

**Bruno Rampazzo**

**FROM COMPASSION TO MISSION**

*Plan of the General Government  
2016-2022*

Congregation of the Rogationists  
Rome 2017

Original text: Bruno Rampazzo, *Dalla Compassione alla Missione. Linee di Programmazione del Governo Generale 2016-2022*. Roma, 2017.

English Translation: Jessie Martirizar

## Introduction

*From compassion to mission.* The title of the Plan of the General Government 2016-2020, could suggest an ascetic text of meditation, which aims to accompany us in living the charism of the Rogate. We must admit that these pages can also be a subject for our meditation and revision of life.

The word *plan* explains to all of us that we are trying to draw up a program, a program of life, of action, of apostolate, for the next six years, for the circumscriptions and the communities, for each of us.

This program, as better explained in the Introduction that follows, is not an elaboration of the General Government alone but is the final destination of the journey made by the whole Congregation in the 12th General Chapter, starting from its preparation. We have journeyed together for four years and now we want to draw out from the richness of the contributions that have emerged in our fraternal reflection and confrontation to improve our identity and our apostolate.

Though it is called the plan *of the General Government*, undoubtedly it does not mean that this is a task that the General Government has to carry out. The service of the General Government is in function of the animation and guidance of the Circumscriptions and, through them, of the Communities.

At the level of General Government, of Circumscription and of Local Communities, together we are part of a single Religious Family, which in turn extends to the entire the Family of the Rogate, all marked by consecration and committed in the mission.

The Plan shows us what we all have to try to implement.

If we want to make a comparison between the Chapter Document, *Seeing the crowds, he felt compassion on them and said: Rogate - Our charismatic identity in today's challenges*, and the present text *From Compassion to Mission - Plan of the General Government 2016-2020*, we see that both have the same theme. It is carried out in the first document in a theoretical elaboration that finally passes to the practical implications, while in the second document, the theme decisively goes towards concreteness.

We find enunciated in the first part the Priorities, which we must take into account in our journey of updating and renewal, with the indication of the itineraries to take in order to achieve the objectives which we set ourselves.

Then we move on to consider the different areas of our life and our apostolate, and in order to revive one and the other, we propose some Projects that we want to realize, once again looking at the particular objectives to be achieved, in coordination, and also indicating the deadlines for necessary verifications.

We have to conclude that what we have in our hands is a text “of work”, not a simple reading material, to be kept on the shelf beside other books. In front of this Plan we need to pause, constantly in during these six years, as Governments at various levels and as individual confreres, welcoming this grace given to us by the Spirit through the rich and articulated work of the whole Congregation, accomplished in the 12th General Chapter and during the recent Conference of Superiors of Circumscription and respective Councils.

I entrust the journey of our *caravan* to the blessing of the Divine Superiors, through the intercession of our Founder, St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia.

Rome, 8 December 2017

Fr. Bruno Rampazzo, R.C.J.  
Superior General

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages,  
teaching in their synagogues  
and preaching the gospel of the kingdom,  
and healing every disease and every infirmity.  
When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them,  
because they were harassed and helpless,  
like sheep without a shepherd.  
Then he said to his disciples,  
‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;  
pray therefore the Lord of the harvest  
to send out laborers into his harvest.’”  
(Matthew 9:35-38 RSV)

## Premise

### OUR CHARISMATIC IDENTITY IN TODAY'S CHALLENGES

This Plan of the General Government for the next six years constitutes the destination of the journey accomplished by the XII General Chapter of the Congregation. It is the conclusion of the journey of the instituted Chapter, which has an official beginning and end corresponding to the opening and closing of the Chapter works. But if we consider the General Chapter, for what it truly is, that is, an institution that “expresses the participation and the solicitude of all Congregants”<sup>1</sup> and therefore we look at it in this broader perspective, then we must also consider now the XII General Chapter in its full activity.

In fact, the Chapter had its beginning since the early stages of its preparation. General Government, Circumscriptions and Communities, altogether we walked the path of discernment that led us to the definition of the particular theme, which we identified based on the challenge that our identity and the socio-cultural contexts where we are inserted are presenting to us, impelling us to be truly who we are, or what we ought to be.

This particular theme has called us all to reflect, then successively submit our evaluations, observations and provocations, first to the Commission for the *Lineamenta* and, then to the Pre-Chapter Commission for the writing of the first draft.

Thus, we come to the elaboration of the *Instrumentum Laboris*, which has passed through the screening of a special Chapter Commission and obtained the approval of the General Chapter after passing through two scrutinies in the assembly.

We have taken this path because we believe it is important to be aware that both the General Chapter and the Document, which has been produced thereafter, are borne out of the concerted effort of the whole Congregation and are destined for the entire Congregation.

The General Chapter then elected the new General Government and entrusted to it its document “Seeing the crowds he felt compassion for them and said: Rogate - Our Charismatic Identity in Today's Challenges”, as the six-year mandate.

Hence, in starting its work the General Government has assumed this responsibility. In the elaboration of the Plan for the six-year term, it has taken into consideration first of all the Chapter Document, but it deemed also necessary to look at the report presented by the outgoing Government during the Chapter, for two reasons. First of all, because in it we can find an in-depth view of the real situation of the Congregation, which is naturally synthesized in the Chapter Document. Moreover, in this report we can also find the goals that had been set but have not been possibly attained. By necessity, each General Government puts itself in continuity with the previous one.

The Plan, besides, wants to recognize the urgencies raised during the General Chapter, in the richness of discussions and sensibilities, as a living patrimony that cannot be completely exhausted even in the well elaborated pages of the Chapter Document.

