



Thursday 2 May, at 12,30 p.m., accompanied by Fr. Vincenzo Marras, Provincial Superior of Italy, Fr. Giusto Truglia, Director General of the Apostolate, Fr. Antonio Sciortino, Director of *Famiglia Cristiana* and by Fr. Antonio Rizzolo, Director of *Credere*, I have been received in a special audience by Pope Francis.

Before presenting the Confreres who accompanied me, I have greeted the Pope who has received me with a word that has surprised me: "You have come to find me in Buenos Aires!" Actually, during one of the visits in Argentina, together with some Brothers of the community of Buenos Aires, we have gone to greet the then Cardinal, who after the conversation has accompanied us until the exit door on the street. Wonderful memory!

The main reason of the audience has been to hand over directly to the Pope a letter in which I ask for a **special audience for the whole Pauline Family** during the year 2014, briefly explaining that all the 10 Institutions are living a triennium of preparation for the first centenary of the birth of the Pauline charism.

During the presentation of the gifts, a little by turns, all of us have recommended to the Pope that he **encourage and accompany us** in an apostolate that if on one hand is ever more necessary, on the other is also ever more delicate and complex. We have emphasized that "even in communication there are poor people and that we must put in practice the works of mercy making use of communication," as blessed Alberione used to repeat.

We have presented to the Pope the edition of the **Bible for China**, realized by SOBICAIN through the initiative of Fr. Francesco Anta for its diffusion in China; we have completed the information saying that now the text in Chinese can also be seen in an Internet site.

In handing over the volumes of the **Grande Bibbia d'Europa**, edited by the SAIE, I have briefly hinted to the Pope the pedagogical purpose that has motivated in the beginning the realization of this codex (between 1226 and 1234) and the strategy of Fr. Alberione to dress with art the Word of God and so make it enter the family, with the goal that from the beauty of art one may pass to read and meditate the text.

We then have offered to the Pope the **Bibbia Via, Verità e Vita**, edited by Edizioni San Paolo, calling to mind the indication of Fr. Alberione: "There is this need: a catechism full of gospel and liturgy. A gospel full of catechetical and liturgical notes. A liturgy full of gospel and catechism."

Finally, the respective Directors have presented to the Pope *Famiglia Cristiana* and *Credere* and when the observation has been made that with the Pope on the cover, a lot of demands have been made, the Pope with a smile has commented: "So I can ask for a percentage...". Our answer has been a round of indirect words that however meant to say that there are already people who are taking care with zeal... of the rights of author of the Pope!

The audience ended with the distribution of the rosary to all of us and a series of photos to record the event. The best thanksgiving to Pope Francis is to continue the tradition of prayer for the Pope, as the Primo Maestro has taught us.



Don Silvio Sassi

Don Silvio Sassi, SSP
Superiore generale

SUPERIORE GENERALE