

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

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*"When the kindness
and generous love of God
our savior appeared,
not because of any righteous deeds
we had done but because of his mercy,
he saved us
through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the holy Spirit,
whom he richly poured out on us
through Jesus Christ our savior".
(Tt 3,4-6)*

*Greetings of a Holy Christmas
in the Extraordinary Jubilee
Year of Mercy*

To the Rogationists
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest,

I am sending you my greetings for Christmas in this moment of particular concern due to the disturbing events that we fear and that, unfortunately, are repeatedly happening with painful consequences, thereby renewing our fear and questioning our hope.

With the light that comes to us through his birth, Jesus enlightens and comforts us through the guidance of His Vicar, Pope Francis, who invites us to look to the Divine Mercy by giving us the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which opens today, under the maternal gaze of the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

The Holy Father in the Bull of Indiction presented to us the Holy Year with its aims: "Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God. We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it."¹

The Bull is a wonderful hymn on the Lord's mercy. Through it, the Pope illustrates and reminds us that the Lord calls us to approach His mercy and become ourselves men and women of mercy: "This Extraordinary Jubilee Year, therefore, is dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us."²

Father Hannibal participated with intense faith in the events of the Church. On the occasion of the Holy Year 1900, consecrated in a special way to the memory of redemption, for the Feast of July First he chose for the title of Jesus as the Redeemer, and for that of the

¹ MV 1-2.

² MV 25.

Blessed Virgin as Co-redemptrix. He animated with zeal the members of the Pious Work and the faithful; he printed a booklet with special instructions, rules and prayers; he declared that the Holy Mass for the intentions of the Jubilee be offered in all Communities throughout the year; he went to Rome to gain the indulgence, after having prepared himself with a retreat in the house of the Redemptorist Fathers in Pagani.³

May our holy Founder guide us in this Jubilee Year so that we can approach the fountain of Mercy with renewed and reconciled heart.

Dearest, the charism that characterizes us flows from the compassion of the Heart of Christ and, as Pope Francis reminds us, it is his tender love, his merciful love. This aspect gives each one of us a more pressing reason to live with greater intensity this Jubilee Year as Rogationists.

If we feel this ideal and charismatic drive, it must be embodied in our concrete choices of daily life. Allow me to offer you some ways, in the spirit of fraternal simplicity: - Let us live **forgiveness and mercy in our religious community** through concrete actions; - let us approach more frequently the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, as suggested by our Norms (Art. 70 and 78); - let us be effectively available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in parishes/shrines;⁴ - let us give witness and **propagate the Rogate** as the **work of Divine Mercy**, entrusted to the good workers of the Eucharist and Reconciliation;⁵ - let us strengthen in our fraternal life and apostolate, our witnessing of mercy, of charity; - let us promote and do personally the **spiritual and corporal works of mercy**.⁶

While we enter the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, at the same time we are living the last part of the Year of Consecrated Life, which will end on February 2. Within these days, when we find ourselves at the foot of the Blessed Sacrament for the *Supplica* to the Eternal Father in the Most Holy Name of Jesus, in union with the Daughters of Divine Zeal and the entire Family of the Rogate, we will renew our gratitude for the gifts we received in this blessed year.

I am about to conclude my second Canonical Visit to the Circumscriptions in which I have the opportunity to meet you, to rejoice with you, of your witnessing, and to convey to you a word of comfort and encouragement. This is precisely the word that I wanted to address to you, during this Year of Consecrated Life, through my circular letter *Rogationist Consecrated Life*. In it I have tried to give you some indications for *a continuous process of renewal in the Church today*, and a simple instrument to help us prepare towards the next General Chapter.

I am also glad to inform you about the progress connected to the rehabilitation of Fr. Pantaleone Palma, an extraordinary figure of faithful companion of our Father Founder, who consumed and offered himself for the Pious Work. His remains now fittingly rests in our Shrine of St. Anthony in Oria. We hope that, if it is the Lord's will, we could start his cause of canonization. Another confrere who was exemplary for his pastoral zeal, is the Servant of God, Father Giuseppe Marrazzo, whose cause of canonization has already reached its Roman

³ Cfr. TUSINO T., *Memorie Biografiche*, vol. III, pagg. 47 e 66.

⁴ MV 17.


⁵ MV 11.

⁶ MV 15.

phase. In our commitment to conversion, let us also look up to the example of these two Confreres.

As we advance towards Christmas the best guide who can lead us to the stable in Bethlehem is Maria. I would like, therefore, to conclude this Christmas greetings with the words of the Holy Father: "My thoughts now turn to the Mother of Mercy. May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness. No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh".⁷

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


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

⁷ MV 24.