As was the case for the preparation of the Chapter, so also in the definition of the six-year Plan of the General Government, there is a need to work in unity, in sharing and in participation, to safeguard subsidiarity that must always be present in life of the Congregation. Therefore, this Plan was initially drawn from the reflection and study of the General Government on the concerns that have been indicated. The work of the first draft was submitted to the examination of the Governments of Circumscription, so that they can make appropriate observations and suggestions. This first shared examination is

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<sup>1</sup> C 138.

followed by a re-elaboration, which was taken as the theme of the first Conference of Superiors of Circumscription.

Such sharing is required primarily as an expression of participation and involvement, but also because of the very nature of the Plan, which needs to be in touch with the concrete life of the Circumscriptions and the Communities, and therefore it must take into consideration and address the particular needs of the same.

And so, recalling what was said at the beginning of this introduction, we must reaffirm that the work which begun in the XII General Chapter continues, rather, in order to be consistent, now becomes operative so that the wealth of reflections done so far cannot remain a simple wish but needs to be incarnated in the reality of our everyday life.

This is our hope and this is our wish.

## ABBREVIATIONS

- AA VATICAN COUNCIL II, Decree on the apostolate of the laity *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, Rome 1965.
- C CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *Constitutions*, Rome 2010.
- MDJ MEZZARI, A., *Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Rogate according to the Rule of Life. Lines of Action of the General Government 2010-2016*, Rome 2011.
- N CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *Norms*, Rome 2010.
- PCLR *Il Progetto Culturale del Laicato Rogazionista*, Morlupo, 2012.
- FR XIV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS, *Final Report*, October 24, 2015, 61.
- RGG CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *Relazione del Governo Generale al XII Capitolo Generale*, Rome 2016.
- RRL CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *The Rogationist Rule of Life. Expression of consecration, guarantee of charismatic identity, support of fraternal communion, project of mission*, Document of the XI General Chapter, Rome 2010.
- STC CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *Seeing the crowds, he felt compassion for them and said: Rogate. Our charismatic identity in today's challenges*. Document of the XII General Chapter, Rome 2016.

## **2. PRIORITY**

### **General Principle:**

**Our charismatic identity in front of the challenges we meet today in the contexts where the Congregation lives and works.**

The General Chapter invites us to express our “charismatic identity” in the cultural context where we live and work in five continents.

We are called to verify if our major and minor choices at all levels, personal and communitarian, allow us to live our charismatic identity in the contemporary world.

By accepting the challenges that probe us about our consecrated life as Rogationists and by embracing the daily problems with the same compassion of Christ that generated the Rogate, we are called to recognize the signs of the times and become more and more dauntless missionary disciples of Christ.

Christ's compassion in front of the crowds is the key to the solution in embarking into the difficult task of incarnating our charismatic identity in today's challenges.

Faced with the reality of the contemporary world that confronts us, we are called to give not theoretical but practical answers through our presence as caring companions, merciful shepherds and prophets of charity, allowing ourselves to be evangelized by the poor.

The effectiveness of our actions, in the present and in view of the future, will also depend on how we live and express the joy, which is our strength to be and truly feel as “brothers” belonging to the same “family” with a historical, charismatic and apostolic identity.

### **FIRST PRIORITY:**

#### **EXPRESSING THE CHARISMATIC IDENTITY OF THE CONGREGATION**

##### **Objective 1**

##### **Returning to the roots of our Congregation**

“The vocation and the mission of the Institute are born out of the human, spiritual and apostolic experience of St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia who, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, lived among the little ones and the poor of the Avignone quarter in Messina. Here his priestly ministry and the gift of the understanding and zeal for the word of Jesus: *The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest* (Mt. 9:37-38, Lk. 10:2), found the fertile soil where to blossom and produce abundant fruit: the little ones and the poor are evangelized and their prayer is raised to the Lord of the harvest. From ‘Avignone’, as a *small caravan*, our religious Congregation started its journey in the Church and in the world”.<sup>2</sup>

The XI General Chapter has completed a long process of revision of our legislation, *Constitutions and Norms*, giving it a new general title: *Rule of Life*. The texts, enriched with Biblical and charismatic references, are a sapient synthesis of our spiritual tradition and contain the essential elements of our charismatic identity. Therefore, they must be carefully read, studied, progressively assimilated and translated into attitudes of life and apostolic commitments.

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<sup>2</sup> C 5.



### **Itinerary**

- Welcoming and living the charism and spiritual and apostolic tradition transmitted by the Founder as gifts, docile to the Holy Spirit, in communion with the Church and in constant attention to the needs of the little ones and the poor.
- Living with joy our religious consecration by making our own the compassion of Jesus for the tired and exhausted crowds.
- Being in the Church a living proclamation of the unceasing prayer to the Lord of the harvest for the gift of good workers and witnesses, “prophets of charity” for the little ones of the Kingdom.
- Deepening, knowing more and more and safeguarding the Institute's spiritual patrimony.

