

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord



And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely.

(Jn 17:11-13)

Happy and Holy Easter!

To the Rogationists

To the Family of the Rogate

Dearly beloved

On the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, I would like to extend to each of you my fraternal and affectionate wishes for a peaceful and holy Easter. The echo of Pope Francis' heartfelt prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to implore peace resounds within us. We shared his words with which, through Mary, he consecrated Russia and the battered Ukraine to the Lord.

The ordeal of this people moves, particularly in Europe, a great participation and mobilizes solidarity and welcome. We share this closeness with various initiatives and, above all, with fervent prayers to the Lord of life and peace that He may stop this war and the other wars that tear apart the lives so many peoples throughout the world.

This reason for suffering and concern compounds the great trial of the pandemic that has sown suffering and grief and still does not seem to be going away.

We are tempted to wonder if the Lord has forgotten about us, but we are reassured by his word: *Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.* (Is 49:15). As we journey towards the passion of the Lord Jesus, let us turn our gaze to our Savior who, together with the Cyrenian, carries the cross on the road to Calvary, the cross of our sins and our salvation.

We recognize that even in the ordeal of the pandemic and in the barbarity of this terrible war, there is the power of good, the generosity of brothers and sisters who risk their lives to save men and women, old people, and children, unknown to them before and to whom they reach out to relieve them of their anguish.

Globalization, which characterizes our society in many areas of life and conditions it, can be an element of growth of good or amplification of evil, as Pope Francis reminds us: "We cannot forget Christ's desire *that they may all be one* (cf. Jn 17:21). Hearing his

call, we recognize with sorrow that the process of globalization still lacks the prophetic and spiritual contribution of unity among Christians." (*Fratelli Tutti*, 280).

The Church, today, calls us to read the term "unity" with the word "synodality", which means "participation". In this synodal dimension, I urge you to walk together towards our XIII General Chapter, which is getting closer and closer, and which calls us to carry out a revision on the *Rogationist religious life today: unity, coordination, sharing*. The Commission for the *Instrumentum Laboris* has recently delivered the document to the General Government, which will forward it to the individual Chapter members as soon as possible. It will also be published on the website of the Congregation, where it can be consulted and downloaded.

As the Constitutions remind us: "The General Chapter expresses the participation and concern of all the Confreres. It has the supreme authority in the Institute and must be composed in such a way to represent the entire Congregation so as to be a real sign of its unity in charity." (art. 138). Therefore, we are all called to collaborate in this phase of the concluding journey towards the General Chapter by deepening the particular theme: our religious life today, our unity, coordination, and sharing. A prayer aid will be forwarded, for the preparation of the Chapter, with an outline for the monthly Mass and for a prayer encounter.

I encourage to forward to the General Chapter any contributions you may have on the particular topic or on other aspects that you consider important, either by entrusting them to some Chapter members or by sending them directly to the Chapter Secretariat.

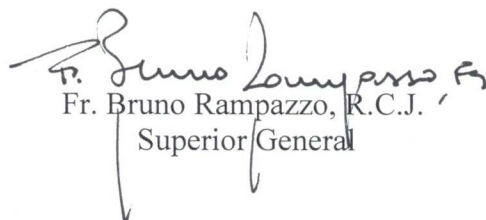
We live our fraternity, without a doubt, in the sincerity of the affections that unite us and in the daily relationships of dialogue and collaboration. It reaches its highest expression when we are united in the Name of the Lord, in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and in community prayer.

Fraternal life is sustained by our prayer and enlightened by the Rule of Life. Therefore, we need to dwell periodically in meetings of fraternal community evaluation, and, to find support in our spiritual life, we have "at hand" the Prayer Book that was given to us after the recent work of updating.

Father Hannibal, who gave himself to God and to Neighbor, entrusts this ideal to us in the *Declarations and Promises*: "I declare that I have learned, to my great delight, that in this Institute, great value is placed on mutual love and respect; and that the precept given by Our Lord Jesus Christ, *love one another as I have loved you*, which form the distinctive mark of all Christians, is the primary rule of this Institute, as that of *loving God above all things with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength* (n. 9)

My best wishes go out to all of you, dear Confreres, especially the sick and those in difficult situations. I extend special greetings and wishes to our Sisters, the Daughters of Divine Zeal, the Missionaries of the Rogate, the Rogationist Associations and the Laity who share the charism of the Rogate. May the Risen Jesus grant his peace to us all.

I entrust these wishes to the Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Hannibal and our Holy Protectors, as I greet everyone with affection in the Lord.


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