



Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

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Rome, 19 March 2017

Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Prot. n. 91/17

On the Centenary of the Birth of the Servant of God Fr. Giuseppe Marrazzo

To the M.R. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
c.c. To the Rogationist Communities
THEIR HOUSES

Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and [the] last will be first" (Mk 10, 28-31).

Dearest Confreres,

the words of Jesus to Peter seem to me the most suitable to commemorate together with you the beloved figure of Father Giuseppe Marrazzo on the 100th anniversary of his birth. He left everything, all that belonged to him and his whole self, to give himself totally to the Lord and to souls, to all the people he met in his life, especially those who suffer in body and still more in spirit, and in doing so he has found multiplied a hundred times the inner circle that he left.

He lived with the closeness of a very large family, who truly acknowledged him as a father, and cried for him as for a relative when he was no longer found in his place, before the Blessed Sacrament or in the chair where he welcomed and consoled them, dispensing the Mercy of the Father.

A full-time priest - In the message that I addressed to you last Christmas I have shared about this confession of Father Marrazzo: "I feel the need to pray. Looking at the laborers who work eight hours a day I think I should also be the worker of Jesus and pray eight hours or more." This in fact, helps us understand why he devoted much time to prayer.

People was used to see him remaining in the church to pray and wait for possible penitents who approached him even at late hours, and arriving punctually in the morning always there, long before the Church's doors are opened, yet those many hours spent with his Jesus were not enough for him.

How could we explain all this? It could only be understood in the logic of the Kingdom of God. We find an episode from the life of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark: "The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then because so many people were coming and going that they did