### **Interventions**

- To foster, through meetings, reflections and studies, the knowledge of the human, spiritual, and apostolic experience of the Founder in the Avignone Quarter of Messina, which is at the origin of our Congregation and our charismatic identity and mission in the Church.
- To deepen the spirit of our Rule of Life and to accept the indications of the Document of the XII General Chapter of the Congregation for a significant presence in today's world and to respond to the challenges we face in different cultural contexts.
- To ensure that each Community confronts itself with the Rule of Life and adheres to the indications, orientations and operative proposals of the Chapter Document, by promoting:  
a) periodic community reading and revision of life on special occasions such as the monthly recollection and special spiritual Retreats during the intense period of the liturgical year; b) conferences and seminars during the year as favorable moments of ongoing formation.<sup>3</sup>

## **Objective 2**

### **Rogationist Spirituality and life of consecration**

“The Church recognizes, in the spiritual and apostolic charism of the Institute, a new way of holiness and the objective requirements to reach evangelical perfection. With this certainty in our heart we prioritize spiritual life in our way of living, convinced that the more our Communities are evangelical schools of Rogationist spirituality, the more our apostolic fruitfulness, generosity and love for the poor and even our vocation appeal will be vigorous and fruitful”.<sup>4</sup>

The charism must always be lived, deepened, reinterpreted and expressed according to the needs of the different contexts and geographic areas.

### **Itinerary**

- Promoting the Rogationist spiritual life by adhering to the following of Christ, as proposed in the Gospel.
- Following the example of St. Hannibal Mary di Francia, a man of prayer and action, always ready to meet and serve Jesus in the poorest among the poor.
- Rediscovering the Eucharist, “loving center of our life and source of our spirituality”.
- Grounding ourselves in the pierced heart of Christ, “source of the apostolic life of the Rogate”.

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<sup>3</sup> STC 80.

<sup>4</sup> C 9.

- Reliving the mystery of the crucified Christ who came to the world to offer his life in ransom for many by offering our lives to God and to men with the profession of the evangelical counsels of Chastity, Poverty, Obedience, and Rogate.

### **Indications of the Chapter Document**

- To put the Eucharist at the center of the daily life of the Community.
- To promote a renewed “culture of vocation”, starting from the primacy of prayer, in order to interpret the reality according to the perspective of a vocational anthropology that is centered on the absolute value of every person and his/her vocation.
- To make the Community a place of vocational discernment for young people through fraternal welcome, sharing the prayer for “good workers” and the apostolate among the poor.<sup>5</sup>
- To start always with the Word of God in our Community meetings and decisions.
- To deepen the knowledge of the writings of the Founder and of our tradition.
- To plan and organize in the Circumscriptions specific moments of experiences and of study of the charism, such as the deepening of the Word of God and the theological-spiritual reflection of the Rogationist literature (Writings of the Founder, Rule of Life, Chapter Documents, Circular Letters, Specific Studies of the Confreres, etc.).
- To update our texts / books of prayer.
- To live the commitment of our vocation as a proclamation of mercy and prophecy.
- To verify our personal and Community fidelity to the vow of poverty, seeking a sober lifestyle in order to be closer to the life and needs of the poor, through new forms of sharing our material and spiritual goods with them.<sup>6</sup>
- To involve ourselves in the local Church's vocational ministry with the specific charism of the Rogate, that is, through the the primacy of prayer and service to the least.<sup>7</sup>

## **SECOND PRIORITY:**

### **WELCOMING AND RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY**

#### **Objective**

“In the light of the charism of the Rogate, which is our reason of our being in the Church, we are committed to reflect on the great challenges of contemporary world, which interrogate the meaning of life and, more generally, the deeper questions of man.”<sup>8</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

Reflecting more deeply on different cultural areas the challenges that we face as consecrated persons and Rogationists:

- *Anthropological and cultural challenges.* The phenomenon of secularization and eclipse of the sacred. Segregation and fragmentation of every aspect of life. Family Crisis. “Weak thought” (= *pensiero debole*) which results in a wrong concept of freedom. Exaggerated individualism, strong privatization of existence. “Culture of the temporary”, fear of making definitive commitments, trivialization of sexuality, gender ideology. Climate of inhumanity.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> STC 78b,c.

<sup>6</sup> STC 78e.

<sup>7</sup> STC 78d.

<sup>8</sup> STC 6.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. STC 6-10.

- *Economical challenge*. Great number of tired and exhausted crowds who are hungry for bread and thirsty for God. Structures of global inequity. Economic crisis that also affects the Congregation. New forms of poverty. Relational, moral, spiritual, and cultural poverty.<sup>10</sup>

- *Ecclesial challenges*. Proclaiming and giving witness to vocation as the “gospel” of liberty and gratuity. Making the word of the Gospel as a real source of meaning to the world. “Rejection of the transcendent”, together with a growing deterioration of ethics and a constant increase of relativism. Indifference to religious practice and sacramental life. Numerical and qualitative crisis of vocations. Proliferation of new religious movements. Attacks on religious freedom and persecution. Phenomenon of migration.<sup>11</sup>

- *Challenges of Rogationist consecrated life*. Balance of different dimensions of consecrated life. Exercise of authority and obedience. Formation of new generations. Vocational crisis, especially that of the Brother. Aging. Insertion into new geographic contexts. Acceptance and integration of ethnic and cultural diversity. Expansion of the parish apostolate. Dynamics of decentralization, re-dimensioning of structures and apostolic works.<sup>12</sup>

### **Indications of the Chapter Document**

- To propose an anthropology that is based on vocation as a real counterculture, a feasible path towards the unitary integration of the person.

- To support, in the environment where we operate, the identity, vocation and mission of the Christian family in the contemporary world, by providing an adequate and appropriate pastoral care.

- To recognize and welcome the uniqueness of every person, his inalienable dignity, giving special attention to those who are socially least guaranteed.

- To rethink in a new and effective way our presence and educational work, which is a qualifying component of our apostolic mission.

