

**Congregazione dei Rogazionisti**  
Curia Generalizia

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*«O God, our Father,  
in your faithfulness that never fails  
remember us,  
work of your hands,  
and grant us the help of your grace,  
because we await vigilant  
with love irreproachable  
the glorious coming of our  
Redeemer,  
Jesus Christ, your Son.  
(from the Liturgy)*

*Greetings of Holy Christmas  
and serene 2015*

To the Rogationists  
To the Rogate Family

Dearest,

I extend to you my wishes for Christmas this year with the prayer of the Liturgy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, in the desire to form with all of you a big family who turns to the Father in humble prayer. We ask Him to remember us, to grant us his grace, so that we look forward with a vigilant heart the coming of his Son Jesus.

The beginning of Advent opens for us a year of grace, the Year of Consecrated Life, in which the Holy Father invites us to enter with renewed fervor, and urges us to “look at the past with gratitude... live the present with passion ... embrace the future with hope”.<sup>1</sup>

The intense season of Advent, which guides us in the footsteps of the patriarchs and of the prophets, who gave witness to the expectation of the Savior, and in the paths of Mary and Joseph, who welcomed him with immense love, is particularly appropriate to revive our life of consecration which is basically an intimate and total encounter with Jesus.

Pope Francis explains very effectively what it means to meet the Lord Jesus: “The witness of the Gospel is one who has met Jesus Christ, who knew him, or rather, one who felt *known by Him*, recognized, respected, loved, forgiven, and this encounter deeply touched him, filled him with a new joy, a new meaning for life. And this transpires, then communicated, and transmitted to others”.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter for the Year of Consecrated Life, 11-21-2014.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. CIVCSVA, *Scrutate*, (2014), p. 57.

To arrive at this encounter we need to nourish our spirit of the Word of God, so that it could still incarnate itself into deeds in our daily lives:

“The Word, genuine source of spirituality from which to draw the *surpassing knowledge of Christ Jesus* (Phil 3:8), must dwell in our day-to-day lives. Only thus its *power* (cf. 1 Thess 1:5) would be able to wedge itself in the human fragilities, to ferment and build places of common life, to correct thoughts, feelings, decisions, dialogues interwoven in fraternal spaces. Following the example of Mary, listening to the Word must become the breath of life in every moment of existence”.<sup>3</sup>

Our life of consecration tends to become more and more everyday, union with the Lord Jesus, evangelical witness and obedience to His Word. Therefore, let us “follow Christ with inner freedom to tend toward the perfection of charity”<sup>4</sup> (Const., art. 46).

Let us be led by the Mother of Jesus, the Immaculate Virgin, who guides us towards Christmas, she who welcomed the words of her son Jesus, and pondered them in her heart, and invited the disciples to do the same (Lc 2, 19; Gv 2, 5).

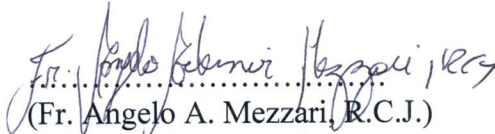
Dearest, while writing to you, I am about to begin the second canonical Visit to the Congregation. I start from the Saint Matthew Province (Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and South Korea) and then, gradually, I will continue to the other Circumscriptions, according to the schedule that I have sent you.

I will make the formal visit to the Governments of the Circumscriptions, and I will try my best to pass in the houses of formation and in the recent new openings. It will not be possible for me to visit all the Communities, but I hope to be able to meet the Confreres in some circumstances or particular event of the Circumscription (chapter, assembly ...).

The visit aims to promote the spiritual and apostolic life of the Congregation (Cf. Const., 165), and therefore constitutes a moment of grace during which, together, we place ourselves in listening to the Lord who desires to welcome us and accompany us as his disciples. I therefore ask you all, the support in prayer, so that it would really become a moment of growth in the joy of brotherhood.

At Christmas we see the tenderness of God’s love for each of us. Father Hannibal, supreme lover of God, calls us to follow his example, to feel “in oneself that same compassion of Jesus when he saw the crowds as lost sheep without a shepherd”<sup>5</sup>: “Jesus does not want cold hearts: He wants love, intimate, tender, outgoing, strong, quiet, peaceful, yet ardent, fervent and constant love. Love Jesus with great transport of the will, of the intellect, as well as of all the inner powers and senses of the soul”.<sup>6</sup>

With this wish, I greet you with affection in the Lord.

  
(Fr. Angelo A. Mezzari, R.C.J.)  
Superior General

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Ibid., p. 57-58.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. FT 7; DI FRANCIA A. M., *Dichiarazioni e Promesse*, 5<sup>a</sup>, in *Scritti*, V, pp. 584-586.

<sup>5</sup> Francis, Apostolic Letter for the Year of Consecrated Life, 21-11-2014.

<sup>6</sup> Speech for the vestition of the FDZ, 1908.