

Triduum of Preparation for the Feast of BLESSED JAMES ALBERIONE
on the 50th Anniversary of his “dies natalis”

LEGACY OF A FOUNDER
SECOND DAY - 24 NOVEMBER 2021

THE SPIRITUALITY OF COMMUNICATION

It is the dimension that gives flavor to our life. We are shaped by the work of the Spirit, he who makes us pass from individuals to people capable of communion. Communicating is not a simple activity but it is our way of living because we are interwoven with relationships with God, neighbor and ourselves... Today we pray that the Pauline Family, through the intercession of Blessed James Alberione, witness to the Church and to the world the centrality of living in Jesus Way, Truth and Life.

TRUTH

■ Listening to the Word of the Apostle Paul

Modern society needs strong motivations to wake up from apathy and indifference. We know that the answer to all human questions is the person of Jesus Christ: even if ignored, the world needs Him. Blessed James Alberione felt this challenge of humanity intensely and, like St. Paul, dedicated his entire life to giving adequate answers.

From the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (3:8-12)

To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light [for all] what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the principalities and authorities in the heavens. This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness of speech and confidence of access through faith in him.

■■ Listening to the Word of the Pope

It is a source of joy for us to note that so many intuitions of our Founder have somehow entered the sphere of the universal Church. And one of these is certainly the absolute centrality of Christ, accordingly considered as the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the origin, the content, the strength of evangelization. Blessed James Alberione sums it up well: the meaning of our life is “to live and give Jesus Christ, Way, Truth and Life.”

From the Address of St. John Paul II to the Young:

The Way. [...] I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. [...] May Christ’s joy and peace be with you always. [...] In union with the entire Church, may you commit yourselves generously to follow Jesus Christ, who alone is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life”. [...] With deep affinity and affection, I repeat a question already asked some time ago at Lisbon: are you aware of being “Christ's natural allies” in evangelization? [...] With the very words of Christ, I ask you: “What do you seek”? (Jn 1:38). Do you seek God?

The Truth. “*What is truth?*” he was asked by Pilate. Pilate’s tragedy was that although truth was there before him, personified by Jesus Christ, he failed to recognize it. [...] The eyes of faith see in Jesus Christ man as he could be and as God wishes him to be. At the same time, Jesus reveals to us the love of the Father. [...] However, *the Truth is Jesus Christ*. Love the truth! Live the truth! Bring the truth to the world! *Be witnesses to the truth!* Jesus is the truth that saves; he is the Truth to which the Spirit of Truth shall lead us (cf. *Jn 16: 13*).

The Life. [...] The Christian faith places *a deep link between love and life*. In John’s Gospel, we read: “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (*Jn 3:16*). God’s love brings us to life, and this *love and life* are realized in *Jesus Christ*. He is the Incarnate Love of the Father; in him “the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared” (*Tit 3:4*). [...] The meaning of life, He will say to you: keep loving. Only the person who forgets self in order to give himself to others fulfils his own life and expresses to the greatest extent the value of his earthly existence. It is *the evangelic paradox* of the life which is redeemed by being lost (cf. *Jn 12:25*), a paradox which finds its full explanation in the mystery of Christ who died and rose for us. [...] Let us commit ourselves to following Christ, the Way, Truth and Life. Thus, we will be zealous bearers of the message of the new evangelization and generous builders of the civilization of love (*Address of John Paul II to the Young in Santiago de Compostela, 19 August 1989*).

■■■ **Listening to the Word of the Founder**

The Founder of the Pauline Family was always well aware that all efforts in favor of evangelization would be useless if they were not rooted in a solid spirituality. The happy discovery of Jesus Master Way, Truth and Life was for him the total and definitive answer to this need. And so he wanted to pass it on to his sons and daughters so that, living it in the first person, they could pass it on to the Church and to the world.

From the Writings of Blessed James Alberione

The Pauline Family strives to fully live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Way, Truth and Life, in the spirit of Saint Paul, under the gaze of the Queen of Apostles. A secret of success is to model oneself on God by living in Christ. Thus the notion of living and working in the Church and for the Church; of being wild olives grafted onto the living olive, the Eucharistic Lord; of reflecting on and nourishing oneself with every word of the Gospel, in accord with the spirit of Saint Paul – [is] always to be crystal-clear (*AD, 93,95*).

WAY

The biblical image of reference for evaluating the union of the person with the Master, in order to guarantee its fruits, is that of the vine and the branches. Father Alberione said to the Daughters of St. Paul: “The sap that makes the vine grow, that swells it, is the same sap that goes into the branches and makes the branches bear the leaves and then give the grapes, the fruit. The same with Jesus: His grace which is the lifeblood must pass from Jesus to us who live by Jesus” (FSP 56, p. 199). Let us allow ourselves to be enlightened by the light of Jesus Master to discover what we must change so that the lymph of grace, of the life of Jesus, flows freely in us, so that it can reach everyone.

LIFE

Blessed James Alberione always repeated that, if we want the mission to produce fruits of salvation, we are called to become Christ in all the dimensions of our being. “Let us go and drink Life – the Founder said –, to eat Jesus! Let us then start again bringing Christ everywhere before us; letting Him live and work alone, remaining, in the work, hidden in Him and lost in Him, since it is no longer I who

live, it is Christ who lives in me" (AS, p. 62). Let us join in the words of Father Alberione to address Jesus Master:

To Jesus Master

Master, your life traces the way for me; your doctrine confirms and lights my steps;
Your grace sustains and supports me on the way to heaven.
You are the perfect Master: You set the example, teach and comfort the disciple to follow you.
O Master, You have words of eternal life: replace with yourself my mind, my thoughts,
O You who enlighten every man and are the truth: I do not want to reason other than as You teach.
Your life is the way, unique, true, infallible security...
Let every moment set foot in your footsteps of poverty, chastity, obedience.
May my heart be replaced by yours.
To my love for God, for my neighbor, for myself, let it be substituted by yours.
To my human sinful life, let it be replaced by your divine,
purest, supernatural life. "I am the life."

Center of Pauline Spirituality – SSP General House • 2021