



Rome, 19 March 2014  
Solemnity of St. Joseph

Re.: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canonization of Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia

To the Rogationists  
To the Daughters of Divine Zeal  
To the Missionaries of the Rogate  
To the Laity of the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

in this Season of Lent, as we embark into our journey towards Easter, once again we want to address to you this joint message in view of an event which is particularly important to all of us: the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonization of Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia, this coming May 16<sup>th</sup>.

At the school of Father Hannibal we learned the importance of making memory of the divine blessings, so as to recognize the presence of the Lord who accompanies our steps, to express our gratitude and to confirm our commitment of letting ourselves be guided by his paternal Providence.

Let us live this moment in coincidence with two events of grace for the Church and in particular for consecrated life: the teaching of Pope Francis who shows us the way with his evangelical witnessing and with his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and the Year of Consecrated Life, which will begin on November 30 and will end on February 2, 2016, Day of Consecrated Life.

As Family of the Rogate, we look at the apostolic zeal of Father Hannibal that led him untiringly along the paths of charity, as we welcome the hopeful appeal that Pope Francis addressed to us: «The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice» (EG 24).

### **Remembering the canonization with gratitude**

The voice of John Paul II who proclaimed Hannibal Mary Di Francia a “Saint” on May 16, 2004 was anticipated by the large crowd of Messina, who, on the occasion of his funeral on 1 June 1927, repeatedly said: “The Saint is dead!”

Since then a journey has began which involved Confreres and Sisters in the meticulous collection of evidence of the heroic virtues of our Father. On that day of May 16<sup>th</sup> John Paul II summarized our Founder’s path of holiness in the love of God and neighbor:

