

Today, which opened with the encouraging invitation of Jesus: “Take courage! I have over-come the world,” we reflected more profoundly on the principles of the charism that underlie our apostolic action. This is necessary so as to look at the socio-ecclesial situation of Africa-Madagascar in the light of our charismatic identity and determine what we must do in order to continue to be—all together (this is the key word)—a bold and prophetic evangelizing presence in this part of the world.



We attentively followed the talk of Sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato, Superior General, who, taking as her point of departure the cry of Paul: “Woe to me if I do not evangelize!” retraced the story of our Congregation, highlighting the timeless elements of the Pauline mission, which she called “solid, consistent and perennial because every aspect of it reproduces the mission of Jesus.” We are now faced with many challenges that need to be concretized. The most urgent: to make our own the freshness and dynamism of our foundation period and live these attitudes firmly in the midst of continual changes.



Sr. Anna Caiazza spoke on the subject of passion for the apostolate—a dimension of the charism that is innate to the Pauline vocation and that must be continually cultivated and nourished. In fact, she said, apostolic passion “is the fruit of placing ourselves in the school of Jesus Master. It consists in continually searching for the paths of God and in being attentive to the signs of the times. It requires ‘intellectual curiosity,’ a positive perception of situations and problems, and the capacity to dialogue with society and history, including its more dramatic aspects.”

Afterward, Sr. Gabriella Santon, Bursar General, underscored the need for a profound and dynamic balance between the apostolate and economy. As she pointed out, “Economy is at the service of the apostolate and the apostolate gives continuity and stability to our economy.” To forget this interdependent relationship would be to place our evangelizing activities at risk and compromise the apostolate. In contrast, wise administration can help us not only maintain but also expand and develop our activities.



This evening, Fr. Sabino Ayestaran offered us several guidelines concerning the methodology we will be following and met with the 12 sisters who will serve as the coordinators and evaluators of our work groups in the coming days. More about this tomorrow.