- To review and examine our overall lifestyle and to reconsider our works and resources in a prudent way, given the economic crisis that afflicts the Congregation.

- To take charge, in an inculturated formation, of the relationship based on sharing and love, active closeness, diligent accompaniment, human and spiritual support.

- To announce and witness the Gospel, remaining open to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue.

- To allow ourselves to be provoked by the phenomenon of migration and find ways on how our communities can accommodate or help migrants.

- To commit ourselves to “new evangelization”.

- To re-read the charism of the Rogate in today's history, showing the truth that accompanying a person to the discovery of his vocation means to actually promoting his human integration.

- To commit ourselves in proclaiming to the youth the “Gospel of Vocation” through a testimony of the evangelical radicalism and of a credible and enthusiastic life.

- To acquire deeper awareness of being bearers of God's compassion, as the source of our unceasing call of expressing the same concern for others, in a special way towards the least in the society.

- To dedicate ourselves in the various areas of our charismatic mission: prayer for vocations and its diffusion, animation and vocation promotion, education and the assistance of the little ones and the poor.

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<sup>10</sup> Cf. STC 11-13.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. STC 14-21.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. STC 22-35.

- To read and interpret the reality departing from the option for the poor, living and working in the peripheries with the least, being poor with the poor.<sup>13</sup>

### **THIRD PRIORITY: STARTING FROM FRATERNAL LIFE**

#### **Objective**

Through fraternal life in community we express the joy and celebration of living together, which refers primarily to the interior and profound happiness of belonging to a common history, marked by the charism of the Rogate. We build fraternal life by learning to become and to live as brothers in the Community in which we are called to stay together.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

- Address the situation of disparity between the apostolic demands and the inadequate number of the Religious.
- Avoid the risk of reducing our apostolic activity into individual initiatives, without reference to the Community and neglecting the spiritual dimension and community life itself.
- Promote normal coordination, which is necessary in harmonizing initiatives of individual religious with the apostolic project of the Community and the Circumcision.

#### **Indications of the Chapter Document**

- To build communities that are schools of prayer, places of encounter and dialogue, where we live with trust, esteem, support, and mutual attention.
- To rediscover ourselves each day as “brothers” in Christ, living with joy our consecration, within the community. This is an important factor of a credible testimony and attractiveness to young people who want to share their life with us.
- To foster and strengthen experiences of community life spent with the Confreres, who chose to live and work in the peripheries with the least, to be poor with the poor.
- To give more consistency to those communities living in contemplation and continuous prayer, which is a significant expression of the charism, experienced in harmony with the other essential elements of the Rogate.
- To promote sharing of religious personnel among different Circumscriptions in order to give more stability to our missionary presences in places where until now there are only one or two Confreres.

### **FOURTH PRIORITY: AS ONE CHARISMATIC FAMILY**

#### **Objective**

In all aspects of the life of the Church, the figure of the laity as member of the people of God, is gaining more importance. Their vocation and mission enjoy a growing recognition and value, which should be explored in all their spiritual and apostolic

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<sup>13</sup> Cf. STC 5-35.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. STC 28-31.

potentialities.<sup>15</sup>

### **Itinerary**

Individual Religious and Communities are called to become increasingly aware of the presence of the laity and to promote it through common paths of formation and apostolic initiatives. The Laity can reveal to the church the original and unseen potentialities of the charism. When duly guided and accompanied, they can be of great help in spreading Rogate and carrying out apostolic activities.

### **Indications of the Chapter Document**

To see the important contribution that the Laity of the Rogate could give to the Congregation in confronting the challenges: new frontiers of evangelization, prayer and service for vocations, educational concerns, role and mission of the family, the poor and new forms of the social exclusion.

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<sup>15</sup> STC 21.

### **3. The General Plan**

#### **GENERAL PRINCIPLE**

#### **Service of animation of Rogationist life and mission in coordination between General Government and Circumscriptions**

The Chapter Document “*Seeing the crowds, he felt compassion for them and said, Rogate. Our charismatic identity in today's challenges*” reflects the relationship that exists between the General Government, the Circumscriptions, the Communities, the Religious; a relationship of coordination and collaboration that involves proper planning and programming. The key to the interpretation was given by the Chapter itself.<sup>16</sup>

In several orientations, there is the constant reminder to start a shared initiative and in agreement between Confreres, local Communities, and Circumscriptions, with the animation of the Superiors at all levels.

At the level of the General Government, this animation and coordination will consist in: the observance of the competences provided for by the Norms; the ordinary canonical visits; the Conferences of the Superiors; the meetings and activities promoted by their respective members of the Government, in line with general plan; the participation of the Superior General in the Provincial Chapters (2017 - 2019); the presence either by the Superior General or the Councilors in the Assemblies of the Religious of the different Circumscriptions; participation in various events and activities of general interest, which involve the Religious, Communities, and Circumscriptions.

#### **Projects**

### **3.1 GOVERNMENT**

#### **PROJECT 1**

#### **The Chapter Document**

#### **Objective**

To promulgate the Document of the XII General Chapter “*Seeing the crowds, he felt compassion for them and said: Rogate. Our charismatic identity in today's challenges*”.

#### **Itinerary**

Making the document truly a tool that helps in rediscovering our charismatic identity in the face of today's challenges.

#### **Coordination**

Between the General Government, the Commission for the final revision and editing of the document, the Superiors of Circumscription.

#### **Interventions**

- Appointment of a Commission; revision and approval in the General Council.

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<sup>16</sup> STC 88-90, 118.

