led the assembly in prayer. This was followed by the screening of a video message exclusively made for the

2<sup>nd</sup> Seminar on Pauline publishing held in Rome from 16 to 21 October this year.

Fr Dominic D'Silva presented the report of the previous two days for publication in the official bulletin. It was approved by the assembly. Fr Sebastian K.V., one of the Actuaries, presented the minutes of the previous day. It was approved with a few amendments.

The Secretary announced the main programme of the day — approving the **Priorities and Operative Guidelines**. The assembly agreed to do the same by voice vote, taking up topic by topic. The Priorities and Operative Guidelines were one by one reviewed and approved with some modifications.

A question was raised by the Provincial whether the members working outside our communities should belong to the Provincialate or to the local communities as it is the case now.

A member felt that our Province has completely neglected recording the history of the Province.

Another member felt that we have completely given up the publishing of 'Beloved in St Paul'. The online publishing of news loses the recording value.

After the discussions on **Priorities and Operative Guidelines** for the next four years the Assembly unanimously passed them and recommended them

to the General Government for its study and approval.

The Superior General addressed the Assembly. He congratulated the Capitulars for the great work done for the past nine days. He also congratulated the Provincial and his Team and wished them all success. The Provincial team has to accomplish *the Priorities and Operative* guidelines with the cooperation all the members. He exhorted the Provincial Councillors to work as a team forgetting all differences. We all belong to the Pauline Family and we do everything for the Gospel.

# PRIORITIES & OPERATIVE GUIDELINES

## **Vision Statement**

In the spirit of *Evangelii Gaudium*, the India-Nigeria-Great Britain-Ireland Province, that is “reaching out” in a multi-cultural reality by using all the means of today, especially the digital, is called to be evangelizers in the spirit of the Apostle Paul and the the Charism of Blessed James Alberione, strives to live and give the total Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life, in the light of the Objective of the Xth General Chapter: “I do everything for the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:23).

## **Mission Statement**

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 those in the periphery, utilizing the new languages of communication.

# **1. VOCATION PROMOTION, FORMATION & ON-GOING FORMATION**

## **VOCATION PROMOTION**

### **Priority**

*Identify and promote genuine vocations for Pauline Life and Mission in its dual expression.*

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Appoint a full-time Vocation Promoter and make vocation promotion a year-round programme by following up the prospective candidates.
2. Recruit vocations to Pauline life in its dual expression of Priesthood and Brotherhood.
3. Include a section for vocation promotion in our Website and ST PAULS APP and use all possible digital media.
4. Equip vocation promoters with necessary facilities (like vehicle) for their work when needed.

## **FORMATION**

### **Priority**

*A formation programme that will ensure the candidates to live an integral life and to carry out the specific Pauline mission.*

## **Operative Guidelines**

1. Appoint an Assistant Master for aspirants who will also carry out vocation promotion in each region.
2. Erect formation houses for first year aspirants also in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and establish a Minor Seminary for the whole country.
3. Introduce community experience during Postulancy.
4. Make provision for the study of Italian and at least one local language during the Juniorate.

## **ON-GOING FORMATION**

### **Priority**

***Specific programme for accompanying the members in their ongoing Formation.***

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Ensure that the newly ordained get Pauline mission experience in rural areas at least for a period of two years.
2. Arrange occasional renewal programmes in specialized centres for those who wish and those who require it.
3. Organize Charism course in India and a visit to

- the important places related with the Founder.
4. Provide Spiritual Directors and Confessors for all the members at regular interval.

## **2. SPIRITUALITY & COMMUNITY LIFE**

### **Priority 1**

*Renewal of the Province by reviving the spiritual life of the members.*

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Organize a spiritual renewal course for the whole Province (1<sup>st</sup> year).
2. Organise meaningful communitarian/group celebration of the Eucharist.
3. Conduct common reading and meditation on the Word of God.
4. Stress the need for personal prayer in individual members.
5. Encourage creativity in our spiritual practices.
6. Build a Spirituality Centre for the Province (2<sup>nd</sup> year).
7. Make our community prayers more life related: spirit of collaboration and willingness to work in an equip.

## **Priority 2**

***Foster fraternal collaboration and interpersonal relationship/friendship among the members of the community.***

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Encourage friendly dialogue between the superior and members, and among members themselves.
2. Give priority to the welfare of the members over communitarian activities.
3. Make sure that proper information is shared with the members on time.
4. Provincial government ensures that Community and Council meetings are held regularly and fruitfully in all communities.
5. Provide timely psychological and spiritual assistance to members in difficulty.
6. Discourage unhealthy and destructive groupism if it exists anywhere.
7. Organize seminars on Community Life from time to time.
8. Recognise and appreciate the contributions of the members, however small they may be.

### 3. APOSTOLATE

#### **Biblical & Catechetical Apostolate**

##### **Priority**

*Employ all possible means of communication to bring the Good News to everyone.*

##### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Include Formative and Pastoral activities in Alberione Good News Centre in addition to the publishing work, creating adequate infrastructure.
2. Wherever possible collaborate with the Local church for Biblical and Catechetical initiatives.
3. Train at least two persons in digital media.
4. Take decisive measures to re-launch and promote the New Community Bible and publish it in different editions (deluxe, gift, popular, etc.).

