



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

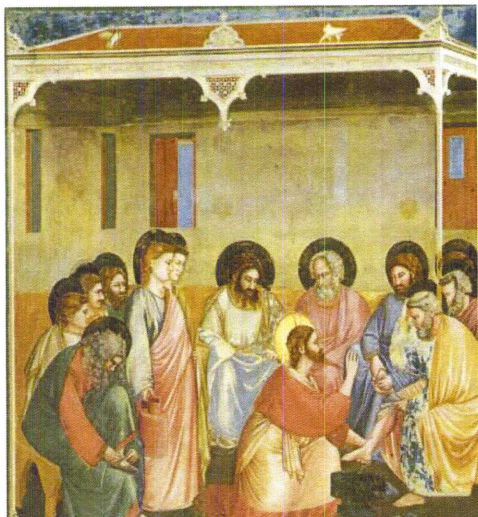
Curia Generalizia

Via Tuscolana, 167 - 00182 Roma

Tel. 06.7020751 - Fax 06.7022917

e-mail: segrgen@rcj.org

Rome, 19 March 2013



«Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist».
(Jn 13, 1-5)

*Greetings of a happy
and holy Easter*

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

while the season of Lent is about to end, let us look towards the celebration of Easter, which renews us in the light and glory of the risen Lord.

During Holy Week we will relive the final struggle faced by Jesus and his extreme humiliation with which he won over the forces of evil.

We recall the words of Paul: "Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2: 6-8). He "emptied", "humbled" himself and appeared poor, weak, destined to the shameful death of crucifixion.

Before surrendering himself in the hands of his enemies, he wanted to entrust his will to the apostles at the Last Supper. With his parting words he reminded us that we have a Father who loves us, and that in him, his Son, who gave himself up for us, he shows this infinite love. At the same time, stooping himself before the Twelve to wash their feet, he makes us understand that love is manifested in giving ourselves to others, even in the most humble services, up to giving up our own lives.

In these days we had the striking experience of witnessing the renouncement of Benedict XVI, in a gesture of humility and sacrifice, out of love for the Church, and of recollecting in silence, in prayer and reflection.

While we are close to him with affection, gratitude and prayer, we want to welcome with the same sentiments the new Shepherd of the Universal Church, Pope Francis, the Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina. According to the teaching of St. Hannibal, we implore the Holy Spirit, so that the new Pope would be “according to the Heart of Jesus”, in order that he can guide the Church, the People of God. As the Vicar of Christ, he is for all of us, and for the humanity, a spiritual and moral reference, a support in faith and in love.

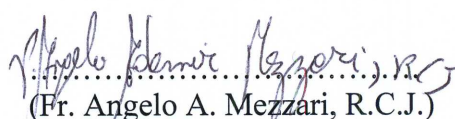
In his early appearances and gestures, with the example of sobriety and kindness, simplicity and humility, Pope Francis presented himself as a man and a pastor who looks to the essential values that goes to the heart of the Church, for which he nourishes a great love, combined with a deep faith in the Lord Jesus, showing a particular sensitivity for the poor. He invited us to be more and more “a poor Church with the poor”. In God's plan, according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, with the Church and the Congregation, we too want “to walk, to build and to confess”, as Pope Francis said in closing mass of the Conclave. Let's look at the icon of Holy Thursday: “Jesus ... rose from supper ... and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them ...”.

Dearest, I am sending my Easter Greetings to each one of you, while I'm on my visit to the Congregation. With you in the various Circumscriptions, I express my joy for the journey that we are doing together and I share your hopes, difficulties, joys and programs. We must praise the Lord for his blessing and respond to him every day by renewing the joyful offering that we made with the religious consecration. In the spirit of the Easter season, this coming 4th Sunday, I invite you to prepare well and celebrate the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations in the context of the Year of Faith and the beginning of the new Pontificate.

May the Risen Lord fill our hearts with his love, so that we learn to give him every moment of our life and to love and serve the brethren. After Jesus washed the feet of the Twelve, he warned them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it” (Jn 13, 16-17).

May the Immaculate Virgin, whom we have received as our Mother from Jesus on Calvary, accompany us to the holy Easter and grant us the grace to live with a renewed heart the glorious mystery of the resurrection of her Son Jesus, under the particular protection and intercession of St. Joseph, whom we celebrate today, and of our Holy Founder, Hannibal M. Di Francia.

With these fervent wishes, I greet you with affection in the Lord.


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