



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Obj. : 25° of our presence in India

To the Most Rev. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
and To the Rogationist Communities

Dear Confreres,

I am writing you this message from Aluva as we celebrate on this day, the 25th anniversary of the presence of our Congregation in India. I write with a heart filled with gratitude towards the Lord for having blessed our Institute during these years in this great country of India.

He, in His great goodness, sent us in this nation, of which the whole world admires the civilization and spirituality, to bring here the Charism of the Rogate, a gift particularly precious, because it pleads the workers of the new evangelization and strives to uplift the little ones and the poor.

We are grateful to the Syro-Malabar Church of Kerala which opened to us the doors, and in particular to the late Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly, Card. Mar Antony Padiyara, who has consented us to start the first community in Aluva on April 13th 1987, and we received the indult of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches on February 26th of the following year. The Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly extended her great support to the Congregation by assigning diocesan priests as collaborators, among them we remember and thank in particular his Excellency Mons. Thomas Chakiath, appointed as Chief Functionary of the Rogationist Indian Mission and Fr. Thomas Vithayattil, as Chief Formator.

The initiative of the new opening was taken by the then Superior General Fr. Pietro Cifuni, and the task was entrusted to Fr. Antonio Barbangelo, who had then completed his missionary experience in the Philippines. He arrived in India on December 5th 1986, then other confreres, according to the order of arrival, Bro. Nilo Pelobello, Fr. Vito A. Lipari e Fr. Filippo Puntrello followed him.

The new Foundation in India was accompanied and sustained by General Government and was supported by the Philippine Delegation which, since the beginning, sent her confreres to sustain the mission. We remember among them :Fr. René Panlasigui, Fr. Ulyses Angus, Fr. Gabriel Flores, Bro. Marcelino Lavente. On October 1999 Fr. Luigi Toffanin has been appointed as the superior delegate of the Rogate Ashram.

A heartfelt thanks from all of us, go to these confreres and all the others who, for a limited time, have operated with zeal and sacrifice in this blessed land of India.

