



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti
Curia Generalizia

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World Mission Day

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To the Most Rev. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
and To the Rogationist Communities
c.c. To the Family of the Rogate

Dearests,

As we approach the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which falls on November 20, 2016, Solemnity of Christ the King, in the next few days of October we celebrate the World Mission Sunday. This year's theme is "Missionary Church, witness of mercy". In his message for World Mission Sunday, the Holy Father points out that "By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love. She 'is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel' (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12) and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young or old".

It is a powerful reminder for us to reflect on the missionary dimension of our life as Christians and consecrated people, who are called for this additional reason to live and spread the charism that has been given us, to be shared to the whole People of God.

The document of our XII General Chapter, "*Our charismatic identity in the challenges of today*", which will be promulgated soon, also calls our attention to this fundamental commitment to evangelization: "Evangelization is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize." (...) Therefore we assume the task of "proclaiming the Gospel to all, in all places, on all occasions, without delay, without repulsion and without fear" (n. 18).

In the message sent to us for the Chapter, Pope Francis reminds us that "our time more than ever asks good workers for the construction of the Kingdom of God on earth and therefore the *Rogate* is always alive and actual and every Rogationist religious becomes an effective sign of the Holy Spirit who, through the evangelical command, continues to call and to send holy apostles for the building up of the Church" and therefore he invited us "to be the voice that renders present and effective the prayer of Jesus to the Father so that no one would be deprived of the light and joy of the Gospel".

Since 1950, our congregation which had achieved a strong presence in Italy and had a good availability of congregants, opened the mission in Brazil; later on, in the seventies, with the blessing of the Divine Superiors, it has expanded its horizons to other continents. Thanking the Lord, today we attest that the face of our Congregation has become international.

