

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti
Curia Generalizia

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*“And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling
among us;
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father’s
only Son,
full of grace and truth”.*
Gv 1,14.

*Greetings of Holy Christmas
and happy New Year*

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearests,

these words of John, which illuminate the mystery of the birth of Jesus with divine light, are addressed to us in a very special way, if we reflect on our history, on our beginnings.

Our Holy Founder, Hannibal Di Francia, told us that we, as Pious Work of the Heart of Jesus, were born when Jesus in the Eucharist has deigned to “come and dwell among us”.

In this intense season of Advent, while we are preparing for Holy Christmas to welcome Jesus into our hearts, we want to grow in the awareness that the Holy Child who is born in Bethlehem wants to be our brother, friend, travel companion, comfort in the midst of the difficulties of our pilgrimage, secure reference of our life.

John reminds us that the Word, “came among his own” and his own did not accept him. We want to welcome him with all the love we have, having for our model, the loving heart of Father Hannibal, and of his many sons and daughters.

We had the gift of the 12th General Chapter, which called us to revive our identity as consecrated persons and to translate it with our concrete choices.

During this past year, on my part and that of the Council, we have had the opportunity to know closely, through some fraternal visits, the reality of our Religious Family, with all the good that it accomplishes as well as difficulties that it encounters.

The recent Conference of the Superiors and Councils of the Circumscriptions has allowed us to deepen our gaze on the reality and to define a shared action plan that we intend to carry out together in this six-year period. The document of the six-year program, “From compassion to mission”, soon to be published, will be an important help for our choices regarding our spiritual life and apostolate.

This new year will bring me to the Circumscriptions for my first visit in this six-year mandate. We will experience once again the joy of meeting one another in fraternity, in the desire to work together for the good of the Congregation, at the service of the Church, according to the richness of our charism.

In two Provinces, St. Luke and St. Matthew, there will be the Provincial Chapter, an appointment that brings the Circumscriptions to a greater commitment to discern their own path and to look towards the future with renewed impetus.

This year, the Church, with the Synod of Bishops dedicated to the Youth, calls us to look together at this precious and strategic part of our society, rich in resources, open to prophecy and proven by many difficulties. Our charism and our tradition call us to pay particular attention to the prospects that could come from this important ecclesial event.

The charm, the meditation of Christmas, finds us ecstatic to pause in front of the stable of Bethlehem, to contemplate Joseph, Mary and the Child, the Holy Family who are united in an unspeakable love in the face of many hardships.

This is my invitation: let us be infected by this love and reciprocate it, as what our Founder and many confreres, sisters and lay associates were able to do and shared our charism and spirituality.

Our communion with the Lord will move us to live in unity, in the wider context of our Religious Family, and in that of our Circumscription and of the local Community.

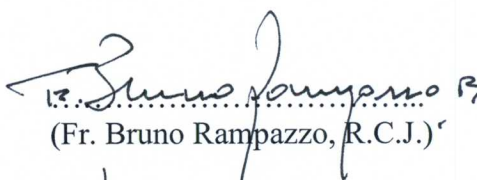
This unity is born from mutual knowledge and esteem, from the capacity to listen and forgive one another, from the willingness to place one another at the service of the brother and sister, especially those who are suffering, from the communion and sharing of the gifts of the Spirit.

While we stand before the crib, let us listen to the song of the Angels, admire the shepherds and the magi bringing their gifts and let us see Mary who presents her Son, the Child Jesus, the Gift of God the Father to humanity.

I want to give my best wishes of peace and goodwill to all of you, especially to those who are tested by sickness and suffering. May our closeness to the Lord, to the Virgin Mary, the communion with our brothers, obtain for us the comfort, joy and peace of Christmas.

May Mary, Joseph and the Child Jesus grant us this grace, through the intercession of our Celestial Patrons and of the Holy Founder.

In union of prayer, I greet you with affection in the Lord. Merry Christmas!


(Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, R.C.J.)
Sup. Gen.