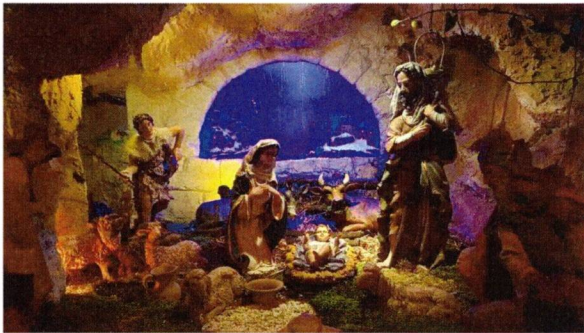


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*Just the angels had had departed to return to heaven, the shepherds said among themselves: 'Let us go up to Bethlehem, let us see this event that the Lord has made known to us. So they went without delay and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. And when they had seen it, they reported what had been told them about the child. (Lk 2:15-17).*

## **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025**

To the Rogationists  
To the Family of Rogate

Dearly beloved,

my fraternal greetings and best wishes reach you in these last days of the Advent season, as we foretaste in our hearts the joy of the encounter with the Child Jesus, who comes to give himself to each one of us, to give us his peace, as announced by the Angels: peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased.

We are loved by God who is Love and the Word of God, who became man like us to pass on to us, in his Spirit, the love, enables us to live in true peace.

This year, also, in several countries a considerable number of our brothers and sisters perish or survive in terrible conflicts yearning for a longed peace.

We cannot remain indifferent, because our encounter with the Child Jesus would not be true, authentic, if spiritually did not also take place with all our brothers and sisters, and particularly with those who are suffering.

The Magi and the Shepherds brought to the Child Jesus their gifts; the Word of God who became man to meet us, to unite himself totally with us in the mystery of his death and resurrection, awaits from us the gift of ourselves, of our persons who would like to be united with Him and share in his mission. We professed this when we were washed and consecrated in the Holy Baptism.

Our mission, our apostolate, today sees us immersed in so many difficulties and anxieties, such that, at times, it seems to darken the horizon and put a strain on our hope.

Pope Francis, precisely for this reason, wanted the Jubilee Year 2025 to be opened on the eve of Holy Christmas, which has as its theme 'Pilgrims of Hope', and which draws attention to the importance of pilgrimage as a metaphor for the journey of life, a path of hope towards redemption and inner peace.

The evangelist Luke tells us that the Shepherds, having arrived in Bethlehem "found Mary and Joseph and the child" in a condition of great poverty, but also of great peace and joy. The journey of the Holy Family of Nazareth was always marked by difficulties and sufferings embraced, however, with great peace, joy and communion in the Spirit, in obedience to the will of the Father.

In our apostolate, knowing the great crisis facing the family today, we are invited to look to the shining model of the Family of Nazareth. We would like to ask for the gift of the Spirit, which is love and communion, so that we can be heralds and witnesses of fraternity in our religious communities. This will be possible if we also “find” Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus.

In the new year that starts, we will also be helped by Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter 'Dilexit nos', on the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ, which will help us to penetrate the spiritual richness of our charism; above all, we will live the Holy Year, as pilgrims who place their hope entrusting themselves to the compassionate and merciful love of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

In the itinerary towards the centennial Year of the birth to Heaven of St Hannibal Mary Di Francia (1927), accompanied, in a particular way, by our holy Founder, the 2025 will be for us the Year of the Youth of the Rogate Family. In the present year 2024 we had the merger of the Congregation of the Little Mission for the Deaf-mute into our Congregation. We would like to bless the Lord, who has given us these new Brothers.

Our Congregation, although with the difficulties of the journey, has extended its tent and given the Church a new Bishop in the person of Fr. René Ramirez.


In the new year, halfway through the term of the General Government, we will start the procedure for the next General Chapter and there will be the renewal of the Governments of the Quasi-Province St Thomas and St Joseph Quasi-Province; we will also have the unification of the two Italian Provinces. On the 75th anniversary of the presence of the Congregation in the Latin American continent, in Passos MG, Brazil, in October we will hold there the Conference of the Superiors of the Circumscriptions .

We would like, with the Family of the Rogate and, particularly with the Daughters of Divine Zeal, to walk together. If fraternal sharing is the necessary condition for our community life and for our apostolate, it constitutes an extra push when it expands into the collaboration at the level of the Family of the Rogate.

Let us share the richness of knowledge of our holy Founder, to enter more into the understanding of the charism and spirituality. According to opportunities at conferences, study days, seminars, by presence or online, let us participate in initiatives aimed at initial or ongoing formation; let us collaborate, whenever and however possible, in the accompaniment of our Laity; let us promote together the pastoral care of vocations and the historical Associations, in particular the Union of Prayer for Vocations and the Priestly Union of Prayer Union for Vocations. Let us live together, when and as possible, the important appointments of our Institutions, at the general, circumscription and local levels, as a sign of belonging to a true charismatic Family. Let us walk together, then, towards the appointments that await us.

Let us ask the Child Jesus, who comes to dwell among us, to his Mother, the Immaculate Virgin Mary, and to the glorious Patriarch St Joseph, to bless our journey.

May Father Founder, Saint Hannibal Maria Di Francia, beseech the spirit of synodality to all of us, as the best gift for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025.

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