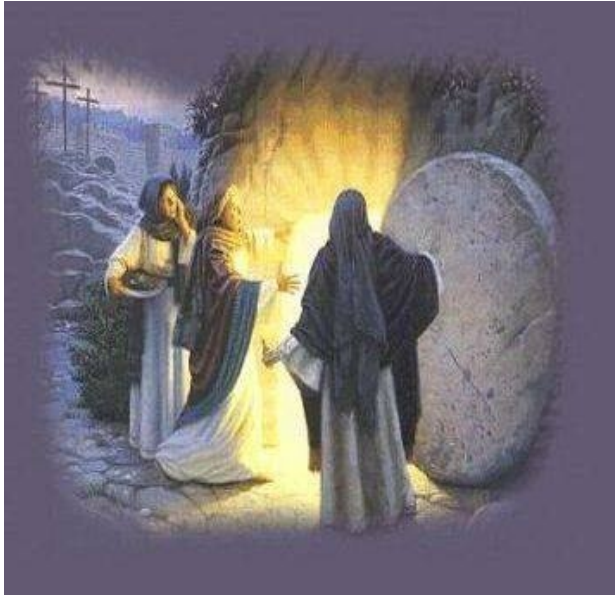


Manizales, Colombia. March 25, 2019  
Annunciation of the Lord



*A Peaceful and Holy Easter!*

*“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.’”  
(Mark 16: 1-6. NRSV).*

To the Rogationists  
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest brothers and sisters,

"Do not be afraid ... he is risen!" In the Lenten journey which we are making, we have almost arrived at the Lord's Passover. We celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph and, today, we celebrate the Annunciation. St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary enlighten this last stretch of our Lenten path toward the tomb of the Risen Jesus, which will shortly blaze with light.

"Do not be afraid!" is the invitation of the young man sitting at the threshold of the tomb: an exhortation that we wish to hear as if it were also addressed to us. Maybe it is not so much the fear that tightly grips us in our journey, but the fear and the uncertainty for the various challenges we face every day.

We must be imbued with confidence when we have ascertained that the Lord is Risen, he who has conquered sin and death, the one who has given us the life of grace, his friendship, his closeness.

Jesus calls us to be with him and he sends us to all the world, but not alone: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28, 19-20).

He assures us of his closeness and we recognize this particularly in his Spirit, in his Word and in his sacramental presence in the Eucharist. He unites himself to us through the Eucharist, and he has deigned to come to dwell among us.

As we make our Lenten journey, it is proper for us to ask ourselves whether we try to "be with Him" despite being caught in our day to day commitments. Remember the example of Father Hannibal and his teaching: "The loving, fruitful, dutiful, and continuous center of this pious institute of Jesus' interests is Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

We receive this particular reminder from Father Hannibal in the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inspiration of the Rogate, which occurred while he was in the presence of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. Dutifully, we are remembering this event, which we will relive in a particular way as Family of the Rogate in Rome on May 15-16, with some of us physically present, while others will be spiritually united.

These greetings and good wishes of mine reaches you from Manizales, where I visited the formation community which represents a reason of hope for our presence in Colombia.

I just finished the canonical visit to the Delegation to Our Lady of Guadalupe and I am going to start the same in St. Luke Province. In the first Circumscription, I was able also to accomplish the *apta consultatio* for appointment of its new government; in the second, its Provincial Chapter has just recently been celebrated, and thus, the election of the new Government.

As a Congregation, we are approaching the mid-term of office, and as is required by the regulations, on this occasion, we will soon start the procedure of preparation for the next General Chapter, which will involve all of us.

Another important event for our Congregation will be the Conference of Superiors of Circumscription which will be held in Messina on October 14-19, with the participation of all the members of the governments of Circumscription, given also by the fact that three Provincial governments have recently been formed, and as mentioned earlier, a new set of Delegation officers is forthcoming. Among other things, this Conference will define the particular theme of the next General Chapter.

I urge you to accompany this journey of our religious family in prayer.

Father Hannibal, recalling the beginnings of the Pious Work, spoke of a "very intricate pilgrimage". Today, I do not know if I would use the same expression. There is no shortage of problems and difficulties, but at the same time, we recognize the many graces of the Lord. It is important that all of us go ahead as "in a pilgrimage", faithfully following the footsteps of Father Hannibal, to bring the gift of the Rogate to the Church.

Dearest friends, a few weeks from now, we will exchange the greeting of "Christ is Risen!", which is a wish of hope, peace, serenity and fellowship.

My best wishes go to all of you, dear Brothers, especially the sick and those who for various reasons, find themselves in difficult situations.

In addition, I address my greetings and wishes particularly to the Daughters of Divine Zeal, the Rogationist Missionaries, the members of the Rogationist Associations and to all the lay people who live the charism of the Rogate with us. May the Risen Lord grant peace to all of us.

I entrust these wishes to the Blessed Virgin, through the intercession of St. Hannibal and our patron saints, as I greet you all with affection in the Lord.

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(Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, RCJ)  
Superior General