

Rome. July 21, 2019

Prot. No. 209/19

Three years of journeying together.

To the Most Reverend Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
To the Rogationist Confreres
THEIR RESPECTIVE HOUSES

Dearest Confreres,

I sincerely desire that the word “dearest ones” be received by each of you, on this day, in the fullness and truth of its meaning.

From the moment in which I said my “yes” to the choice of the XII General Chapter, on July 21, three years ago, and although aware of my limitations, I accepted the assignment that was entrusted to me, and I felt that I was called to make a qualitative leap in my fraternal bond with close friends and with not so close ones.

In the choice of the Capitulars, I read the expectation of each of you to have a new father as your guide, and I asked the Lord to give me a fatherly heart able to listen to each of you, caring for your well-being, eager to be near you, in joys and sufferings, in successes and difficulties of the journey.

I leave it to you to evaluate whether I have succeeded in implementing this resolution but I confess of exerting my best efforts.

All this moves me, on the occasion of the third anniversary of my election, halfway through my mandate, to stay with you in the service of fatherhood, to glance back together, as good traveling companions, at the journey already traveled and have a look at the road ahead.

From the beginning, I felt the need to meet you, simply to get to know you, through informal visits, sometimes by taking the invitations that you addressed to me. I considered it appropriate that this opportunity should also be taken by the General Councilors and the General Treasurer, to be able to examine the situations in view of the animation of their respective sector of competence.

It was like a pilgrimage for me, in which I very often rejoiced and blessed the Lord for the uplifting life and mission of so many confreres; on other occasions it was necessary to listen, support, recommend patience, try to instill hope, because “our help is in the name of the Lord”.

Particularly important were the constant contacts with the Superiors of the Circumscriptions, in the various meetings and contacts through the various means of communication, and on the occasion of the Provincial Chapters and the Assemblies.

In my experience gained during the many years of religious life, I have come to the conviction that our Congregation is guided by the Divine Superiors. We must constantly renew our full confidence and constant reference to them. At the same time, I am convinced that the growth of our Family, which is expanding and growing in depth, depends on our "sense of belonging", which, in a broad sense, can mean:

- seeing oneself as consecrated and belonging to the Lord,
- feeling like receivers and bearers of the charism of the Rogate,
- feeling in the variety of our Circumscriptions and religious Communities the breath of our family.

My dear Confreres, my role reminds me of paternity, but I intend to associate it with fraternity, as it happens indeed in every good family when children enter adulthood.

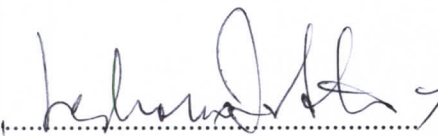
With these sentiments, I intend to continue to carry out the mandate of "service" to the Congregation in the coming years, which bring us to the XIII General Chapter.

I mentioned earlier that on this occasion we also want to look at the road ahead. The first step to take together will be the next Conference of the Superiors and Councils of the Circumscriptions. Through the respective Governments, your joys and hopes, difficulties and expectations will arrive there. The Spirit of the Lord wants to enlighten us so that we can draw from this important appointment the necessary light that illumines our path in the best way.

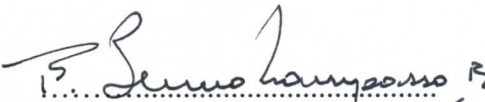
I wish to leave you with the image of the two disciples of Emmaus. They proceeded, moving away from Jerusalem, in pain. When they met Jesus during the journey, their hearts began to burn, to rekindle.

The warmest wish I express for myself, the General Councilors and each of you is that the closeness of the Lord will help us overcome the difficulties that accompany us and to grow in fraternity.

In greeting you individually, with fraternal affection, I implore on you all the gift from the Blessed Virgin Mary, through the intercession of our Founder, Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia.


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(Fr. Fortunato Siciliano, R.C.J.)
General Secretary




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(Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, R.C.J.)
Superior General