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Silang, 18 October 2018
St. Luke, the Evangelist

Prot. No. 266/18
Subject: Rogationist Missionary Day 2019

To: the Most Rev. Superiors of the Rogationist Circumscriptions,
the Rogationist Communities,
and to the Rogate Family

Dear friends,

I am writing to you to announce the next Rogationist Missionary Day 2019 on the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist; from the House of the Oasis of Prayer in Silang (Philippines) where the Province of St. Matthew is celebrating the 2nd Provincial Chapter that has elected the new Provincial Superior, Fr. Orville Cajigal, and which closes with the gift, for the Province and the Congregation, of the ordination of seven new priests.

I come to you at the feast of St. Luke, who together with St. Matthew, reports the pericope of the Rogate. St. Luke closes his account of the gospel recalling the words of Jesus to the disciples before ascending to Heaven: "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:46-48).

Our Congregation, born to receive and spread the Rogate, is discovered as missionary in the prayer to obtain good workers in the Harvest of the Lord; and at the same time, it sets out in mission to give to the Church and to the world the secret of salvation that is contained in this prayer.

Let us recall in our Constitutions what is said of our mission: "We commit ourselves to live constantly united to the God the Father through prayer, to draw from the source of salvation and to respond to the command of the Rogate, always ready for the mission to proclaim the Kingdom to the poor" (Art 25). In fact, the command of the Rogate is the answer to the compassion of Jesus for the loss of the tired and exhausted crowds as flock without a shepherd; it is the secret to gain their salvation; it is the drive to live with a missionary heart.

In fact, the mission of our Congregation began in 1950, in Brazil, and then after about twenty-five years, we started in the Philippines and then in Africa. In the years that followed, the field of mission has been further enlarged and it was made possible thanks to the gift of vocations that the Lord has continued to give to our Congregation.

Missionary activity projects us towards our brothers and sisters for the proclamation of the Kingdom of God and, at the same time, calls us to carry out a profound revision of life, as Pope Francis reminds us in the message for World Mission Day of this year: "This transmission of the faith, the heart of the Church's mission, comes about by the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfilment in life. The spread of the faith "by attraction" calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. It is not possible to place limits on love, for love is strong as death (cf. *Song* 8:6). And that expansion generates encounter, witness, proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it and perhaps even hostile and opposed to it."