Rome. December 20, 2019

Prot. No. 357/19

Subject: Meeting of Superiors of Circumscription on February 17-22, 2020

To: The Most Rev. Superiors

of Rogationist Circumscriptions

Dearest Confreres,

Further to my letter of November 9, 2019, Prot. No. 318/19, I hereby send you the detailed program of our next Meeting of Superiors of Circumscription, which we will hold in at the General Curia in Rome, from February 17 to 21, 2020.

We parted from the Conference of last October with the clear perception of having widened our gaze on many problems of the Congregation and of the individual Circumscriptions, of having gained the conviction that we need to face them by joining and coordinating forces and, therefore, we returned to the our offices with this new appointment to resume the reflection together and, this time, to formulate concrete guidelines and proposals that will gradually lead us to overcome the issues in order to move forward with greater confidence and hope.

The service of authority, which we share in subsidiarity, refers to the charism and the General Chapter, which periodically rereads it. The XII General Chapter left us the mandate to make the "compassion" of Christ of the Rogate our own and to renew ourselves in "our charismatic identity in today's challenges". Our programming of the six-year term has moved in this direction, and has renewed the invitation to move "from compassion to mission".

Today, we note that the mission presents itself to us with new problems which, at times, appear like insurmountable walls. The choice we are called to make is to face the difficulties with trust and hope, letting ourselves be guided by the Spirit, in the certainty that the charism that has been given to us through him, through the guarantee of the Church, has found its sure expression in our Rule of Life, which has been updated in recent years.

The purpose of this meeting, therefore, is to resume our discussion on unresolved issues and concerns, and to work in seeking, together, the possible solutions, aided by the "The Practical Guide for the Superiors of Circumscriptions" which, despite its limitations, recalls and reminds us of the Rule of Life.

We will be introduced to our meeting by a reflection on the relationship between the General Government and the Circumscription Governments, which wants to be characterized by fraternity, subsidiarity, sharing and collaboration.

We will then move on to the Practical Guide, reading it together, to find the elements that concretely help us to "walk together", to seek the coordination that leads us, at the same time, to give and receive, as in a real family.

With this background, we will return to dwell on some problems that came out in our last Conference, or on other questions that have arisen, aiming to discern towards concrete guidelines and choices, so that we can reach the appropriate solutions.

With this wish, which I entrust to the Divine Superiors and to the intercession of Saint Hannibal, I look forward to meeting you, and I greet all of you with affection in the Lord.

………………………………………. (Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, R.C.J.)

Superior General

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

General Secretary

**Meeting of Superiors of Circumscription**

February 17-21, 2020

General Curia, Rome

**OBJECTIVES**:

• To have a realistic view of the current situation of the Congregation.

• To give concrete answers to the challenges that post questions, in dialogue and communion between the General Government and Circumscriptions, strengthening subsidiarity and "synodality" (cf. Norms, 138)

• Operational proposals

**SCHEDULE**

7.30 Morning prayers (meeting room, ground floor)

8.00 Breakfast

9.00 Meeting (meeting room, ground floor)

10.30 Break

11.00 Meeting

12.00 Holy Mass

12.45 Midday with the Community of the Curia

13.00 Lunch

15.45 Meeting

17.30 Break

18.00 Meeting

19.15 Vespers with the Community of the Curia (Chapel)

19.30 Dinner

* February 17, Monday morning: Conference with an expert: “Relationship between the General Government and the Governments of Circumscription”
* February 21, Friday morning: synthesis, conclusion and Holy Mass

**METHODOLOGY**:

* Read together some numbers of the Practical Guide (2017); presentation and comments by the Superior General, Councilors and General Officers.
* Deepen and discern together some indications and contributions that came out during the meeting with the Superiors and Councils of Circumscription last October 2019.

**TOPICS**:

* Some aspects of our religious life that we find in the Practical Guide for the Superior of Circumscription, with reference to the Rule of Life, the Directory and our experience in the territories and cultural areas where we work.
* Some aspects / points that emerged during the Conference last October.

