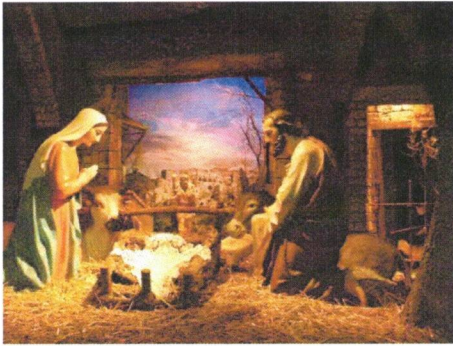


Congregazione dei Rogazionisti
Curia Generalizia

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Rome, 8th December 2020
Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.



*“The time came for her to have her child,
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes
and laid him in a manger because there
was no room for them in the inn.”*

(Lk 2: 6-7)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021!

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

1. Luke's words, which place the Lord's Nativity in its condition of great suffering and precariousness, despite the glory and joy of the event of salvation, come so timely in the context of Coronavirus as we celebrate the birth of the Lord this year. In many of his interventions on the subject, Pope Francis suggests a direction, proposes keys to interpret, and offers guidelines for building a better world. He reminds us that we are experiencing a crisis on a planetary level and that, even in this case, it is always the poorest, the least in society, who bear the consequences.

2. As Christians and Rogationists, how do we face this ongoing crisis? Until a few months ago, almost no one among the Confreres was infected with the virus; now the infections are increasing day by day; just here in our General Curia, 20 Confreres have recently been infected. I think that Pope Francis' indications on prayer are very significant, especially for us who recognize in the prayer for the Workers of the Kingdom our charismatic identity.

The Holy Father taught that praying means:

- a) Listening and allowing ourselves to be moved by what we are experiencing, facing the wind and silence, darkness and rain, letting ourselves be disturbed by the sirens of the ambulance;
- b) Recognizing that we are not self-sufficient and, therefore, we need to entrust ourselves to God.
- c) Contemplating the Body of Christ, to be permeated by His way of doing; dialoguing with Him and learning to welcome, accompany and support, as He did.
- d) Learning from Jesus to carry the cross and together with him to embrace the sufferings of many.
- e) Imitating him in our fragility so that through our weaknesses, salvation may enter the world.
- f) Looking at Mary, the “Health of the People and Star of the Stormy Sea”, and ask her to teach us to say our Yes every day and be concretely and generously available” (see *Urbi et Orbi Message* during the extraordinary moment of prayer in times of Pandemic.

“Why are you afraid?”. Churchyard of St. Peter’s Basilica, March 27, 2020, Preface by Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, to “Life after the Pandemic” by Pope Francis, p. 16).

We want to make this pause in prayer like our Holy Founder, Father Hannibal, who meets the Divine Child with delicacy and passion, making it an encounter of love, which profoundly touches our hearts and renews our life of consecration.

3. The Pandemic that forced us to slow down our vital rhythms, to rethink and reprogram our plans at the level of the Circumscription and of the Congregation, has also allowed us to focus on some essential and ever-relevant aspects of our consecrated life. Among these is the need to rediscover ever more our being Brothers. The Holy Father, with the encyclical “Fratelli tutti,” provided us particularly some useful ideas and guidelines for strengthening our fraternal life. We are convinced that our future depends on this fraternity taught to us by Jesus Christ. In the circular letter that I sent you presenting the encyclical of Pope Francis, I wanted to emphasize precisely the need to rediscover our fraternity through greater openness to love (cf. n. 6-7). In this way, we can involve ourselves and make our contribution in fostering a universal brotherhood, as hoped for by Pope Francis.

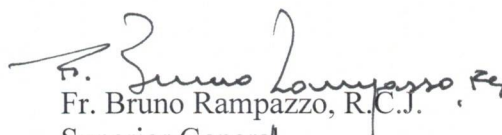
4. This Christmas, I wish to be close to each one of you and ask the Lord Jesus, who continues to come among us, to help us rediscover our fraternal life and the importance of our religious family.

My thoughts go to all of you and to each one in particular: to those who are having an extra-domum experience, to those who live alone for reasons of the apostolate, to those who are not well in body and spirit, to those who for various reasons find life burdensome, to all those who continue to move on, with generosity and suffering, the commitments entrusted to them.

5. With Christmas, we are also approaching the end of the year 2020 as we prepare to welcome the new year 2021. We have so many reasons to thank and praise the Lord. We will do so with the upcoming *Supplica* of January 31, 2021. We thank the Lord for allowing us to continue our journey of growth and for strengthening the communities of the Congregation through the exchange of personnel between Circumscriptions, the opening of mission stations in Saint Léolin (Canada) and Gwangjù (South Korea), and the missionary presence in Saranda (Southern Albania).

6. This fraternal greeting of mine is meant to be a wish and an invitation to go on with great confidence and serenity, in the name of the Lord and with the blessing of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to continue praying for each other, together as a Family of the Rogate: Rogationists, Daughters of Divine Zeal, Missionaries of the Rogate, Charismatic Associations, Lay people who are share in our charism and mission.

Our Founder, Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia, intercedes for all of us a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021.


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