#### **Publishing & Press**

##### **Priority**

*Strengthen our publishing apostolate in its various forms, keeping in mind the multi-cultural reality of the Province.*

##### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Strengthen publishing apostolate by employing more personnel and better technology.
2. Make efforts to increase the number of new titles during the year.
3. Strengthen the regional publishing houses with personnel, financial resources, and with better marketing strategies.
4. Develop a software that links editorial, technical, sales and distribution of all our products and services.
5. Explore the possibility of publishing regional language editions of the Inspirational Quote, especially in Hindi.
6. Study the possibility of starting local editions of *The Teenager Today*.
7. Revive the Teen of the Year pageant.

## **Book Centre & Diffusion**

### **Priority**

***Reach the maximum number of people with preferential option for those in the 'periphery'.***

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Promote multimedia and cultural activities through our Book Centres, wherever possible.

2. Centralize purchase of books and religious articles.
3. Network with local Book Centres, Pastoral and Pilgrim centres.
4. Strengthen mobile units with right personnel and suitable vehicles.
5. Train Book Centre personnel for better customer care.
6. Enhance our distribution efforts in Ireland.

## **Audio Visual/Mini Media/App**

### **Priority**

***Creatively organize our multimedia apostolate (Audio Visual, Mini Media and App) to suit the digital age.***

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Make available multimedia products in new formats to suit the current market trends.
2. Produce creative and value based You-Tube videos.
3. Start web TV, web radio and community radio in collaboration with the local church (Mumbai, North East, etc.).
4. Have separate Apps for Bible Diary and New Community Bible.

## **Education and Media Training**

### **Priority**

***Consolidate our Educational Institutions with sufficient infrastructure and personnel.***

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Provide sufficient infrastructure to St Pauls College & SPICE, Bengaluru & AICE Lagos.
2. Study the possibility of starting a PU College in Ranchi.

## **Parish Ministry**

### **Priority**

***Ensure Pauline identity of our parishes and their transparent administration.***

### **A. Pastoral Care**

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Make sure that our Parishes promote Pauline Spirituality, Vocations and Mission.
2. Celebrate the principal feasts of the Pauline Family with due solemnity.
3. Establish Book Centres, organise book displays, media-related courses and vocation camps for the youth.

4. Inform the parishioners of the important events of the Province and Congregation and solicit their prayers.
5. Erect Adoration Chapel in our parishes, wherever possible.

## **B. Parish Administration**

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Introduce efficient budgeting system in our parishes.
2. Maintain transparency and accuracy in the financial management.
3. Strictly adhere to directives and guidelines of the respective Diocese and of the Province.
4. Keep our Community informed of the various activities of the parish and involve our members in the parish as much as possible.

## **Marketing**

### **Priority**

***Establish a centralized functional marketing department with qualified personnel.***

### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Creatively use the modern technology to give visibility to our products and services.

2. Organize well-planned book launches.
3. Establish personal contact with prospective clients and institutions.
4. Appoint an agency/consultant to advise on marketing strategies.
5. Use Pauline periodicals to promote our products.
6. Assist online promotion department of UK-Ireland by the Central Marketing Office.
7. Celebrate important occasions and milestones in our life and mission and make use of the same to promote better visibility and branding.
8. Allocate funds in the central budget for Marketing.
9. Conduct surveys regarding the changing readership trend.
10. Create a website for ST PAULS in Nigeria.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATION**

##### **Priority**

***Efficient and transparent management of our financial and human resources.***

##### **Operative Guidelines**

1. Appoint two persons with statutory powers for strict and periodic internal auditing of all our communities and apostolic sectors.

2. Appoint a Financial Administrator for our Apostolic Sector with clearly defined duties and responsibilities.
3. Appoint an Assistant Bursar and an Assistant DGA with clearly defined responsibilities.
4. Digitalize and maintain all our Documents.
5. Identify and train some confreres to manage the finance and the administration of our properties.
6. Begin centralised financial management of all our apostolic activities starting with Mumbai Campus.

### **Recommendations**

- Appoint a commission to study the future possible investments.
- Invest our available funds to buy land for current and future development.
- Buy properties and build our own bookshops in places where we have already existing bookshops.

## **5. PAULINE FAMILY**

### **Priority 1**

***Revive the Association of Pauline Co-operators and initiate the process of starting the Institute of the Holy Family in our Province.***

## **Operative Guideline**

1. Appoint a person with delegated authority to initiate the Association of Pauline Co-operators and the Holy Family Institute.

## **Priority 2**

*Undertake the charismatic role of the animation proper to the congregation as service to all the Institutions of the Pauline Family.*

## **Operative Guidelines**

1. Promote necessary collaboration with the Institutions of the Pauline Family, not only in the apostolic field, ministerial service and common celebrations, but also in the field of Vocation Promotion and Formation.
2. Attempt to resume the practice of the annual meeting of the Provincial Governments of the three branches of the Pauline Family in India.

**Fr Varghese Gnalian**  
(Provincial Superior)

**Fr Geore Chathanattu**  
(Secretary)