

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

**LEGACY OF A FOUNDER**  
**THIRD DAY - 25 NOVEMBER 2021**

## **THE WITNESSING OF APOSTOLIC HOLINESS**

*This is perhaps the least known dimension of Blessed James Alberione because it is the synthesis of all the others, including the apostolate. The whole life of the Founder and of the Pauline Family has been a constant search for holiness, and holiness was the first proposal he made to all those who approached him to follow him. He preached a great deal about holiness, and was for many a teacher and guide towards this ideal, affirming that holiness is “fullness of faith, exuberance of hope, ardor of charity... giving God everything, in order to get everything in return! Our life always running on high voltage!” (UPS I, 43). And a little further on: “To give everything to God: this is holiness” (UPS I, 84). And he gave it all! For this we can say that holiness is the best inheritance that he left to his family and to the Church.*

### **TRUTH**

#### ■ **Listening to the Word of the Apostle Paul**

*Saint Paul thanks God for the grace that has been given to the Corinthians in Christ Jesus and asks that he confirm them in holiness “to the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” We can consider these words as addressed to us by St. Paul and also by our Founder, a true wish for each of us, because we are among those who felt what he felt at the beginning of his inspiration. To fully welcome the grace of the Lord Jesus and try to give it to others: this is holiness.*

#### **From the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1:4-9)**

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus (Christ). God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### ■ ■ **Listening to the Word of the Pope**

*Holiness cannot be separated from mission. The holiness of Blessed James Alberione is apostolic holiness, and thus he always presents it to his sons and daughters. It is a holiness that is realized in the mission, indeed – says Pope Francis – “every saint is a mission” which can be understood and lived only in Christ.*

#### **From the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*:**

A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for “this is the will of God, your sanctification” (1 Thess 4:3). Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to

reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel. That mission has its fullest meaning in Christ, and can only be understood through him. At its core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mysteries of his life. It consists in uniting ourselves to the Lord's death and resurrection in a unique and personal way, constantly dying and rising anew with him. But it can also entail reproducing in our own lives various aspects of Jesus' earthly life: his hidden life, his life in community, his closeness to the outcast, his poverty and other ways in which he showed his self-sacrificing love (*Gaudete et exsultate*, nos. 19-20).

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

*"To accomplish your important task, you must first of all cultivate a constant and profound bond with Christ; only deep communion with him will enable you to bring the announcement of salvation to today's man!", Benedict XVI said to the leaders of the Catholic weeklies, on 26 November 2010. Father Alberione had a very clear awareness that only those who are holy, whoever lives the constant and profound bond with Christ, can proclaim the Gospel and help others to live this same experience of holiness. His apostolic conscience led him to an intense search for personal sanctification.*

### **From the Writings of Blessed James Alberione**

In order to save souls Jesus Christ came down from heaven and as a good shepherd went to look for the lost sheep. This world, besought by his passions, has crooked ways: how many sins and how much disorder! Too much is thought of the earth and little of heaven. "Remember, O man, that you are a child of God." Men who do not even care for their souls; cold men also with regard to their own soul, how will they be able to transform themselves into apostles? First condition for being apostles: to take care of one's soul, to understand what it means to be saved; to understand what it means to be sanctified is to have our hearts straining every day towards our sanctification, and to use for our sanctification all the means provided by Providence. (*RSP*, pp. 148-149). He who sanctifies himself will sanctify himself (*RSP*, p. 150).

### **WAY**

*For each of us, Blessed James Alberione is a father and model in everything and, in the first place, he is the teacher of holiness. With regard to the examination of conscience, he tells us that it is "the best way to establish ourselves in humility, the negative foundation of all holiness. Furthermore, it is a necessary means to lead us to faith, the positive foundation of progress in Christian, religious and apostolic life." And he adds: "The knowledge of ourselves is precious, indeed necessary: it eliminates a dangerous optimism and at the same time eliminates easy discouragement." On the one hand, "sincerely acknowledging the gifts of God in order to praise the Lord; and use them on the way to sanctification"; on the other, "sincerely recognizing the miseries, shortcomings, guilt, by amendment" (cf. *CISP*, p. 1432).*

### **LIFE**

*Pauline holiness is the harmonious synthesis of all the dimensions of the person: the mind, the will and the heart, in the concrete reality of life, which is fundamentally expressed in piety, study, apostolate and poverty. Jesus Master, Way, Truth and Life, is the foundation, the guarantee and the energy that sustains this profound unity, which actually constitutes Pauline holiness.*

### **Invocations to Jesus Master**

Jesus Master, sanctify my mind and increase my faith.

Jesus, teacher in the Church, draw everyone to your school.

Jesus Master, free me from error, from vain thoughts and from eternal darkness.

O Jesus, way between the Father and us, I offer everything and I await everything from you.

O Jesus, way of holiness, make me your faithful imitator.

O Jesus way, make me perfect like the Father who is in heaven.

O Jesus life, live in me, so that I may live in you.

O Jesus life, do not allow me to separate myself from you.

O Jesus life, let me live in eternity the joy of your love.

O Jesus truth, may I be the light of the world.

O Jesus way, may I be an example and model for souls.

O Jesus life, may my presence everywhere bring grace and consolation.