



2ND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON THE PAULINE FORMATION FOR THE MISSION

ARICCIA, 4-8 NOVEMBER 2019

READING KEY



INTRODUCTION

The **celebration** of this *2nd International Seminar on Pauline Formation for the Mission*, from 4 to 8 November 2019, at the “Casa Divin Maestro” in Ariccia (RM), is the answer to one of the suggestions made to the General Government by the Circumscription Superiors on the occasion of the last Interchapter of the Society of Saint Paul (Aparecida, Brazil, 15-25 February 2018). The Major Superiors asked the General Government to organize this *2nd Seminar* to bring us into harmony – with regard to the formation of the Paulines – with the reflections and lights that came to us from the *2nd International Seminar of the Pauline Publishers*.

The **objective** is to promote the integral formation of the Pauline, “apostle-communicator and consecrated person”, for a renewed apostolic impetus of our mission starting from the current communication context, highlighted during the *2nd International Seminar of the Pauline Publishers*.

The **participants**, 79 persons, are made up of the General Government, Major Superiors, General Coordinators of Formation, Directors General of the Apostolate and guests.

The *Seminar* takes place through conferences, round tables and study groups divided by language.

This “reading key” acts as a guide for the reading-understanding of all the reports, round tables, questionnaires, etc., presented during the *Seminar*. From this perspective, we take a look at the days of the *Seminar* and present two aspects that we consider very important: the main ideas that emerged from all the interventions and the persons or groups to whom reading the Acts is most useful.

1st DAY:

1) *Opening of the 2nd International Seminar on the Pauline Formation for the Mission* – **Father Valdir José De Castro**

Father Valdir points out the connection of the *2nd International Seminar on the Pauline Formation for the Mission* with the *1st Seminar* of 1994. He exposes the themes that concern our identity to be transformed into Jesus through integral formation for the mission that makes one to be apostle-communicator with a specific colour that is of St. Paul. The Superior General speaks of some challenges in formation, using all the means of today, the digital in particular, in the complementarity between formation and mission, between new and traditional media.

Useful for **initial** and **ongoing formation** and the **formation team**, the **council of apostolate**, the **community meeting**.

2) *Consecrated Life today* – H.E. Mons. José Rodríguez Carballo

The speaker presents some aspects of formation in consecrated life using contrasting images from nature: death-life, pruning-fertility, sunset-sunrise. He suggests to face positively the challenges of consecrated life, with the hope of prophetically living one's own call and mission. More than ever, ongoing formation must occupy the first place, demanding a personalized discernment-accompaniment by the formators responsible in the various stages of formation.

Valid for the **juniorate** and **ongoing formation**, as well as for the **formation team** and the **community meeting**.

3) *Together on the road of Emmaus for a virtuous reception of the synodal Journey* – **Father Rossano Sala**

The text follows the overview of the process of the Synod of Bishops: "*Young people, faith and vocational discernment*". In accompanying and discerning with young people, the following points are to be privileged: «time is greater than space», «unity prevails over conflict», «reality is more important than the idea», «the whole is superior to the part». The importance of the synodal journey is that *a way of being* and of *working together*, both young and old, in listening and in discernment, is being advanced in order to reach pastoral choices that respond to reality.

Useful for **vocation promotion**, **initial** and **ongoing formation**, for the **formation team** and the **community meeting**.

4) *Round table – "Formation in the light of the Synod on the Young"*

The speakers are those who participated closely in the Synod on young people. Their experiences, observations and insights on the Synod are precious.

I) *Vocation and Discernment*– Professor Cecilia Costa

The author describes the dynamics of the fluid and complex anthropological, social and cultural realities of today – aggravated by the pervasive underground currents of the

digital environment – which influence the discernment process for the vocational choices of young people. The role of qualified formators is essential, with “passion for vocations”, as “credible witnesses”, in accompanying young people.

Suitable for **vocation promotion**; it will also be useful for the stages of **initial formation** and for the **formation team**.

II) *Acceptance and formative Community* – Father Carlo Casalone

With the image of the journey of the disciples of Emmaus, the author describes the process of welcoming on a personal and community level. It emphasizes the formation to discernment and the formation of conscience, linking the spiritual dimension to the moral dimension in the discernment process.

Useful in all stages of **initial formation**.

III) *Make the Church Young: Ongoing Formation* – Sister Alessandra Smerilli

Vocation goes through the discernment process that involves both adults and young people, requiring listening, prayer and dialogue in which the young person is valued for his uniqueness, bearer of the “good”. It requires that adults, “walking together” with young people, are credible through their life of witnessing.

