



**Congregazione dei Rogazionisti**

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*“Now there were shepherds  
in that region living in the fields and  
keeping the night watch over their flock.  
The angel of the Lord appeared to them and  
the glory of the Lord shone around them,  
and they were struck with great fear.  
The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid;  
for behold, I proclaim to you good news  
of great joy that will be for all the people.  
For today in the city of David  
a savior has been born for you  
who is Messiah and Lord.  
And this will be a sign for you: you will find  
an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and lying in a manger.”  
Lk 2: 8-12.*

*Greetings of a Holy Christmas  
and happy New Year*

To the Rogationists  
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearests,

This year's Advent, which prepares us for Christmas, comes to us in a particular moment of sadness for the unhappy death on the roads of Angola of our dear young missionary confrere, Fr. Roy Moothedath.

This tragic accident gives us a glimpse on Fr. Roy. As narrated by the Bishop of Dundo, Msgr. Stanislau, to the Provincial Superior of St. Luke Province, Fr. Juarez Destro, on the day before his death, he made a beautiful reflection exactly on the Resurrection during his homily at a Sunday Mass, and he had confided to some people that the best days of his life as a religious were spent there, in the mission in Angola.

The crib, with its lights and Christmas melodies, leads us to discover the mystery that is hidden in it: the immense love of God, who makes himself small and poor, to meet our smallness and poverty and to bring his salvation.

Joseph, Mary and the Child that she was carrying in her womb were not accepted in the village of Bethlehem, and they found refuge in a shed.

The Birth of Jesus reveals to us a great mystery of human existence: there in the marginalization, poverty and humility of that shanty, God and men that He loves meet. A passage of Pope Francis' homily during the Mass celebrated last November 13 in the Vatican basilica could lead us to a deeper understanding of this event:

“(The Word of God) questions us today about the meaning of our lives. Using an image, we could say that these readings serve as a “strainer” through which our life can be poured: they remind us that almost everything in this world is passing away, like running water. But there are treasured realities that remain, like a precious stone in a strainer. What

