

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

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Solemnity of Saint Joseph



*Greetings of Holy Easter
In the Jubilee of Mercy*

*Now since it was preparation day, (...) the
Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken
and they be taken down. (...)
But when they came to Jesus
and saw that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs, but one soldier
thrust his lance into his side, and
immediately blood and water flowed out.
An eyewitness has testified,
and his testimony is true;
he knows that he is speaking the truth,
so that you also may [come to] believe.
For this happened so that the scripture
passage might be fulfilled:
“Not a bone of it will be broken.”
And again another passage says:
“They will look upon him whom they have
pierced.” (Gv 19, 31-37)*

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

I would like to express to you my wishes of a peaceful and *Holy Easter* with the exhortation to welcome the invitation of John the evangelist: “They shall look on him whom they pierced”.

In the pierced heart of Christ the Father's merciful love is revealed: Christ's heart is widely opened for each of us, to welcome us, to forgive us and to give us salvation and consolation.

In our daily struggle we are confronted with problems and difficulties, at times we experience weariness and a sense of frustration in finding ourselves helpless in the face of evil and injustice that we see around us, and at the same time threatening each of us.

In the Bull of indiction of the Jubilee Year Pope Francis tells us that if we are searching for justice we must find mercy:

“God's justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus the Cross of Christ is God's judgment on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certitude of love and new life.” (MV 21).

This link between the death and resurrection of Jesus is clearly expressed by Father Hannibal in his notes for a sermon of 1901:

“My brothers and sisters (...) I believe it is opportune that I should speak to you both of the pains and the Glories of Jesus our Redeemer. The great Mystery of Jesus Christ's Resurrection is closely united with the Mystery of his adorable Passion: the

meditation on the Glory of the risen Christ does not exempt us from meditating on his pains and his death. Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are but one mystery: the mystery of our Redemption".¹

Dearests, I exhort you therefore, to carry the daily cross with confidence, knowing that it is a cross of redemption, of salvation and of victory along with the Risen One.

I am writing you while I have just completed my second visit to the Congregation. Back in February I was able to visit also the Community of the St. Joseph Quasi-Province in Barjols (France), and now I'm looking forward of celebrating the Holy Week together with our Confreres in the Community of St. Anthony Province in Ankawa (Iraq). Successively, this coming 16th of April I will be in Maumere (Indonesia) to participate in the Priestly ordination of the first Indonesian Rogationist priest, Rev. Henrikus Gualbertus. Then, on the 23rd, I will be in Aluva to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Distant Adoption Apostolate. In the beginning of May I will be in Nyanza (Africa) to renew the Government of the Saint Joseph Quasi-Province.

The visit has been a beautiful experience of fraternity and a consolation in the Lord, having been assured that the Communities are giving proper attention to the Rogationist spiritual life and are zealous of our charismatic mission. Once more I wish to express to you my gratitude for so much good you accomplish with admirable dedication. Problems are not lacking, but we know that they are part of life and they find meaning in our "Diary of Divine Benefits".

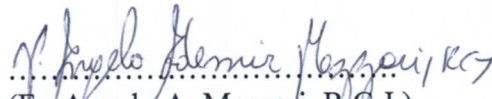
We are looking forward to our 12th General Chapter and we hope that this meeting would be an important stage in the life of our Congregation. In the last six years, with the Lord's blessing, our religious Family has had a consolidation as well as an expansion with our new presences, particularly in some regions.

While we ask the Lord to bless abundantly these new openings, so that the charism of the Rogate will become more and more a means of salvation for the people of God, we also feel the need to take care of our permanent formation and to draw from the Heart of Jesus the compassion for the salvation of souls. In this we want to follow the shining example of St. Hannibal and of the Confreres and Sisters who joined him in the first steps of the journey of the Pious Work.

I address my most fervent wish of joy and peace of Holy Easter, especially to the Confreres who are suffering, due to difficult situations or because of the cross of sickness. May the Divine Superiors sustain and comfort them.

I would like to express my affection and closeness to our sisters, the Daughters of Divine Zeal, to the Missionaries of the Rogate, to the members of the Rogationist associations and to all our Lay partners who collaborate with us in our life and apostolate. May the Risen Lord fill us all with his love and his peace.

I entrust all this to the Most Blessed Virgin, through the intercession of our Founder, St. Hannibal, and our Patron Saints, as I greet you all with affection in the Lord.


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(Fr. Angelo A. Mezzari, R.C.J.)
Superior General

¹ Cf. Di Francia A., *Scritti*, typewritten, vol. 11, n. 1883.