- Printing in Italian; translation and printing in different languages (English, Portuguese, Spanish and French).
- Study and deepening of the document in provincial chapters, assemblies, formation houses, conferences.

### **Deadline**

December 2016 (in Italian and in other languages).

## **PROJECT 2**

### **Structure of the Congregation**

#### **Objective**

To ensure that the decentralization in the Congregation continues to bring together the unity of the Institute and the proper autonomy of its parts, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, through respect and proper distribution of competences and powers.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

- Studying the possibility and opportunity of forming new Provinces or reducing them.
- Promote and strengthen the collaboration between Circumscriptions.

#### **Coordination**

Between the General Government and the Governments of Circumscriptions.

## **PROJECT 3**

### **The Conference of Superiors and Councils of Circumscription**

#### **Objective**

Organize periodically the Conference of Superiors of Circumscription.

#### **Itinerary**

The Superiors, at all levels, share one and the same authority with the Superior General, and they are solicitous for the unity, growth and improvement of the entire Congregation.<sup>18</sup>

#### **Coordination**

- Consultation with the Superiors of Circumscriptions regarding the time, place and theme to be taken on.
- Study the possibility of holding the Conferences in different geographic areas.

#### **Interventions**

Convene the Conference as a consultative body for agreement, dialogue and communion.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Cf. C 133.

<sup>18</sup> Cf. STC 131.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. N 138.

### **Deadline**

A Conference is foreseen at the beginning of the mandate, from October 16 to 21, 2017. Subsequently, an annual or biennial meeting only with Superiors of Circumscription.

## **PROJECT 4**

### **Canonical Visits to the Circumscriptions**

#### **Objective**

To visit the Circumscriptions and the Communities as a sign of unity, fostering communion, cooperation and coordination for the good of the religious family and the individual Confreres.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

Leading the Congregation along the path of holiness and fidelity to the specific mission, in the spirit of animation, to achieve its widespread expression and effectiveness.<sup>21</sup>

#### **Coordination**

Consult the Superiors of Circumscription and determine the most convenient times and dates with the different Houses.

#### **Interventions**

- Schedule a meeting with the Government of Circumscription at the beginning and at the end of the visit.
- Visit to all the Communities, which includes a meeting with the Religious, Rogationist, with groups and associations of Rogationist laity as well as with the local Bishops.

#### **Deadline**

The canonical visit is done twice during the six-year mandate: the first in 2018-201 and the second in the second semester of 2020 and within 2021.

## **PROJECT 5**

### **General Chapter**

#### **Objective**

To prepare the celebration of the XIII General Chapter of the Congregation as an expression of the participation and solicitude of all Congregants and a sign of their unity in charity.<sup>22</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

Keeping in mind that the theme of the Chapter is always on religious life and the apostolate of the Institute, in fidelity to the charism and the Rule of Life, in view of its renewal and updating.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Cf. N 159.

<sup>21</sup> Cf. C 149.

<sup>22</sup> Cf. N 138.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. C 147.



### **Coordination**

The General Government will confer with the Governments of the Circumscriptions who in turn will consult the Confreres for the definition of the particular theme.

### **Interventions**

- Appointment of a Commission for the study and drafting of a Basic Text or *Lineamenta*, which will be sent to all Communities for integration.
- After the election of delegates to the General Chapter, appointment of a precapitular Commission for the preparation of the *Instrumentum Laboris*.
- Five months before the General Chapter the *Instrumentum Laboris* will be sent to the chapter delegates.

### **Deadline**

- By mid-term of the mandate (2019), within the month of June, a consultation will be done for the definition of the theme of the Chapter.
- Within the month of September 2019, the appointment of a Commission for drafting the *Lineamenta*, to be sent to the Communities within February 2020.
- In July 2021, the Indiction of the XIII General Chapter of the Congregation.
- In October 2021, the appointment of the Pre-Chapter Commission for the elaboration of the *Instrumentum Laboris*.

## **PROJECT 6**

### **Centralized Organisms**

#### **Objective**

To set up the Secretariats, chaired by the General Councilors in charge of different sectors, to promote coordination and general organization.

#### **Itinerary**

- Establish commissions or organizations of general interest for the Congregation, depending on the areas of animation.
- Promote regular meetings with the Councilors and / or representatives indicated by their respective Governments of Circumscription, even in place, to have a direct knowledge of the on going initiatives, exchange of experiences and solutions to the issues.
- Help the Circumscriptions to actually take on their specific roles.

#### **Coordination**

Between the General Government, the Councilors and the Governments of Circumscription.

#### **Interventions**

- Update the names of members of the General Secretariats.
- Establish the Committee on Translations.
- Update the Committee for the revision and updating of our book of prayers.

#### **Deadline**

At the beginning of the sixth year, update the Secretariats and Committees.

## **PROJECT 7**

### **The Directory of the Circumscription**

#### **Objective**

- To organize and help Circumscriptions in preparing their “Directory of Circumscription” as an internal regulation in which the articles of the Norms are adapted to local realities.<sup>24</sup> The Directory should include indications on the Regulations for the Assembly.
- To value the function of Assemblies of Religious within the Circumscriptions.

#### **Itinerary**

- Starting from the Rule of Life, verify what could be adapted and specify competences of the Circumscriptions.
- Specifying, within the Provincial Chapter or the Assembly of the Circumscription, the nature and function of the Assembly by stipulating its expiration, timing and modalities, according to the needs of the Circumscriptions.

