

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Ogg.: Rogationist Mission Day 2021

To the M. R. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
and To the Rogationist Communities
c.c. To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

The announcement of the Rogationist Mission Day 2021 reaches you with some delay due to all the inconveniences that the pandemic has brought us. The difficult situation has been going on for almost a year now, and we still do not know when we can get out of it.

We must do everything possible to ensure our spiritual journey and carry out our apostolate in the best possible way, with the limitations that the pandemic entails.

The annual Rogationist Mission Day (RMD) calls us to look at every Christian's missionary vocation and, even more so, of every consecrated person.

Luke the Evangelist tells us that Jesus designated seventy-two other disciples and "sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them: 'The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. So ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way: behold, I am sending you (...) and say to them: The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'" (Lk 10: 2-9).

As "disciples of the Lord" all of us are sent to announce that the kingdom of God is near. In particular, as sons and daughters of Father Hannibal, we are called to witness and proclaim the Gospel of the Rogate, which, as our holy Founder taught us, is a unique secret of salvation for the whole world.

The missionary spirit is a constitutive element of the Church, of every baptized person, and lived in the specific condition of one's vocation: the missionaries are those who leave their country of origin and go to mission lands; they are also those who, in the place where they reside, support missionaries with prayer, promote missionary awareness and solidarity, including economic solidarity.

Father Hannibal's mission was the numerous orphans and the poor whom he met along his way. At the same time, he "dreamed" and even prepared his sons and daughters with precise indications for the mission that the Lord would give him. In love with the Lord and with souls, his heart expanded to embrace the whole world.

The pandemic we find ourselves in has been, and remains, a great test of the Lord. Faith tells us that it was also a call from Him. We see that the current globalization exposes us to calamities that reach us from all over the globe, while real-time communication makes us aware that we are a big family for better or worse.

The evangelical vision, which must accompany us, leads us to pay particular attention to the little ones and the poor who are most affected among all in this scourge. All this calls us to greater sensitivity and solidarity, starting with our daily prayer. We must agree that even so, the pandemic pushes us to rediscover our missionary spirit.

In the introduction of his Encyclical "Fratelli tutti", Pope Francis confesses: "As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities". Then he adds: "It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity, the fraternity between all men and women. 'Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to

dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation [...] We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together [...] By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together'.¹ Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth, which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her voice, brothers and sisters all!" (nos. 7-8).

We must agree that only fraternity, a gift of the Spirit, is capable of opening our minds and hearts to the mission.

The RMD wants to be, above all, an opportunity to deepen our missionary spirit and to revive missionary sensitivity, even around us. For this reason, this day promotes a project of solidarity.

In the calendar of its six-year plan, the General Government foresees the RMD project for 2021 in favor of the parish of Ebebda, of the St. Joseph Quasi Province, a new foundation that is particularly in need of help. Unfortunately, we had to make a different choice for technical reasons and postpone the project to another date.

Accepting the Central Missionary Office proposal, we, therefore, decided to promote the RMD 2021 project in favor of the "Colegio Hogar San Agustín" in Tucuman - Argentina, of the St. Luke Province.

A project of the CEI (Conference of Italian Bishops) for the construction of the school is in the final approval phase. Still, it requires an extraordinary collaboration to purchase the necessary material: school furniture, teaching equipment, internet access, computer equipment (computers, printers, scanners, photocopier, overhead projectors, etc.) for a total of € 50,000.00, which is the goal of the RMD 2021.

For this gesture of generosity towards poor children, the Pope's word once again inspires us: "Every human being has the right to live with dignity and to develop integrally; this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country. People have this right even if they are unproductive, or were born with or developed limitations. This does not detract from their great dignity as human persons, a dignity based not on circumstances but on the intrinsic worth of their being. Unless this basic principle is upheld, there will be no future either for fraternity or for the survival of humanity." (FT n. 107).

Dearests, I invite you to take a look at the project prepared by the Central Missionary Office to promote and support it, asking that you kindly send your contribution to the Missionary Office within June 2021.

We entrust the success of the RMD 2021 to the Divine Superiors through the intercession of our Founder, St. Hannibal Mary.

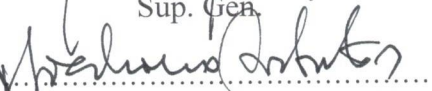
With this wish, I greet you with affection in the Lord.



(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.

¹ Speech at the ecumenical and interreligious meeting with young people, Skopje - North Macedonia (7 May 2019): L'Osservatore Romano, 9 May 2019, p. 9.