



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Annunciation of the Lord



"Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, 'Truly, this was the Son of God!'" (Mt 27, 50-54)

Serene and Holy Easter!

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

"Truly, this was the Son of God!" We are now approaching Easter with an anxious heart for the suffering that this pandemic has brought to each of us throughout the world. The images of many dramas remain in us and while we admire the testimonies of heroic charity, we are worried about tomorrow.

We feel like experiencing an episode of Easter, that of the two disciples of Emmaus, who walked away from Jerusalem with sadness in their hearts.

Forced by the situation of a series of limitations in carrying out the ministry and in our own daily life, we feel the weight of this cross, even if we are aware that alongside us there are brothers and sisters who are carrying much heavier crosses.

We must persevere in prayer, we must entrust and abandon ourselves to the hands of the Lord, certain of his love and mercy.

In Italy, we encourage each other with the phrase "everything will be fine", as if to exorcise fear. Our faith assures us that certainly "all will be well" if we walk in the will of the Lord.

Jesus, by covertly announcing his passion and death, assured us that it would not be a defeat, but a victory: "Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (Jn 12: 31-32). The "glorious" cross reminds us that our Savior, by facing death for love of us, has overcome sin and death for us.

A positive aspect of this great moment of test, which we are experiencing together in the world, is the international solidarity that has developed, the perception that we are all in the same boat, as they say, and that together we are called to face the waves.

In our Religious Family, particularly in Italy, at the beginning of this year we were tested by the death of several of our Confreres. Even this painful experience, which

reminds us that we are on the journey towards eternal life, we must live in faith and thank the Lord for the example that the Confreres have left us and accompany them with our prayer of suffrage.

We are also grateful to the Lord for the meeting of the Superiors of Circumscription we held last February. It was very useful to resume the reflection that we started during a Conference in October 2019. We have been able to continue the discernment and develop together some guidelines that will help us face the difficulties in synodality and make appropriate choices in our journey.

Because of the pandemic, I was forced to suspend the ongoing visit to the Quasi Province of St. Thomas. It was not possible to do otherwise. We hope to overcome this test soon in order to complete the visit to the Circumscription and the Congregation.

Finally, I would like to return to reflect with you further on the pandemic. The news that reaches us about the drama of the situation, which sometimes takes over from a certain initial superficiality, reflects great uncertainty about the duration of the epidemic and its consequences.

Once again, I exhort you to live this painful experience, as far as we can in serenity, without panic, following the indications and dispositions that we receive from civil and religious authorities. We must be aware that our behavior can damage, with contagion, the people whom we live with or encounter, because we know that the virus can be present even in healthy carriers. Hence the need to be responsible and extremely prudent.

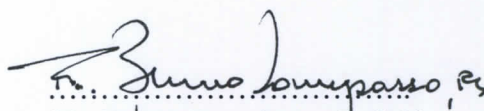
We look at the example of our holy Founder, who should constantly illuminate our life. In his great faith, he faced the sad or happy events of life with prayer. Opportunely we could make our own the prayer which he composed on October 6, 1887, addressed *To Saint Joseph in the time of cholera epidemic*. This prayer was published on the March 2020 issue of *Informazioni Rogazioniste*.

Let us face with serenity what the Lord will dispose on our way.

Dearest, this coming April 12 will be the Easter of the Risen Lord, unusually marked by a certain sadness, for the limitations that are foreseen. May the Risen Lord grant us the grace to live it in the spiritual joy of faith, in peace of heart and in the serenity of fraternal communion.

My wish goes to all of you, dear Confreres, especially to the sick and to all those who, for different reasons, find themselves in difficult situations. In addition, I extend my special greetings and best wishes to the sisters Daughters of Divine Zeal, to the Rogationist Missionaries, to the members of the Rogationist Associations and to all the Laity who live with us the charism of the Rogate. May the Risen Christ give us all his peace.

I entrust this wish to the Most Holy Virgin, through the intercession of Saint Hannibal and of our patron Saints, while I greet everyone with affection in the Lord.


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