



Christ, our Easter, is risen!

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. The First Community in Jerusalem. When they entered the city, they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (Acts 1:12-14)

To the Rogationists
To the Rogate Family

Dearly Beloved,

My Easter greetings to you this year come with an image of Mary surrounded by the Apostles, praying as they welcome the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the fulfilment of Easter and the expression of the reality of our salvation, which is fulfilled in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, in communion with the Father and his Spirit and in communion among us brothers and sisters.

In this Jubilee Year we are called, as Pope Francis reminds us in the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee, to return to the sources of salvation as Pilgrims of Hope.

The Holy Father is not unaware of the reality in which we are immersed, with its contradictions, and so he tells us that "if our hearts cherish hope as desire and expectation of good, our minds are aware of the unpredictability of the future, and so we alternate between trust and fear, serenity and despondency, certainty and doubt".

Even in our own small way, as the Family of the Rogate, while on the one hand we must praise and bless the Lord for the gifts he bestows on us every day, on the other hand we struggle with difficulties, problems and contradictions, which sometimes seem to dash our hopes.

The reason we are called to remain steadfast "does not disappoint". This is possible and real because it is founded on the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who reconciled us with the Father and with each other, in communion with his Holy Spirit.

As we remember the gifts we have received from the Lord, among many others, our thoughts turn to the gift of the episcopal appointment that Pope Francis made to Fr. René Ramirez, who was

consecrated bishop on February 1st, and to Fr. Herman Abcede, who will be consecrated bishop on May 1st. Let us remember them in our prayers.

Another gift that the Lord is granting us is the visit I am making to the Circumscriptions, which is now in its final phase. In December, a visit to the Delegation of Our Lady of Guadalupe is planned, to coincide with the Delegation Assembly.

In these meetings, which have given us the opportunity to carry out an action of verification and discernment together, we have concretely rediscovered what I was already mentioning, that is, the graces of the Lord and our various critical issues. I would like to draw your attention to one of these: fraternal communion, which arises from our being together with the Lord, from our mutual acceptance and mercy, from our ability to collaborate. I believe that there lies the measure of our problems and, at the same time, the key to their solution.

Together with my visit, the Vicar General, Fr. Jose Maria Ezpeleta, made a visit for the "apta consultatio" in the St. Joseph Quasi-Province and in the St. Thomas Quasi-Province, for the renewal of the Governments of the Circumscriptions. We want to accompany these moments of growth of the two Circumscriptions with our closeness and our prayers, and hope that the Governments that will be called upon to animate and guide them will be supported by the participation of the Communities and of the individual confreres.

In recent years we have made a special effort to prepare and accompany the journey towards the unification of the two Italian Provinces, which will be finalized with the Chapter of Unification on July 3, 2025, at the Spirituality Center in Morlupo. There have been several meetings in recent years, during which the critical issues that led to the choice of unification were highlighted, and on the other hand, they favored an initial discernment for possible answers. The Chapter may not be the end of the problems, but it should represent a renewed commitment to a renewal with the participation of all and, once again, a sign of hope.

Dearly beloved, as we approach the centenary of the blessed transitus of our holy Founder (2027), various initiatives are being organized to promote knowledge of and devotion to Saint Hannibal, and thus the charism of the Rogationists, in our communities, in the Family of the Rogate and in the ecclesial contexts in which we are involved. I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities by actively participating, so that together we can grow, for our own good and for the good of the Church.

A recent initiative is the establishment of the Rogationist Vocation Day. While responding to the particular need we have, in our Circumscriptions, for numerous and holy vocations, it turns its gaze to the universal Church that is called to respond ever more faithfully to Jesus' invitation: Rogate, ergo. Let's prepare to live the 62nd Day of Prayer for Vocations, next May 11th, in the best possible way, inspired by Father Hannibal. May we live this event, and its preparation, as fervent Rogationists.

I entrust my good wishes to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, spouse of the Holy Spirit, and of St. Joseph, St. Hannibal and our patron saints, as I greet you all with affection in the Lord.

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