



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Prot. 59/13

Re.: Fr. Pantaleone Palma

To the Rogationists
and To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

In these coming days we will be doing a very significant gesture: the exhumation, recognition and transfer of the remains of Fr. Pantaleone Palma from Verano Cemetery in Rome to our Shrine of St. Anthony in Oria.

Last June, in my presentation of the brief biography of Fr. Pantaleone Palma, I have observed, among other things, that the several continuous testimonies of the Rogationists and the Daughters of Divine Zeal confirm their constant fondness, respect and veneration towards him. The publication of his short biography has allowed us to look at Fr. Palma with serenity and admiration, and to dwell on a painful chapter in our history, an event which reveals with increasing clarity illuminated by his great virtue.

Fr. Palma was born on April 15, 1875 in Ceglie Messapica, Province of Brindisi, Italy. He entered the Avignone Quarter, initially as a guest, towards the end of 1902. He was soon struck by the extraordinary figure of Father Hannibal, by the struggles and difficulties which he dealt with faith and pastoral zeal, by his charity, and by the ideal of prayer for good workers. Father Palma soon began to collaborate with him and set aside his initial plan of specialized studies. Attracted by those ideals, in less than a year, he already obtained the permission to leave his diocese and to devote himself entirely to the Pious Work, becoming the first and most valuable collaborator of Father Hannibal.

His presence in the Pious Work has been truly providential. Father Hannibal had initiated a variety of charitable and social works and likewise, for several years, the Sacred Alliance and the Pious Union of Evangelical Rogation. Around him was a series of thriving activities that required brains and brawn. There were, at that time, the two religious Institutes, one of women, the Daughters of Divine Zeal, which developed in different locations and had in Mother Nazarena Majone, a faithful disciple and valid collaborator of Father Hannibal, and the other of men, who could hardly grow. Father Palma soon became the *longa manus* of Father Hannibal in this vast field of work,.

On August 3, 1924, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Father Palma's priestly ordination, speaking of himself in the third person, Father Hannibal takes the

