

Archbishop Philipe Neri Ferrao launched Biblical Year of the Pauline Family in Goa



Panaji: The Biblical Year of the Pauline Family with the theme “That the Word of the Lord may speed forward,” was launched in Goa by the Pauline Family members and the Diocesan Centre for Biblical Apostolate on November 26 with the inaugural Mass by Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao, televised on CCR TV. The occasion marked also the 49th death anniversary of the Founder Blessed James Alberione.

In his homily Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao exhorted the faithful to fearlessly share the message of Christ in our time.

A talk on the life and Mission of Blessed James Alberione, the Founder of the Pauline Family was telecast on CCR TV on 26 evening. This is the first of seven talks on “Holiness in the Pauline Family”. It will be available on YouTube.

Recalling the parable of the Sower in the Bible, he said, “Jesus got out of the comfort zone of his home and moved out and entered a unsteady boat in the moving waters, from where he spoke to the crowd on the land. He took risk in sharing the message of his Heavenly Father. He tirelessly proclaimed the Word through his words and actions. He went around sowing the seeds of faith and love. He believed in his sowing and in its fecundity though some of it fell on rocky grounds, among thorny bushes, or some were eaten up by birds.”

“His words were not always welcomed. Yet he did not stop. People like the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, Mary of Magdala accepted his message,” Archbishop Filipe Neri said.

“When Jesus enters the life of a person and he transforms the person. We see it in the life of St Paul, and St Francis Xavier for whose feast we are preparing now,” he added.

According to Archbishop Filipe Neri, Blessed Alberione whose feast we celebrate today lived the Word with devotion. He is a powerful testimony of living the Word. It is the Word that gave him strength to give life to 5 Religious Institutes, 4 secular Institutes and one Association of Pauline Cooperators in the Church.”

Archbishop Filipe Neri urged the faithful to follow the path of the saints who risked themselves, who left their comfort zones to serve God’s people, sharing with them the Word that heals and vivifies.

Archbishop Filipe Neri released an eight-point programme envisaged for the year, presented in a fan shaped brochure.

According to Mr Selvio Fernandes, a retired Marketing official who designed the brochure, “The fan shaped brochure signifies our desire to spread the Gospel message far and wide to all, through the various programmes.”

The year-long programme is envisaged by the committee for the Pauline Biblical Year in Goa for the public include:

Enter the treasure-trove of the Bible (on-line Quiz) aims to encourage the faithful read and be enlightened by the Word of God and discover new ways to wade through this historical moment of pandemic.

Showcase your Talents with scripture (Skits on video inspires one ... to pick any miracle or parable or story from the Bible and infuse life into it using the social media, and win a reward.

Capture the Beauty of Biblical Virtues (painting contest) invites the teenage participants to discover the virtues in the Biblical personalities that shone through them and penetrated the lives of others. The challenge is to discover such virtues in our everyday life situations and draw it on a paper, and win a prize.

Let the Word of God speed forward is to assist the poor and needy faithful to acquire a copy of the Bible with the help of well wishers.

Live and Share the Word (Lectio Divina) aims to building up a neighbourhood rooted in the Bible, opined a well-wisher.

Holiness in the Pauline Family will telecast the seven saintly Pauline Family personalities besides witness of five families from the Archdiocese.

Responding to the call of Pope Francis in *Laudato Sii*, and based on our own conviction to sustain the environment, the goal of **Tending God's Garden** is to build up gardens in the neighbourhood, said MrJobito Lopes, a retired Journalist.

Giving Wings to Needy Students intends to provide financial help to deprived students. Education gives wings to intelligence. Covid-19 pandemic has cut off the “wings” of many poor, but eager and enthusiastic students. They have dropped out of lessons as they cannot afford online classes through mobile or laptop. During this year as we try to give “wings and feet to the Gospel” we desire to give wings to this needy students and allow them to fly to the world of knowledge, said Fr Mariano D' Costa, Director of Centre for the Biblical Apostolate in Goa.

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