

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

Above all, together with the welcoming greetings to General Superior and every sister participating in this Continental Meeting to redesign the apostolate, I would like to give you the blessings of the Lord.

Today, as we begin Asia Pacific Continental Meeting as the first journey of the Continental Meeting to redesign the apostolate, all of us shall have to start this meeting with the humble attitude opening our hearts and listening to the Holy Spirit. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to allow us to have good fruits so that not only Paulines all over the world but all of God's people can accept God's words well by being stimulated by the results of this meeting.

We know well that the methods to proclaim the Gospels should always be renewed by the changes of the times even though the contents of the Gospels to proclaim are not changed at all in spite of the changes of the times. When Jesus proclaimed God's words, he spoke in parables so that people could understand the message better. At the times of Pentecost, all of apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the Gospels so that every person could understand in their regional languages according to the ability of expression that the Holy Spirit gave them. At the same time, we know well that Paul the apostle could speak various languages such as the Hebrew and the Greek and explain the Gospels in the concepts that people in every district could understand.

What is the good of having the good message if we are not able to communicate it properly? Because of this, we, Paulines, have the mission to take necessary action promptly to the endlessly changing world of communication and to communicate the Gospels so that the modern people can understand well. The Holy Spirit allows us to have such a charismatic grace of communication.

We have to ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit to be poured upon us so as for the Holy Spirit uniting the languages separated by the human pride to illuminate our intellect and for the Good News to be deeply rooted in all people.

People's ways of thinking and expression are endlessly changing by the flows of the times. Considering such a situation, each of us should be transformed so that we can be the good media and channel communicating the message of the Gospels. Remaining in one place in a rapidly changing world is not a stop but the retreat. If we are not able to keep pace with this change, woe will fall upon us as St. Paul said. The process of renewal is not easy, but it is the way we should go through.

During this meeting, we shall have to gather our wisdom and discuss on what it means to redesign the apostolate, how and with what face our Pauline media centers should respond to the needs of the society and the church at this particular times, what kind of the way our distribution should be done, etc.

By all means, I hope you will bear the desirable results through this precious time of the grace. I will remember you in my prayer so that the enthusiasm and love for the mission of the founder may be placed in you and you may be born again as an apostle of this age. Thank you.