#### **Coordination**

- The General Government, in accompanying the process of its reflection and elaboration, with due approval.<sup>25</sup>
- The Governments of Circumscription, in its study and presentation to the Provincial Chapters and / or Assemblies
- The Provincial Chapters

#### **Interventions**

It is the competence of the Provincial Chapter to draft or revise, when required, the Provincial Directory within the mandated competencies at such level.<sup>26</sup>

#### **Deadline**

Within 2018, submission to the General Government of the Directory of the Circumscription or its Draft for those Circumscriptions that do not made yet.

## **PROJECT 8**

### **Writings of the Founder**

#### **Objective**

To continue the publication, diffusion and translation in various languages of the Writings of the Holy Founder and of the Rogationist literature.<sup>27</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

Giving opportunity to all the Religious and members of the Rogate Family to have access, study and deepen the life and thought of St. Hannibal Maria Di Francia.

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<sup>24</sup> Cf. Constitutions 180.

<sup>25</sup> Cf. Norms 172,3q.

<sup>26</sup> Constitutions 174,5.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. STC 88a.

## **Coordination**

Between the General Government, the Postulation, the Governments of Circumscription, the Rogate sector and the Office of Communications.

## **Interventions**

Make use of the most suitable means of dissemination, including on-line publication of the fundamental texts.

## **3.2 RELIGIOUS LIFE, FORMATION AND VOCATION MINISTRY**

### **Introduction**

In reflecting about our charismatic identity in today's challenges, the XII General Chapter proposes an itinerary of a search for meaning of our own identity through an indispensable dual dynamic fidelity to the original inspiration of the Founder and to the commitment of appropriating and reinterpreting it in today's context. Recognizing the grace of God, the Congregation has gradually but steadily grown both in time and space, offering the possibility for a deeper understanding of the charism through the constant process of inculturation. The key to such existential coherence in the charismatic identity from the part of the confreres, even before it is verified in the mission in its manifold forms, is their continuous formation, both in the initial and permanent stages, in the following of Christ of the Rogate: in the life of prayer, fraternity and apostolate, modeled by the charism as interpreted and lived by Saint Hannibal and how it continues to be reinterpreted over the years by the Congregation. The formators play an important role in the formation of the confreres to foster access to the original sources and to read the signs of the times, which are the tools to live a meaningful Rogationist life and mission in whatever context they may find themselves.

### **PROJECT 9**

#### **Deepening of the *Rule of Life***

##### **Objective**

To deepen the process of appropriation and re-appropriation of the spirit and value of our *Rule of Life*, fostering a renewed reference to the Rogationist religious life centered on the following of Christ of the Rogate, because the *Rule of Life* is the main written source where our charismatic identity is expressed, continuously interpreted and adapted to the times and to the different cultures. It thus becomes the living instrument of expression, interpretation and transmission of our charismatic identity. It expresses faithfully and creatively the gift of the charism, re-reads it in the light of times and cultures, and transmits it to future generations of Rogationists.<sup>28</sup>

##### **Itinerary**

Taking a process of personal and communal conversion and deepening of the value of Rogationist religious life and of the Rule of Life, focusing on the charismatic identity, through courses, reflection and prayer aimed at the purpose.

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<sup>28</sup> Cf. STC n. 59.

## **Coordination**

The General Government through the General Secretariat of Religious Life, Formation and Pastoral Care for Vocations with the Governments of Circumscription, the Commissions of the sector, the team of experts from the International Center of Studies and from the Circumscriptions, the Commission on Translations, the Formators.

## **Interventions**

- Continue to accompany the process of assimilating the Rule of Life through different initiatives.
- Support the formation with cultural aids, conferences, courses of ongoing formation organized at the general level and Circumscription. Through this means, from the theological, charismatic, pastoral, and anthropological point of view, we are helped to better understand and deepen topics on Rogationist religious life and the importance of the Rule of Life in the personal and community life and in the apostolate.<sup>29</sup>
- Formation of the Team of Experts, at the general and Circumscription levels, who will meet regularly for the production of aids and the organization of courses related to the inculturated Rogationist identity.
- Elaboration in the Community, in communion with their own Circumscription, at each beginning of the pastoral / school year, of the “Project of Community and Apostolic Life” as an instrument of communion and revision, availing of the existing model in the “Project of Rogationist Ongoing Formation”.

## **Deadline**

### **2017**

1. In view of the Conference of Superiors and Councils of Circumscriptions, identify members of the Team of Experts in the Circumscription.
2. Meeting of the Team of Experts for planning at the level of Circumscription.

### **Starting from 2018**

1. By the first semester of 2018: elaboration of the program and calendar of works (preparation of aids, conferences, formation courses).
2. At the beginning of each year: elaboration of the *Personal and Community Life Project*.

## **PROJECT 10**

### **Personal and Community Spiritual Life**

#### **Objective**

To promote personal and community spiritual life and the sense of belonging to our Religious Family in the charismatic identity, through a journey of basic and ongoing formation at the general and circumscription levels, in order to give a living witness of the joy of the Gospel in the social and ecclesial context where we operate.<sup>30</sup>

The teaching of the Church notes that different vocations can be specified through confrontation with others. “The presence of lay people and of families, in particular the presence of women in priestly formation, promotes appreciation for the variety and complementarity of different vocations in the Church”.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Cf. STC 83.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. STC 78.

<sup>31</sup> FR, 61.

