



NEWS FLASH FROM THE SEMINAR...

1 May 2016

“To rediscover, in our Pauline mysticism, the unifying power of our spirituality and the prophetic power of our mission”: this line of action, pinpointed by our 10th General Chapter, launched our International Seminar on Pauline Mysticism. The fifty-one FSPs participating in this event are all fired by the desire to come to a deeper grasp of the essentials of our prophetic vocation and to offer the Congregation the fruit of their reflections.

The Seminar opened with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Valdir José De Castro, Superior General of the Society of St. Paul, who underscored the divine-human dimension of our apostolic mysticism: to welcome the transforming Light of God, which creates communion with him and others, impelling us to “continually *come out of ourselves*” and communicate with the world. “This communication should touch hearts, spread the warmth of Mother Church, build bridges, foster fruitful human encounters, open spaces for dialogue, mutual understanding, reconciliation, and build peace and harmony,” emphasized Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan, Superior General, in her welcome address to the group, echoing the Message the Holy Father’s Message for the 50th World Communications Day.

Afterward, we listened with great interest to the wealth of input offered us by the first day’s speakers. Here is an extract from each conference, to give you an idea of the material on which we are reflecting:

Professor Elena Lea Bartolini De Angeli: *Integrity in the Daily Life of Judaism*

The relationship between the People of Israel and the Torah is a vital one. The Torah’s teaching is not only intellectual but above all life-oriented. Each moment of life has meaning in the light of its precepts and becomes a witness to holiness for everyone.

Sr. Antonietta Potente: *When the Self Is Hidden Behind Activity*

“Doing” is like a door one passes through to reach another person.... In doing we must be beggars with regard to truth and light, not despots who think they can do everything on their own.... If you fill your spaces with others, not with “doing,” then you will dwell there with love, joy and respect.

Sr. Elena Bosetti: *The Word as a Place of Unity: Martha and Mary*

Every activity becomes agitated and restless if it is not rooted in listening to the Word. In contrast, profound and ongoing contact with the Word makes every service (in whatever situation and whatever one’s age) precious and fruitful. We must make the Word our home, that is to say: we must “inhabit” and “dwell” in the Word. “If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples” (Jn. 8:31). To remain in—to dwell in—the Word: this is the challenge of apostolic mysticism!

Fr. Antonio Pitta: *The Life of the Apostle as Worship*

Worship, a constitutive element of Pauline mysticism, touched many different areas of the life of Paul and his communities. First of all, the apostolate for the diffusion of the Gospel through one’s mission is a cultural expression: chosen for the Gospel, Paul worshiped the Lord with it. He viewed his entire existence—not just one moment or aspect of it—as worship to the point of “pouring himself out” so as to water the faith of his receivers.

Today we are working in small groups—the first step toward drawing up a small document that will give direction to the reflections of the sisters who will be participating in our Interchapter Meeting.

We’ll send you a little more information later. Thank you for your support and prayers. You can continue to follow our activities on the www.paoline.org website.

The Editorial Team