

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

Via Tuscolana, 167 - 00182 Roma

Tel. 06.7020751 - Fax 06.7022917

e-mail: segrgen@rcj.org

Rome, November 15, 2021

St. Albert the Great

Prot. n. 302/21

Object: Our communication

To: The Most Rev. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
and to the Rogationist Religious Communities
THEIR RESIDENCES

Dear Confreres,

More and more, the instruments of social communication today are an integral and irreplaceable part of our work of evangelization and communication within the Congregation and in our personal relationships. It is through the media that we can become better acquainted with the reality that surrounds us, get an idea of facts and issues, receive and make immediate use of much information that would otherwise require days and days of research.

Today, newspapers, radio, TV, internet, social media, smartphones are the places where people carry out their social life, discuss the problems of society, and circulate ideas. The mass media have become the place where we can participate in public life.

The document of Vatican Council II *Inter Mirifica*, the Magisterium of the Church, and the Bishops' Conferences have explored and given directives on the use of the means of social communication with numerous and timely documents aimed at being present in the process of shaping public opinion.

While on the one hand the means of social communication make a significant contribution to the life of society and communities, on the other hand, we are aware that the truth of information can be manipulated and bear harmful fruit for society and individuals. I will not dwell here on the positive or negative aspects of the use of the means of social communication; I would like to draw the attention of all of you primarily to the very important aspect of formation in the use of the means of social communication throughout the itinerary of initial and ongoing formation within our Congregation. We find ourselves facing a problem that has implications throughout the world, in all cultures; we need to adapt our language, to recognize the need for professionalism and to be present in the media in order to make the Rogate and those who incarnate it in daily life known.

I ask all Superiors of Circumscription to examine in the context of the Circumscription Councils the importance of communication within our Congregation, identifying methods and ways to improve communication in our community relations and in the planning of the Circumscription. We are aware that there are different ways of communication. Since we are embedded in a particular territory, we are called to be open to communication to any social sphere.

What does the process of communication entail? Just as we need to create certain conditions in listening to and reflecting on the Word of God, so in communicating with one another, we need to consider certain grounds that foster authentic and constructive communication.

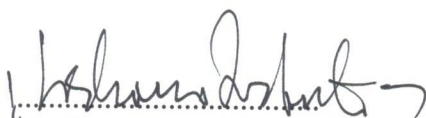
We need to become more aware of the complexity that go into the communication process. Sometimes we do not pay attention to communicate with others in a clear and simple way and we underestimate the impact, at times negative, that our words and gestures can have. Proper communication of our thoughts prevents the creation of misunderstandings. We must become increasingly aware that our opinions and information about our personal or community activities can be exploited. The choice of words and the correct approach to communication are important prerequisites. We must learn to communicate in the right way.


Pope Francis in his message for the 53rd World Communications Day 2019, speaking about the communication network, says: "This is the network we want, a network created not to entrap, but to liberate, to protect a communion of people who are free. The Church herself is a network woven together by Eucharistic communion, where unity is based not on "likes", but on the truth, on the "Amen", by which each one clings to the Body of Christ, and welcomes others."

The Congregation has addressed the problem of communication on several occasions. On the anniversary of the Centennial of God and the Neighbor, the Superiors General of the Rogationists and the Daughters of Divine Zeal sent a circular letter on "Our Communication Yesterday and Today" (Rome 2008). Recently, the Province of St. Matthew sent to the Confreres of the Circumscription some guidelines for the use of the means of communication (cf. Prot. 223/20 of August 5, 2020).

Making use of the numerous literature on the subject, the Documents of the Church and of the Bishops' Conferences, as well as the interventions of our Congregation, I ask each Circumscription deepen its understanding of this topic, either by setting up a special commission or within the context of the Circumscription Council, and then send the results of the work to the Superior General no later than February 2022, so that a circular letter can be prepared which, in this regard, will provide suggestions or precise instructions for the entire Congregation.

I greet you cordially in the Lord.


(Fr. Fortunato Siciliano, R.C.J.)
Secretary General


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