## **Itinerary**

- Accompaniment, support and strengthening of initial and permanent formation.
- Promoting meetings by sector and reflection on emerging common issues in the field of formation, on our charismatic identity, on today's lifestyle that calls for our consecration as Rogationist, the inculturation of the charism in the various socio-cultural and ecclesiastical contexts where the Congregation is present.<sup>32</sup>
- Giving due importance to moments of liturgical, personal and communal prayer, silence, *Lectio Divina*, meditation, as well as to the formative itineraries formulated in the annual plans of formation.

## **Coordination**

The General Government through the General Secretariat of Religious Life, Formation and Pastoral Care for Vocation with the Governments of Circumscription, the sector Commissions, the Commission for the revision of the Manual of Rogationist prayers, the Team of experts from the Rogationist Center for International Studies and from the Circumscriptions, the Commission for Translations, the Formators.

## **Interventions**

### **General**

- Promote the translation, approval and printing in the various languages of the Liturgical Proper.
- Prepare aids, studies and courses for the deepening of the Liturgical Proper as part of the formation to the Rogationist spirituality and charism.
- Continue the process of updating of the book of prayers used in our communities, taking into account the different cultural expressions.
- Share in the Circumscriptions' expressions of spiritual liturgical life.
- Review and, if necessary, update the *Ratio Institutionis* of the Congregation,<sup>33</sup> comprehending both the Basic and Permanent Formation, and integrating the new indications of the updated *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (2017), the Magisterium of the Church, of the Episcopal Conferences, of the Rogationist Documents.

### **Initial Formation**

- See to it that at the beginning of each formation year the formative Community elaborates the Annual Plan of Formation as a tool for planning, monitoring and verification of the formation. A copy of the Annual Plan of Formation is sent to the Superior General and to the Councilor of the Sector.
- Verify the charismatic contents present in the various stages of formation in the different Circumscriptions and develop a common platform for initial formation;<sup>34</sup>
- Encourage in the various stages of formation a gradual initiation to the pastoral experience in the Church, the collaboration with lay people, and the process of synthesis between the two icons/faces of the Rogationist charism, on the example of St. Hannibal Mary,<sup>35</sup> that is, the intuition of the Rogate that arises from contemplative prayer and the service of charity to the little ones and the poor, even in the style of an inserted community.
- Promote, since the basic formation, an initiation to the contemplative dimension of the charism and the pedagogy of prayer, and accompany, wherever possible, Rogationist

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<sup>32</sup> Cf. STC 79.

<sup>33</sup> STC 91.

<sup>34</sup> STC 92.

<sup>35</sup> Cf. STC 45-51, 103.

communities who intend to propose a stable experience of contemplation as a new expression of the charism.<sup>36</sup>

- Right from the very beginning, introduce the candidates to the apostolate of the Rogate in its various expressions: schools of prayer, catechesis and vocational discernment, animation of groups (especially the Union of Prayer for Vocations and the Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations), publications, artistic works, activities of traditional and new media;<sup>37</sup> including also the possibility of a professional and specialized formation;<sup>38</sup>

- Foster and systematically organize the formation to the inculturation of the Rogationist charism, spirituality, and mission.<sup>39</sup> This process must be initiated and promoted through:  
a) particular attention to the formation of formators, even by taking up special academic courses;

b) the formation and preparation of the confreres called to live in cultural contexts besides their land of origin;

c) inclusion, in the formation plans, of the knowledge about the geographical and social realities that make up the Circumscription, favoring the exchange of religious students and Confreres between different Circumscriptions;

d) research and deepening of the local cultural categories, which could be used in translating and transmitting the Rogationist charism in an appropriate manner.

- Increase the awareness among religious students so that they would prefer to specialize in academic disciplines that best enable them to comprehend and express our charismatic mission.<sup>40</sup>

- Promote learning of the most widely used languages in the Congregation, including Italian, in order to favor communication among confreres, and contact with the writings of the Father Founder and the Rogationist literature;<sup>41</sup>

- The General Government prepares a “Guidelines” for formators, which defines the collaboration of lay people in the formation of candidates in the various formation stages as well as the role of human sciences in the formation.<sup>42</sup>

### **Formation of Formators**

- At the level of Circumscription, assure continuity in the formation of formators, especially to the charismatic formation, that would include fundamental courses such as: Introduction to the Writings of the Father Founder, History of the Congregation, Rogationist Spirituality and Mission, Liturgical Proper, Pedagogy of Prayer, etc.;<sup>43</sup>

- At the general level, set up the “School of Rogationist Formation for Rogationist Formators”.<sup>44</sup> The venue could be in Italy considering the necessity of knowing the places of the Founder and of learning/improving the knowledge of Italian language to favor direct access to the Writings of the Founder and the Documents of the Congregation.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Cf. STC 34.

<sup>37</sup> Cf. STC 83-84.

<sup>38</sup> Cf. STC 83b.

<sup>39</sup> Cf. STC 79, 82.

<sup>40</sup> Cf. STC 81c.

<sup>41</sup> Cf. STC 24, 93b.

<sup>42</sup> Cf. STC 94.

<sup>43</sup> STC 93.

<sup>44</sup> STC 93.

<sup>45</sup> STC 93b.

