



**Congregazione dei Rogazionisti**  
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Solemnity of St. Joseph



*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."*  
(Jn 20:19-21)

### *Easter and the Peace of Jesus!*

To the Rogationists  
and the Family of the Rogate

Dearly beloved,

I thought it would be appropriate to begin this Easter greeting with the greeting of Jesus who wishes peace to his disciples; he does this twice when he is about to send them forth, and he does it by showing the wounds on his hands and his side.

We cannot help but think of peace, wish for peace, and ask the Lord to give us peace, while every day we are confronted with horrible images of war, in Ukraine as well as in the Holy Land of Jesus and so many other parts of the world.

It seems that after the wars that bloodied the first half of the last century, this century of ours could finally choose to live in peace. But today so many of our brothers and sisters are living and, we might say, surviving in so many more or less known or forgotten conflicts around the world.

We are afraid that these wars will spread, especially those that are closer to us, but we are not doing the possible and the impossible to put an end to them, apparently because our first concern is the security of our own borders.

If we think about it, this protection of borders has been breached by the pandemic that has struck almost everywhere, some more and others less, and from all parts of the world, after an initial moment of general confusion, forces have joined together. We ask, why is this not happening today for the sake of peace? We ask ourselves; how long will this slaughter of innocents go on?

Jesus was announced by the angels at his birth as the one who would come to give us peace. When we receive Jesus, we enter into peace; when we live with Jesus, we become "blessed peacemakers", agents of peace.

Peace, then, is not only a challenge for the governments of nations and peoples, but it concerns each one of us as Christians, as members of the Family of the Rogate.

The 13<sup>th</sup> General Chapter called us to revive the Rogationist religious life today in unity, sharing, and coordination. These are seven words that we rightly recall, the result of laborious study and discernment, pregnant with meaning.

If we dwell on these reflections, we fear that we will be seen as idealist thinkers, while everyday life constantly confronts us with difficulties to be faced, with problems that sometimes seem insurmountable, with critical issues of all kinds in which we sometimes seem to be defeated, to lose hope.

In this concrete reality of life, which is more like a war, what does it mean to live a Rogationist religious life?

I can find no other answer than this: to live as St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia would have lived today, in our situations and difficulties. When we reflect on our Rule of Life, we do nothing more than try to translate into our daily practical life the example left to us by our holy Founder. One might argue that this is not possible for us and that times have changed. But this was not the view of confreres closer to us, such as the Servant of God, Fr. Joseph Aveni, the Venerable, Fr. Giuseppe Marrazzo, and so many other brothers and sisters who have left us exemplary testimonies.

In these coming years, the Lord gives us special opportunities to spiritually revitalize our religious life. In this Year of Prayer, we are invited by Pope Francis to prepare ourselves to enter the Jubilee renewed, and at the same time, we remember the 20th anniversary of the canonization of St. Hannibal.

As a Family of the Rogate, we have been invited to walk toward a special year of St. Hannibal's 100th anniversary of his blessed Transitus in 2027. In some of our Circumscriptions, there are other anniversaries that it is good to remember because in this way we rediscover the missionary sense of our journey in the Church.

Although we must revive our Rogationist religious life, we are called to do this in unity, sharing, and coordination.

For several years now, our religious family has rightly opted for decentralization, encouraging the growth of the various Circumscriptions with due autonomy. In recent years, as this decentralization continues in some geographical areas, we feel the need to "walk together," as we were appropriately reminded at the recent General Chapter.

This means that each of us must be aware that we are at the same time members of a religious community, of a Circumscription, of a Congregation, and I want to emphasize the word "one". This living sense of belonging must allow us to feel "at home" in each of the more than 100 houses of the Congregation, to feel at ease in fraternity with all our brothers, and sisters, the Daughters of Divine Zeal, and members of the Family of the Rogate.

We know that these beautiful ideals of ours have to be translated into a concrete reality in which there is no absence of difficulties for many reasons, such as interculturality, age gap, economic and structural problems, the at times inadequate number of religious in comparison to the works of the apostolate, fatigue and a certain distrust that appears time and again.

Jesus came again to give us His peace and to go with Him, to follow Him, with this precious heritage: Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I also send you."

I entrust this wish to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, her husband, St. Hannibal, and our holy protectors, while I greet everyone with affection in the Lord.

  
P. Bruno Rampazzo, RCJ  
Sup. Gen.