

Closing Mass Homily by Fr. Maggiorino An (Provincial of Society of St Paul)

Dear sisters, first of all, I would like to give thanks to the Lord who has been with us at this Asia-Pacific continental meeting for Apostolate and Administration held in Korea for the past ten days. I'm happy to see the results that have come out of this encounter. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely appreciate your efforts and encourage your difficult journey you have walked so far.

I would like to emphasize on 'the new evangelization' that can be the important platform to renew the Pauline Apostolate from now on.

The new evangelization means to communicate the Gospel not only to people who have lost their vitality of faith in spite of being baptized long ago but to people who still live far away from Christ and the Gospel, thinking they are not a part of the church anymore.

This kind of evangelizing activity goes towards a non-practicing Christian and is also related to the situation that the Gospel and the church can't directly influence people and their cultures in spite of being the people, the nation or the district once evangelized. Such a situation is easily found both in the missionary region and in the traditional Christian country. The ecclesial activity for this new evangelization is necessary even though there might be some difference between the situation of people who have not known Christ yet and that of people who still keep the Christian culture after knowing but betraying Christ for some time.

At this point, we can talk about the evangelization of the culture. The church has always emphasized on the evangelization of the culture. After the publication of *Evangelii Nuntiandi* by Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation called *Catechesi Tradendae* mentioned about the inculturization and emphasized that proclaiming the Gospel in the midst of one or various cultures is the important mission for evangelization. Since the culture hasn't been stopped at all but is constantly changing, the church is responsible for discerning the unchangeable truth of the Gospel and leading it to the right direction. Therefore, when the church is inculturated in a certain culture, that church shall have not only to get used to the cultural elements of the region but to continually study and develop the new way of proclaiming the truth of the Gospel more appropriately by making use of various elements that have been accepted.

At this situation where various religions coexist, Christianity should faithfully have a dialogue without confronting or struggling one another. It doesn't go against the evangelizing activity of the church; it's the one way of our mission towards the evangelization. When people with different religions witness their spiritual goodness in their daily lives through dialogues with interreligious Christians, it will be more helpful to create the just, peaceful, and united society.

Faithfully replying to the demands of the church and the world for the new evangelization, Paulines shall have to pursue the apostolic renewal.

I believe that many Paulines are willing to help one another with the fruitful collaboration

and the fraternal responsibility so that the works for evangelization demanding much effort and the decisions made after this meeting as well will be properly implemented.

The Pauline Family will also accompany you in our prayers so that you can have good fruits from your apostolate as the result of this continental meeting. Thank you.