



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Rome, 31 March 2017



*While they were eating,
Jesus took bread, said the blessing,
broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,
“Take and eat; this is my body.”
Then he took a cup, gave thanks,
and gave it to them, saying,
“Drink from it, all of you,
for this is my blood of the covenant,
which will be shed on behalf of many
for the forgiveness of sins.
I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this
fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it
with you new in the kingdom of my Father.”
(Mt 26, 26-29).*

Greetings of a Peaceful and Holy Easter!

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearests,

A few more days and we will be immersed in the Lord's Paschal Mystery, the mystery of death and resurrection, the struggle between hatred and love, the encounter between human poverty and the merciful love of God.

The Lord's Supper is the synthesis of this mystery. Jesus offers himself in the Eucharistic species of bread and wine, in anticipation of his sacrifice on the cross, and in a gesture of love “to the end” he delivered himself up to us in a memorial of redemption and salvation. His gaze rests on his intimate companions, confused and bewildered, on the disciple who is about to betray him, and has for all of them words of hope, comfort and love.

A few more hours and Jesus will find himself at the mercy of hatred and envy of his enemies. Yet he will continue to call them friends, to look at them with tenderness, to beg for them the Father's forgiveness “for they know not what they do”.

At the beginning of Lent, Pope Francis urged us to welcome the “other” as a gift, to let ourselves be guided by the Word of God and to convert ourselves from our innate selfishness. He reminded us that this is the “favorable time to open the door to all in need and recognize in him or her the face of Christ. Each of us encounters them along the journey. Every life that we meet is a gift and deserves acceptance, respect, love”.

Dearests, the XII General Chapter has helped us to reflect on our journey today, amidst difficulties, signs of hope and challenges. The document that we received and that we should make as subject of a careful reflection and community revision is a valuable tool to get back on track, precisely as communities of brothers, even amid problems that we need to face. It reminds in synthesis :

“These issues are summarized briefly in a triple challenge: how to render our

