

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

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Rome, July 31, 2016

Re: An affectionate and fraternal greetings

To the Rogationists
To the Daughter of Divine Zeal
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearests,

I feel the need to open my heart to all of you, after overcoming the initial surprise and discomfiture for the task entrusted to me by the General Chapter.

I wish to repeat to all of you what I have said to the Chapter delegates when the President asked me if I would accept. I confessed that I don't feel capable of carrying out this important mandate, but I remembered that, thirty years ago, I made my perpetual profession precisely in that House in Morlupo. In the formula of Profession I said that "I entrust with all my heart to this Religious Family", commending myself to the Lord and to the Confreres, with the intent of loving the Lord, the Confreres, and the Congregation. And I added that, in this spirit, asking the help of the Founder, of our Patron Saints and of the Virgin Mary, I declared to accept the mandate given me by the Confreres.

Then, in my final message, after the Closing Mass of the Chapter, I said among other things that I would neither be sending lengthy nor too frequent circular letters.

What do I wish to tell you? I would like to invite you to thank the Lord and the Immaculate Virgin, for the assistance they have given us all throughout our General Chapter. We confronted ourselves, in sincerity, in truth and in charity, following the orientation of the well prepared *Instrumentum Laboris*, a fruit of your participation and of the work of the two commissions.

In the Chapter we discovered even more the reality of our religious Family which, with the blessing of the Divine Superiors, continues to grow, even amidst difficulties, and is enriched by the presence of new cultures.

At the same time, in order to ensure a solid foundation for this growth, we felt the urgency to revive in us the Spirit that animated our origins.

Dear brothers and sisters, we need to live our mission in contemplation, so that it would be radiated by the presence of Jesus, who came to dwell among us.

Fittingly we posted several questions concerning our apostolic options in today's world, which is profoundly changed and presents itself with new forms of poverty. If we allow ourselves to be guided by the example and words of our Founder, the fundamental answer is to let ourselves be introduced by the new poor and orphans into their essential contexts of poverty, to open to them our hearts and possibly even our houses, and to welcome these new little ones and poor with the same sentiments of the compassionate Heart of Jesus.

The General Chapter has produced a valuable document, which will help us do a fruitful revision at the personal and community levels. It will provide us with precise concerns, important guidelines, operational proposals and resolutions.

We hope to have this Chapter Document in the coming months.

I still want to confide with you something that is so close to my heart. I am starting my service with the precious baggage of the experience accomplished during the past six years, side by side with the former Superior General, Fr. Angelo Mezzari. I wish that, together, we thank him for the fraternity that characterized the life of the General Government and the paternal and fraternal closeness that he showed to each one of us. He said, as he greeted me after my election, that he is certain to turn over the Congregation in good hands. I intend to follow his good example.

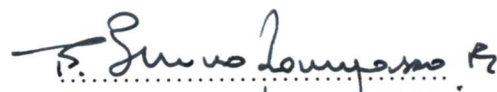
I ask all of you to feel close to me, to consider me at your service, with the desire to welcome you, to be able to handle with you any organizational or personal difficulties, to offer you my support in the proper spirit of subsidiarity.

Also this time, we started our General Chapter, by sharing an important moment with our sisters the Daughters of Divine Zeal. It was so nice to receive their greetings and best wishes, so together, we would like also to reciprocate them with our fraternal affection.

I am confident that this fraternity, which is above all charismatic, will enable us in the next six years to revive more and more our closeness and collaboration, especially in those areas that naturally require it, for example, the diffusion of the knowledge and devotion of our Founder and of the prayer for vocations, the collaboration in promoting a culture of the Rogate and in the animation of the laity, our mutual support, whenever possible, even in the apostolate and in the service of charity.

We want to journey together. Every day we experience new graces of the Lord but also every day we are confronted with new difficulties. As a Religious Family, and Family of the Rogate, we are a great gift of the Spirit. He will be the one to give us the light and strength to move forward, with confidence and hope. Let us sustain each other in prayer.

With this hope, invoking the blessing of our Divine Superiors upon all of you, through the intercession of the holy Founder and our Patron saints, along with the Confreres in the Council, I greet you with affection in the Lord.


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