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Peaceful and Holy Easter!

And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Lk 22:14-20 RSV).

Rome, 15 March 2018

To the Rogationists To the Rogate Family

Dearest friends,

We want to enter into the mystery of the Lord's Passover by looking at the sentiments of Jesus who speaks, heart to heart, to his disciples before returning to the Father and after having sacrificed his life for us on the cross. Easter is the manifestation of the greatest love, of the mercy of God who bends towards us in a paternal embrace.

We are called to enter into this death and resurrection. We are sent to testify with the words of Mary Magdalene that "the Lord has truly risen!" This joyful announcement, when it meets the faith of our brothers and sisters, is capable of establishing the renewal of life, of restoring hope, and of generating fraternity.

In the sign of fraternity, I will live this Easter in the Quasi Province St. Joseph where I start the official visit to the Congregation. This passage of mine in our Houses will enable us to recall together the indications of the General Chapter and the six- year Plan in order to revive our religious life and our apostolate according to the operative lines that have been given to us.

In this year of grace, our Religious Family receives a special light in two great men of God, men of the Church, and men of our time, who will be canonized: Pope Paul VI and Bishop Oscar Romero. From both men we received the sign of closeness to the Congregation and a light on the two dimensions of our charism.

Paul VI gave the best definition of who we are when he told us, "We speak to you, Rogationist Fathers of the Heart of Jesus, whose very name qualifies you in the mission and in the image of worshipers and implorers for the highest and most beautiful mission of meriting and preparing vocations for the Kingdom of Christ." Cardinal Oscar Romero, who gave his life in defense of the least, invited us to go to his diocese, motivated by the natural bond of "Rogate – Poor".

This year, moreover, while the Church accompanies us towards the important meeting of the Synod of Bishops on the Youth, we are aware of being called to take this precious occasion to make a careful examination of the apostolate we carry out with the young.

Through some of our Brothers, we have been called to offer some spaces for collaboration in the preparation of the Synod, at the same time, we feel the need to ask for the gift of the Spirit through prayer, so that the world of the young may open up to the call of the Lord, and that our Religious Family may learn to listen better to their cry, sometimes suffocated, that reaches us.

Easter is a mystery of faith, hope and love. The Lord Jesus, who dies and rises "for us" wants to die and rise "with us" to give us new life. We will continue to move forward with our difficulties and problems, weaknesses, joys and moments of exhaustion. If we know how to entrust ourselves to Jesus and to Mary, his mother and our mother, we will walk in peace.

I wish you all, dear Brothers, this serenity, especially to those who work in missionary stations and to those who, for different reasons, find themselves in precarious situations, problems or particular hardships.

My greeting and special wishes also go to the Daughters of the Divine Zeal, to the Rogationist Missionaries, to the members of the Rogationist Associations and to all our lay collaborators. The Risen Jesus gives his peace to us all.

I entrust this wish to the Blessed Virgin, through the intercession of Saint Hannibal, and of our patron saints, as I greet everyone with affection in the Lord.

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

Superior General