



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

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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

presence truly be a witness to the Gospel, how to find reasons for the joy and the celebration in fraternal life in community, and how to live our commitment of discipleship and mission as proclamation of mercy and prophecy” (n. 22).

Let us renew ourselves, as we approach the Holy Supper of the Lord, and find in the Spirit the strength to transform us day by day in Jesus whom we receive and from whose example we learn how to wash each other’s feet.

I am sending you my wishes while together with the members of the Council we have just finished working on the first draft of the Program of the General Government for six years, a copy of which will arrive soon to the Governments of the Circumscriptions in order to be examined and confronted with their own local reality. The reflection will be successively taken up and shared during the Conference of Superiors and Councils of Circumscriptions, which will be held from 16 to 21 October, wherein the Programming will make an important step towards its final drafting.

You must have noticed that, as much as possible, the General Councilors are trying to visit the Circumscriptions to have a vision of the local realities regarding his own sector of animation and coordination. I myself will be making a visit to the St. Matthew Province from April 6 to 26 during which, I will be attending the Assembly to be held from April 17 to 21. Let us walk together and sustain each other in the subsidiarity of roles, to search for the greater good of the Congregation and above all for the will of the Lord.

Last February the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has responded to the five-year report that we have submitted after the General Chapter, presenting a synthesis of the current situation of our Congregation. The response is both an appreciation for the journey which we are trying to accomplish, with the Lord's help, and at the same time an exhortation to give more attention the vocational discernment, the personal spiritual guidance and the initial and permanent formation. Let us welcome with docility and commitment this invitation addressed to us.

In the coming months there will be the Chapter of the Sant'Antonio Province – ICN and, then the *apta consultatio*, the Assembly and the renewal of Government of the St. Thomas Quasi Province. Let us support with our prayer these important events of the two Circumscriptions. Moreover, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Servant of God Fr. Giuseppe Marrazzo and the 125th anniversary of the religious profession of Venerable Mother Nazarena Majone. These are occasions that give us the opportunity to know more about our Confrere and our Sister who followed with faithfulness and love in the footsteps of our Founder, whom we all want to imitate.

I conclude with a special wish of joy and peace of Easter that I address to the Confreres in situations of suffering due to environmental difficulties or to the cross of sickness, and I ask the Divine Superiors to accompany them.

My closeness goes also to our sisters, the Daughters of Divine Zeal, to the Missionaries of the Rogate, to the members of the Rogationist associations and to all our Lay collaborators. May the Resurrected Jesus fill us all with his love and his peace.

I entrust these wishes to the Blessed Virgin, through the intercession of St. Hannibal and our Patron Saints, as I greet you with affection in the Lord.



Bruno Rampazzo
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Superior General