

COMPANIONS OF PAULINE CALLED ALSO, AS WE ARE, TO BE
A LIVING MEMORY OF THE LIFE AND MISSION OF JESUS

A warm welcome to each one of you, welcome to the heart of our Province, our Motherhouse - we are so happy you are here. First, I want to thank Sr. Joseph for serving as Director for our Companions and thank you to each Coordinator who is truly dedicated to spreading the message of Pauline. Thank you to each of you, Companions of Pauline, our associates, you have been touched in some way by our spirit, our Mission, our vision and our charism and you have taken action on it. Thank you for saying yes to being a part of us. I also would like to welcome our new Companions; you too will be working with us to spread the joy, mission and love of the "Woman Who Couldn't be Stopped", our beloved Foundress, Blessed Pauline.

TO BE A LIVING MEMORY OF THE LIFE AND MISSION OF JESUS

This was the theme of our General Chapter. It's almost the same words of Mother Pauline: "O Jesus impress your image on me" As we left for the General Chapter, the summer of '07 we felt we had to be impressed with the image of Jesus, and that we were challenged (and still are) to reflect this image in our lives, to have an ALIVE JESUS, a Jesus with a MISSION. That's what we are about and all of you as Companions of Pauline.

The main work of the Chapter was to bring to completion the revision of our Constitutions which had been worked on for the past six years since the last Chapter. Our Constitutions outline what is basic for us as Sisters of Christian Charity, what our lifestyle is and how we view our mission. In these Constitutions, our rule of life, three guidelines are evident:

We bring out our contemplative attitude: contemplative/apostolic

Our Eucharistic Lifestyle is deepened daily

We included repeated references to Mother Pauline.

Aside from this noble task that was awaiting us, we were asked to bring three homework assignments. First, each delegate had to bring a picture of Jesus that was very special and offer a reflection on what this picture meant in their lives. These reflections became our morning and afternoon prayer. This was a very moving moment as each delegate reflected on their "Jesus". We have a DVD of each Jesus prayer and in the future we could possibly show you them

Our second assignment was to bring symbols of our culture, what makes our particular country different from Germany or Chile or Uruguay. Some of the symbols we brought with us: our flag, the melting pot idea of America as we think of immigration issues, picture of the Twin Towers, picture of our Sisters on an Assembly Day, the banner we carry each November to the School of the Americas, and lastly, the Statue of Liberty – to name a few.

Our third assignment was to introduce each delegate to our Province. Some had never been to our country and therefore had never seen Mendham, had never seen our apostolic works, had never met many of our Sisters. One by one each Province gave their presentation: Germany, Chile, Uruguay-Argentina, Generalate, (Italy), West (Wilmette), East, (us) and the Philippines. Each one was done so well you felt you knew the Spirit and the Mission of each country. Sr. Mary Edward and Sr. Diane did the work on our presentation, and not to be prejudiced, it was the best! Now they will show you the presentation of our Eastern Province.

We would like each of you to receive a copy of our Chapter Document which flowed from our Chapter. Again, our theme stands out: "Impress your image on me" We won't go into explaining the document today but you will notice on the cover the different pictures of Jesus I just mentioned. Inside there is an explanation of the cover. As you journey through the booklet you will see the three divisions:

Christ-Like Love: Our Rule of Life

Christ-Like Love: A Eucharistic Life

Christ-Like Love: A Light

Your coordinators will be studying this document with you as you meet to pray and reflect during the year. Treasure it and embrace it. Please come up to receive your document