To be addressed primarily to **ongoing formation**.

2nd DAY

It is centred on the world of communication and its “inhabitants”, especially the young people, the so-called “digital natives”, making a connection with the content of the 2nd *International Seminar of the Pauline Publishers*.

1. *The Media Society and the Meducation* – Professor Massimiliano Padula

The professor of the Lateran University explains the concept of “meducation” (educating with, to and in the media), an innovative pedagogy proposal to educate society or media humanity, which is the set of all individuals (us) who they coexist with and are transformed by technological devices. It is a school that could greatly assist formators in finding a modern methodology for forming in communication.

Valid for **ongoing formation** and the **council of apostolate**.

2. Round table: *“The Digital Natives: Accepting and Forming Them”*

Among the different ways in which young people are characterized today, the concept of “digital natives”, made known by Marc Prensky, was chosen; it is further deepened starting from several dimensions:

I) *Ethical and Pastoral Dimension* – Father Marco Sanavio

The author deepens the fundamental concepts connected to digital natives, such as faith, presence, perception, imagination.

For the **juniorate** and **ongoing formation**.

II) *Religious and Apostolic Dimension* – **Father Rosario Rosarno**

Assuming that digital natives are people and not an abstract category, we try to get to know them in order to better welcome them (and involve them) in our communities and apostolic places.

For the **juniorate** and **ongoing formation**.

3rd DAY

1) *“Church Magisterium on Formation”* – **Professor Laura Dalfollo**

It is a report difficult to read. It takes Vatican II as its starting point. It develops out an itinerary divided into two parts. The **first part** is dedicated to understanding religious life and its development within an ecclesiology of communion. In the **second part** it offers formative guidelines situated in the light of the Magisterium in the time in which we live, with the consequent urgencies and needs.

For the **juniorate** and **ongoing formation**.

2) **Round table:** *“Experiences and current Practices of Formation in other Religious Congregations”*

All the speakers present their style of forming candidates. The itinerary is very common across the consecrated life. Emphasized are the challenges that are described in each of them:

I) *Jesuits* – **Father Angelo Schettini**

Formation for the vows of the new generations entails new challenges: the young Jesuits are “digital natives”, the media deeply touch their emotional and relational world. During the Novitiate, the novices do not have a mobile phone, and they use the internet discreetly. Formators try to answer these and other challenges.

II) *Salesians* – **Father Carlo Maria Zanotti**

We live in a new media era, in which technology is visibly creating and transforming culture. This challenge confirms the need to form formators! An urgent challenge is that of personal accompaniment!

III) *Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate* – **Father Giuseppe Rubino**

The main characteristic is to form in the charism for the Oblate mission. To do this the author insists on the knowledge of the Founder. Then he continues in an experience of youth ministry that they are doing in Marino (Castelli Romani).

All three speakers presented the main challenges they currently face in the formation field of the younger generations. Everyone started from the novitiate onwards. They can be interesting experiences from which one can learn, even if the charisms are different.

These are training experiences that can help the whole **formation team** and each of the **formators**.

3) *Presentation of the Results of the “Questionnaire on Formation”* – **Father Celso Godilano**

The Questionnaire, with very specific questions which involved the perpetually professed and those who are in the initial formation, had the purpose of perceiving the situation of the Pauline integral formation throughout the formative process. In addition, the Questionnaire had questions addressed respectively to those directly involved in formation, therefore, to the whole formation team, to the council of apostolate and to the circumscription council. The Questionnaire has limitations. The most significant is that not everyone answered the questions. There were 369 responses (out of 837 professed and 20 novices and from 108 selected aspirants and postulants).

To understand the situation of the Pauline integral formation of the formandi, its reading is fundamental for the **formation team** and for all the **formators**, and for all **those who carry out roles of authority**.

4) *Updated Reading of the congregational Magisterium on Formation* – **Father José Salud Paredes**

It is probably one of the main topics of the *Seminar*. The author proposes the 8 firm principles that must be present throughout the formation course. These are the principles that must give the “Pauline colour” to the whole formation. Each principle is based on a Pauline bibliography.

In a special way, it must be taken into consideration by the **vocation promotion team** and the **formation team** and by **every formator**.

4th DAY

1) *Jesus Master, Original Model of the Communicator* – **Sister Regina Cesarato**

In this conference, structured in seven points, Sister Regina shows that Jesus Way, Truth and Life is the Master and Model of the Pauline Communicator. To know him, we must refer to the Scriptures and we must imitate him to avoid incommunicability, communicating salvation and facing the complexity of human communication.

