



NEWS FLASH FROM THE SEMINAR...

5 May 2016

Hard work, serenity and sharing: this is the atmosphere that colors our days here at the Seminar on Apostolic Mysticism. The time is speeding by but the pace of our days is tranquil, not frenetic. The talks we are listening to are all very interesting and provocative, with each conference followed by a question-and-answer period. Since the time is limited, the requests for clarification presented to the speakers are chosen in small group sessions held at the conclusion of each talk.

Usually a day of conferences is followed by a day of reflection, group work and the fusing of our work on the small-group level into a unitary synthesis.

As in our previous news flash, we offer you here brief extracts from the talks that have been presented up to now. In a few days, you will be able to read the conferences in their entirety in the *Reserved Area* of our website (www.paoline.org).

Sr. Grazia Paris: *Contemplation and Action in the Fathers*

A characteristic of the unified person is that he/she does not become agitated by the many things that need to be done. Instead, he/she concentrates on the one thing necessary: to focus on the Lord. This choice of life involves the desire to conform oneself to the will of God and to share with one's brothers and sisters the feelings we carry in our hearts so as to experience the joy of being "one in heart and soul" with them. A unified person lives the alternations between activity and contemplation in a balanced way and goes even further, aiming at what the two are striving to reach, namely: perfect love.

Fr. Nello Cipriani: *Becoming One All Together, According to the Rule of St. Augustine*

Religious perfection is not measured by what one does but by the love for the common good that inspires one's work. In all human societies, roles are not necessarily all equal. In religious communities too there are different roles and duties, assigned according to the needs of the common life and the abilities of individuals. [...] Regarding St. Paul's discourse on the subject of charisms, St. Augustine says that each member of the community should rejoice in the gifts of the others because "thanks to the unity of the body, I can do what my brother or sister does, because I am not separated from him/her. If I have less power, then the other person shares my poverty, while I rejoice with him/her for the 'more' that he/she has."

Fr. Giuseppe Forlai: *The Sources of Inspiration for Alberione's Concept of Integrality*

Alberione was familiar with the three models of the theology of the priesthood: the *missionary model*, with its link to the role of prophecy; the *sacramental model*, which gives fundamental importance to ministry of the sacraments, and the *pastoral model*, which gives priority to "taking care of souls." [...] The model of integrality of the prophetic-missionary priesthood is for all the members of the PF, both men and women. This priestly role was already received as a gift in Baptism. The proclamation of Christ is the offering/sacrifice to which every baptized person is called. In fact, the highest form of worship is the proclamation of Christ (cf. Rm. 1:9).

Sr. Mary Melone: *Integrality in the Community: The Eucharist and the Service of Authority*

The Eucharist is the sacrificial gift of Christ, the creator of communion, because communion is made possible only through the sharing of a *gift*. [...] This communion springs from the awareness of having received a gift—the life of Christ himself—which cannot be kept for oneself but which must

be shared in a concrete relationship with another person. And here *concreteness* refers back to the real *distinction* and *diversification* of the journey of those who enter into communion with one another. This is so true that the Celebration [of the Eucharist] depends on and manifests the quality of the community celebrating it.

Fr. Giancarlo Rocca: *Spiritual Life and Mission in New Forms of Consecrated Life*

In general, the main characteristics of the new forms of religious life in the Church can be summarized thus: recognition of the value of sharing and of fraternal life; great esteem for hospitality; strong emphasis on the centrality of the Gospel; new forms of prayer, not infrequently along the lines of the Charismatic Renewal; strong propensity for forms of contemplative-eremetical life, with a notable appreciation for silence; appreciation for the religious habit, regarded not only as a juridical element, but as an identifying spiritual value; and traditional devotional practices, understood as “a step backward for a step forward.”

Yesterday morning we made a “Jubilee Pilgrimage” to the subcrypt of the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary and then to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. In the afternoon we had the pleasure of listening to the testimonies of representatives of the five Congregations of the Pauline Family, who explained how their Institutes are living the problems and joys of integrality and the journey they foresee for the future in this regard.

Thank you for taking the time to read this news flash. We continue to count on your prayers and we’ll be in touch again.

The Editorial Team