

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Subject: Rogationist Mission Day 2022

To: the Most Rev. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
and the Rogationist Communities
Cc: The Family of the Rogate

Dearly beloved,

The announcement of Rogationist Mission Day 2022 reaches you again this year in a climate of unease and apprehension because of the pandemic that has been going on for almost two years now, while we still do not know when we will be able to get out of it.

The words of Pope Francis from his homily for Vespers on the Solemnity of Mary Most Holy Mother of God and in the Te Deum of thanksgiving for the past year helps us read this situation, and to live it in the best way:

"This time of pandemic has increased throughout the world 'a sense of being lost'. After an initial phase of reaction, in which there seemed to be a feeling of solidarity that we are all in the same boat, followed by the temptation of 'everyone out for themselves'. Thank God we reacted again with a sense of responsibility. Truly we can and must say 'thanks be to God,' because the choice of responsibility in solidarity does not come from the world: it comes from God; indeed, it comes from Jesus Christ, who has once and for all impressed on our history the 'route' of his original calling: to be sisters and brothers all, children of the same Father."

The Pope then explained what it means to "feel like brothers and sisters with everyone," going into detail, as is his custom: "It can be recognized by the daily, 'weekday' attention to those who struggle the most, to families who feel the weight of the crisis the most, to people with serious disabilities and their families, to those who need public transportation to work every day, to those who live in the suburbs, to those who have been overwhelmed by some failure in their lives and need social services, and so on."

The restrictions and closures imposed by the authorities to prevent the spread of the contagion have not closed our hearts. On the contrary, they have led our religious communities to look with greater attention to the suffering of the weakest, whom the pandemic has hit hardest, and to do everything possible to be close to them in comfort and concrete help.

In baptism we are made disciples and missionaries, because we could not keep in us the presence of the Holy Trinity, the love that gives itself, without feeling called to go out to our brothers and sisters, to give the love we receive.

Our charism, moreover, constitutes one more reason to live in a missionary spirit. The evangelist Luke reminds us that Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples and "sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few. Therefore, beg the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go, behold, I am sending you (...)' and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you'" (Lk 10:2-9).

In the meeting of the young Hannibal with Zancone we have the icon of our missionary nature since there is the announcement of the Word of God and the fraternal closeness in material aid.

The Rogationist Mission Day (RMD) recurs every year to remind us that we are all "missionaries" and that, as Rogationists, we are called to bring the gift of the Rogate, the secret of salvation for the whole world.

This appointment, moreover, calls us to a fraternal experience, among all the Circumscriptions and Communities of the Congregation, in a gesture of sharing and solidarity towards a Community that, in one of its Works, is in a situation of need.

Therefore, accepting the proposal of the Central Mission Office, it was decided to promote the Project of the RMD 2022 in favor of the "Rogationist Educational Center" (REC) in Tonalà - Mexico of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Delegation.

The apostolate of the Confreres in the Colonia Agua Escondida began in 2010, in the municipality of Tonalà, in the metropolis of Guadalajara, in the Mexican state of Jalisco. It is a set of three colonies: Orosio Comunal, Agua Escondida, and Jerico, with a total of 750 needy families, with many spiritual, cultural, and economic deficiencies. It is the typical apostolic work camp that Father Hannibal embraced, which is in fact in a much worse condition.

Public lighting, water, and sewer services are lacking. The roads are unpaved, half of the houses are made of cardboard, consisting of a single room, in which sometimes six to eight people live. There is a lack of jobs, a lack of food and clothing. Everything is needed. Only 60% of the children complete their primary education and 10% complete their secondary education.

The REC has tried to guarantee a more continuous and concrete presence, with organized activities for children who do not attend school, helping to provide adequate space, desks, and chairs for pupils and schoolbooks; and with the mothers who do not work, organize a tailoring center for them. The chapel was renovated for catechesis and Sunday Mass. A canteen for many elderly people who do not work and do not even have food and a small medical clinic. A couple of bathrooms were built, drinking water was brought and the premises were fenced. These environments were blessed and inaugurated on June 25, 2020. But we understand well that there is much, still much to do.

Father Hannibal, on the boundary wall of the Avignone Quarter, placed a large image of the Redeemer, with the inscription *Salvos faciet filios pauperum!* He will save the children of the poor! (Ps 72:4). Looking down from Heaven on these colonies, he will be pleased to see that his children are trying to continue his work.

This work is also praiseworthy for one particular aspect. The Congregation in Tonalà has a seminary. Thus, the young seminarians who wish to follow the footsteps of Father Hannibal in the pathways of charity are included in this action of closeness with the neediest, together with the Confreres.


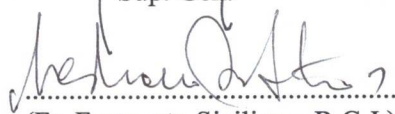
Dearly beloved, I invite you to read the project prepared by the Central Missionary Office, to disseminate and support it, and I kindly ask that your contribution be sent to the Central Missionary Office by June 2022.

We entrust the success of GMR 2022 to the Divine Superiors, through the intercession of our Founder, Saint Hannibal Mary.

With this wish, I greet you with affection in the Lord.



(Fr. Matteo Sanavio, R.C.J.)
General Councilor for the Missions


(Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, R.C.J.)
Sup. Gen.
(Fr. Fortunato Siciliano, R.C.J.)
Sec. Gen.