

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

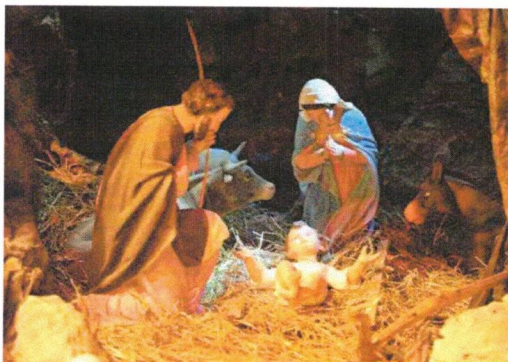
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Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.



Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife

into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:18-21)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022

To the Rogationists

To the Family of the Rogate

Dearly beloved,

My wish for a Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022 is made on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, when we conclude the Special Year of Saint Joseph. We are invited to enter into the mystery of Christmas, guided by Mary and Joseph, by their great faith, which is the adoration and acceptance of the Divine Will.

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, calls St. Joseph *an accepting Father*. He writes: *Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally (...). The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains but accepts. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning.* (no. 4).

Jesus, who comes among us, expects to be welcomed, with the love of his holy parents, Mary and Joseph. At the same time, he expects us to welcome him in the needy, in the least, as he will remind us on our last day on earth when he welcomes us into eternal life (cf. Mt 25:31-46).

For two years now, we have been tested by the pandemic. We have experienced the Lord's protection, but also sickness in some of us and even the loss of a confrere. We have experienced at times conflicting situations. Limitations in movement in some cases have allowed us to live in greater recollection, in others, they have caused a certain personal closure. We experienced privations but, at the same time, we expanded our hearts, at times even exposing ourselves to the risk of getting infected, to respond the spiritual and material needs of our brothers and sisters.

Personally, I felt a particular discomfort at not being able to complete the first visit to the Congregation and then make the second one. Nonetheless, we experienced our closeness and took care of many of our commitments using the Internet. I urge you, for the time we still have to face this trial, to live in vigilance to avoid the contagion and to continue to be workers of good.

In this journey of ours, we are guided by the Spirit through the Church. Pope Francis leaves no occasion to remind us that the crisis situations we face today, such as pollution, environmental destruction, and the drama of immigration, are consequences of a distorted universal coexistence, and that we must seek the solution in the rediscovery of a healthy humanism, enlightened by faith.

In his Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti on Fraternity and Social Friendship*, he drew our attention to the principle of subsidiarity, which guarantees the participation and action of smaller communities and organizations (n. 175) and which is inseparable from the principle of solidarity (n. 187). Taking a further step in this journey, on April 24, 2021, the Pope called the Synod of Bishops 2021-2023 for a Synodal Church - communion - participation - mission. Therefore, with the Church, we are all called to reflect, ponder, and pray about synodality, in our personal vision, in the life of our Communities, in our apostolate, in our Circumscriptions, and in the Congregation itself.

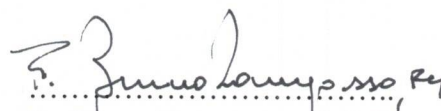
Our upcoming 13th General Chapter is intended to be an expression of synodality. Together we intend to reflect and discuss the particular theme of *Rogationist Religious Life Today: Unity, Coordination, Sharing*, and to plan a coherent path of renewal. In the meantime, the Lineamenta has been finalized and handed over to the Pre-Chapter Commission, which will elaborate the *Instrumentum laboris* and forward it to the individual Capitulars next February.

In the letter announcing the Chapter (5.07.2021, Prot. n. 176/21) each Community was invited to celebrate a monthly Holy Mass to implore the graces necessary for the success of the Chapter. As part of this journey of preparation, which involves the entire Congregation, the Pre-Chapter Commission will send the Communities prayer aid with which, in April, May, and June, on the day in which the above-mentioned Holy Mass is celebrated, we will be helped to reflect and pray together for the success of the Chapter.

We want to walk together, in synodality, drawing on the foundation indicated to us by our holy Founder, as we prepare, on May 16, 2022, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the foundation of our Congregation.

In some brief *Notes of Regulations for the "Rogandina" Congregation* (October 21, 1900), Father Hannibal tells us that the Spirit of the Institute is "Zeal for the interests of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, hence Divine Glory, health of souls, good of the Church, the consolation, the relief and good of all Humanity. Embrace with desire the greater good of all, spiritual and temporal, and eternal as our own."¹

May our Founder, Saint Hannibal Maria Di Francia, impart to all of us this spirit of synodality for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022.


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

¹ DI FRANCIA A., *Scritti* – vol. V – Regolamenti, Ed. Rogate (2009), p. 247.