**A. Some parts of the Practical Guide for the Superior of Circumscription (2017)**

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| Topic | Practical Guide, 2017; Italian ed. | Facilitator |
| 1. Communications with the General Secretary  - general register and essential documents of the members; news; important events; Annuario updates | 1.3 | P. Siciliano |
| 2. General Postulation  - diffusion, knowledge of the candidates for the altars; website for materials; economic contribution for expenses | 1.4 | P. Ezpeleta |
| 3. Study Center  - Identification of at least 1 confrere per Circumscription as an "active" member of the Center, even if residence is not required | 1.5 | P. Pottokkaran |
| 4. Communication  - website of the Congregation; email rcj.org for all members | 1.6 | P. Siciliano |
| 5. Translations  - collaboration by the Circumscription; sub- commissions; translation, editing, online publishing, printing | 1.7 | P. Ezpeleta |
| 6. The Rogationist Family  - collaboration with the FDZ, Missionaries of the Rogate, Rogationist laity | 1.8 | P. Gilson |
| 7. Religious consecration  - will and testament (verify if the religious make a testament) | 2.2 | P. Siciliano |
| 8. Community life  - celebration of council meetings (house, family, formation) | 3.1 | P. Siciliano |
| - periodic reports  annual: personnel and houses; real properties; pending cases  - semestral: administrative/economic reports | 3.3 | P. Siciliano  P. Chiapperini |
| - archives: update | 3.5 | P. Siciliano |
| - visit, sojourns, trips abroad  - guarantee letter for visas: procedures  - indications for students residing in the Curia | 3.6 | P. Sanavio  P. Ezpeleta |
| 9. Life of prayer. Community prayer: importance / necessity of daily moments of prayer together  - Proper Liturgy: translation, publication, use | 4.1 | P. Ezpeleta |
| 10. Rogate vocation apostolate.  - strengthen the local Rogate Centers, the UPV and the USPV; diffusion of knowledge of and devotion to the Founder | 5.1 | P. Pottokkaran |
| 11. Educational and social apostolate.  - collaborate with the local social services and with the Rogationist circumscriptions | 5.2 | P. Sanavio |
| 12. Apostolate among the poor  - solidarity with the poor; in charge of the poor; at least 3% of the budget set aside for the poor | 5.3 | P. Sanavio |
| 13. Parish Apostolate.  - the agreement requires the authorization of the Superior General  - Rogationist character of our parishes | 5.4 | P. Gilson |
| 14. Vocation and formation  - acceptance of candidates  - Novice Master, Prefect of Religious Students: Nulla osta from the Superior General; indicate the name at least 1 year prior to appointment; ensure specific preparation  - formation of formators. | 6.  6.1.2  6.10.7 | P. Ezpeleta |
| 15. Novitiate  - study the possibility of a novitiate for the Spanish language  - or the possibility of a Novitiate for the Latin area (Italian, Spanish, Portuguese)  - Novitiate Residence: updating / suggestions | 6.2 | P. Ezpeleta |
| 16. admission to the profession  - delegation by the Superior of Circumscription | 6.3 | P. Siciliano |
| - personal documentation | 6.4 | P. Siciliano |
| 17. admission to perpetual profession and sacred orders | 6.8  6.10 | P. Siciliano |
| 18. after Holy Orders: certificate and notification | 6.10.6 | P. Siciliano |
| 19. inter-Circumscription transfers | 6.6.3 | P. Siciliano |
| 20. Request for a religious in temporary vows to leave the Congregation before the expiration of the vows | 7.2 | P. Siciliano |
| 21. Grant of permission to leave the religious house on the request or initiative of a confrere, without legitimate mandate from the Congregation | 7.4 | P. Siciliano |
| 22. Request for the indult for temporary exclaustration, by a professed in perpetual vows | 7.5 | P. Siciliano |
| 23. Cases in which a religious must be considered dismissed IPSO FACTO  - update on the motu proprio Communis Vita  - the judicial procedures to be followed | 7.8 | P. Siciliano |
| 24. Cases in which a religious MUST BE dismissed | 7.9 | P. Siciliano |
| 25. Cases in which a religious CAN BE dismissed | 7.10 - 7.11 | P. Siciliano |
| 26. Dispensation from the obligations of the priestly order | 7.14 | P. Siciliano |
| 27. Government | 8. | P. Rampazzo |
| - duties and tasks of the Superior of Circumscription | 8.1 – 8.4 | P. Rampazzo |
| - Councilors of the Circumscription | 8.5 | P. Siciliano |
| - formulation of procedures | 8.6 | P. Siciliano |
| - letters of the Superior of the Circumscription | 8.7 | P. Siciliano |
| - planning and periodic reports | 8.8 – 8.12 | P. Siciliano |
| - non-juridically erected community | 8.13 | P. Siciliano |
| - Provincial Chapter;  - General Assemblies | 8.15 | P. Siciliano |
| - executive tasks of the Superior of Circumscription | 8.16 | P. Rampazzo |
| - Councilor of Sector; deliberation of XII Chapter (STC, 135) | 8.17 | P. Rampazzo |
| - competent authority for agreements and contracts | 8.18 | P. Siciliano/  P. Chiapperini |
| 28. administration of goods | 9.1-9.7 | P. Chiapperini |
| 29. improper use of money and assets of the Congregation | 9.8 | P. Chiapperini |

**B. Some aspects / points to think about together before proceeding**

Facilitator: Fr. Bruno Rampazzo

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| 30. New mission openings: discernment, study, project, procedures - coordinated with the general government |
| 31. Exchange of personnel to be assigned in mission stations of the PICN (Colombia), of the PSL (Argentina, Angola), of the PICS (Mother House, Albania), in the communities of the NSDG Delegation (USA, Mexico) |
| 32. Formulate a statute with some basic points regarding the exchange of personnel |
| 33. Towards the establishment of an international student residence (studentato) |
| 34. Destination of some structures: Grottaferrata, Warsaw |
| 35. Consolidation of missionary / community presence: Portugal, England, Germany, Poland, Iraq, France, Angola, Argentina, Colombia |
| 36. New openings: Gwangju, Canada, USA (Reedly) |
| 37. Prospects for new openings: Paraguay, Mexico. Proposal to open in Ethiopia. |
| 38. Enhancement / Plan of collaboration with the laity: 1st international symposium of the Rogationist laity |
| 39. Strengthen and coordinate the formation in the Congregation. |
| 40. Economic and administrative situation. |
| 41. Theme of the next General Chapter 2022 proposed by the General Government: "**The Rogationist consecrated life today: unity, coordination and sharing**"; open for discussion to enrich the theme. |