For the **juniorate, ongoing formation** and the **council of apostolate**.

2) **Round table**

1) *Paul, a Man of Communication and Relations* – **Father Giacomo Perego**

The author shows that Paul is formed to become a man of communication and relationships, especially in Antioch with Barnabas (Acts 11). There Paul is formed alongside the Jews and pagans who have adhered to Jesus, that is, he is formed within the community. And it is the community that, moved by the Holy Spirit, sends him

with Barnabas for the first missionary journey (Acts 13). Its reading is important because the Pauline is a man of communication and relationships, as publisher of the future!

Valid for **the novitiate** and the **juniorate**.

II) *Paul the Formator: A Father/Mother Giving Birth in Pain* – Sister Elena Bosetti

In five points, Sister Elena claims that St. Paul is a formator for his children in the Spirit and is their father and mother at the same time; because forming is like giving birth, which does not exclude suffering. And for St. Paul, formation is communitarian because he often uses the “you” in plural (cf. Gal 4:19); and this formation must conform us to Christ (cf. Gal 2:20; Phil 1:21), imitating the Apostle who, as formator, also had a decalogue: love, apostolate, etc.

Valid for the **juniorate**, **ongoing formation** and the **formation team**.

III) *Paul and his Collaborators*– Pastor Lidia Maggi

It is very interesting to hear this “non-Catholic voice”, the Baptist Pastor Lidia, to tell us about our father Saint Paul. Her text makes us understand the spirit of synodality of Saint Paul, he who worked with many collaborators to proclaim the Gospel. They evangelized as a team, also tackling conflicts together to favour respect, affection among them.

Useful for the **novitiate**, **juniorate** and **council of apostolate**.

3) *Accept Diversity without Exclusion: Forming to Interculturality in a Multicultural Community*– Father Rinaldo Paganelli

In three points, plus the conclusion, Father Rinaldo starts from the globalization of the world that has caused the exchange between peoples and nations, to arrive at the religious life that must have multicultural communities, not only international ones. It is therefore necessary to get to the interculturality of the members, to have the ability to interact between the various *cultures*, to promote listening and dialogue to move from *common life to communion of life*.

For the **novitiate**, **juniorate** and **ongoing formation**.

5th DAY

1) *Editorial Guidelines and the 2nd International Seminar of the Pauline Publishers* – Brother Darlei Zanon

The “Editorial Guidelines” are presented as an important tool to follow in the reorganization of formation, so that it is oriented to form true “apostles-publishers”. It describes what the essence of the Pauline is and his apostolic mission in the current communication context. It calls for a change of logic and sets out useful criteria for carrying out a more effective apostolate.

It offers good ideas, in particular for formation in the **juniorate**, **ongoing formation** and the **council of apostolate**.

2) *Digital Vocation Promotion* – Father Julio Roncancio

A video is presented which describes the vocational pastoral activity carried out in the Colombia-Ecuador-Panama Province on digital platforms, which has proved to be useful for the accompaniment and vocational discernment of young people.

Useful in particular for **vocation promotion** and **initial formation**.

3) *The Experience of the International Novitiate* – Novice Manoel Gomes da Silva Filho

The experience lived in the international Novitiate in the Albano Laziale community is shared, highlighting the importance of exploring and knowing the roots of the Pauline charism in the places where it was born, accompanied by authoritative witnesses. The author concludes by exposing some challenges that he perceived during the novitiate, for which to engage in the future.

Especially useful for **initial formation**.

4) *Clinical Pastoral Education* – Father Raymond Ferraris

The Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) project is described, included in the *Iter formationis* of the Philippines-Macau Province, addressed to the temporary professed who finished the 2nd year of theology. After defining what is meant by CPE, the author sets out the program in all its phases, the specific role played by students and the objectives in view of the pastoral ministry.

Specific for formation in the **juniorate**, it could also be useful for the **ongoing formation**.

5) *Course of Preparation for Perpetual Profession* – Cleric James Arinze Edeh

The author describes the experience of the *Course of Preparation for Perpetual Profession* as a journey through the history and spirituality of the Congregation. He highlights the poverty of knowledge of the Pauline charism and spirituality in the various Circumscriptions. Finally, he lists the benefits of the *Course* and also some organizational aspects to be improved.

Useful for the **initial formation** and for the **juniorate**.