## **Permanent Formation**

- Promote, in the Circumscriptions, the organization of ongoing formation courses on issues related to the Rogationist and priestly spirituality, availing the contribution of expert confreres;<sup>46</sup>
- Care should be given for the ongoing formation of religious by organizing or attending conferences and seminars aimed at acquiring the professional skills, specific to our charismatic apostolate;<sup>47</sup>
- At the local level, encourage the formation of Spiritual Fathers, insisting on their presence in the Houses of formation.
- Whenever possible, the insertion in working communities of religious priests who are undertaking licentiate and/or doctoral studies in the specific field of the charism and mission.<sup>48</sup>

## **Deadline**

### **Starting from 2017**

- constitution of the Commission for Translations, resumption of the Commission for Rogationist Prayer and initiation of the work.
- Completion of the translation of the Liturgical Proper into several languages to be presented for approval.
- Identification of Centers for specialized courses for the organization of program of ongoing formation and formation of formators.
- Setting up of a Team of Experts at the general as well as in the circumscription level in view of the preparation of aids, studies and courses related to the charismatic formation.
- Conduct a survey on the charismatic contents of formation present in the various stages of formation in the different Circumscriptions and gather observations regarding the *Ratio Institutionis*, in view of its revision.

### **Starting from 2018**

- approve and print the Liturgical Proper in the different languages; prepare formative aids, conferences and courses for the deepening of the Liturgical Proper.
- First draft of the manual of Rogationist Prayers.
- First draft of the common platform of charismatic content for initial formation.
- First works on the revision of the *Ratio Institutionis*.
- Courses of formation for formators, and ongoing formation conducted by the Team of Experts, at the level of Circumscriptions.
- Start of the “School of Rogationist formation for Rogationists formators” in Rome.
- Drawing up of the program for the sabbatical period.

### **Starting from 2019**

- work out the second draft of the common platform for initial formation after receiving observations from the Circumscriptions; identification of sources; preparation of formative aids.
- Second draft of the Rogationist at Prayer booklet.
- First draft of the revised *Ratio Institutionis* after having received observations from the Circumscriptions.
- October 2019: Mid-Term meeting of the Secretariats by sector to verify and monitor the first 3 years of functioning.

### **Starting from 2020**

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<sup>46</sup> STC 79, 80, 83.

<sup>47</sup> STC 81b.

<sup>48</sup> Cf. STC 81c, 83b, 96.

- final Draft of the common platform for initial formation; approval from the part of the General Government.

### **Starting from 2021**

- submission of the final draft of the revised *Ratio Institutionis* to the General Government.

## **PROJECT 11**

### **Personal Accompaniment**

#### **Objective**

To pay more attention to personal accompaniment through the various stages of life in the journey of basic and permanent formation, and especially of those confreres in difficulty.<sup>49</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

- Deepen the affective and relational dimension and promote the human and spiritual maturity of the confreres.

#### **Coordination**

The General Government and Governments of Circumscription.

#### **Interventions**

- Offering an up-to-date “guidelines” for a common reflection and orientation regarding particular situations in which some Confreres may find themselves, according to the directives of the Holy See and the Bishops' Conferences.
- Accompanying of Confreres who are undergoing moments of crisis and loss of religious identity.<sup>50</sup>
- Identifying a Rogationist community that would welcome and accompany the confreres who came out from “Centers of assistance for Religious /Priests in difficulty”.<sup>51</sup>
- Preparing some confreres in the various Circumscriptions who can possibly accompany particular cases, availing themselves of existing specialized centers in the geographic areas where we operate.
- Sustaining, accompanying elderly Confreres who are in need of special care with appropriate facilities, valuing those places in some Circumscriptions which are already intended for and could provide medical services and care that cannot be normally offered in our communities.

#### **Deadline**

##### **Within 2018**

- reprise the guidelines “Fraternal Care for Special Situations” (2007) that the Congregation has forwarded to the Superiors of Circumscriptions, according to the directives of the Holy See and of the Episcopal Conferences.
- Formulate the “guidelines” on the collaboration of lay people and the role of human sciences in the formation.

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<sup>49</sup> Cf. STC 89.

<sup>50</sup> Cf. STC 89.

<sup>51</sup> *ibid.*



**In 2019**, presentation for approval to the General Government of the final draft of the “guidelines”:

- a. Fraternal care for particular situations
- b. Collaboration of lay people and the role of human sciences in the formation.

### **3.3 ROGATE**

#### **Introduction**

The Rogationist consecration and mission become a prophecy, at the School of Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia, the “prophet” of the Rogate. Therefore, we are committed in the various areas of our charismatic mission, in collaboration with the Family of the Rogate in the local Churches: prayer for vocations and its diffusion; vocation animation and promotion; education and assistance to the children and the poor.<sup>52</sup> In the context of the Circumscriptions, the Rogate Centers have an important role to spread in the Church the spirituality of the charism, the knowledge of the holy Founder, and the cultural animation of the apostolate of the Congregation.<sup>53</sup>

#### **PROJECT 12**

##### **Apostolate of the Rogate and Rogate Centers**

##### **Objective**

- To ensure coordination in view of a common project and shared together with the Rogate Centers of the various Circumscriptions, at local level<sup>54</sup> and as much as possible in coordination with similar organisms present in the Congregation of the Daughters of the Divine Zeal, for greater deepening of the charism of the Rogate.<sup>55</sup>
- To deepen the knowledge of the charism, spirituality and history of the Congregation during the formation journey and to become actively involved in the spread of the charism and knowledge of the Founder.
- To promote the Rogate Vocational Centers in the Circumscriptions, which are particularly tasked to:
  - a) “spread the Union of Prayer for Vocations (UPV) and the Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations (PUPV), which are the current resources for the propagation of the Rogate;
  - b) take care and accompany the lay associations and groups (young people, families, and volunteers) who are inspired by the Rogationist spirituality”.<sup>56</sup>

##### **Itinerary**

- The General Secretariat of the Rogate Sector acts on three dimensions:
  1. Study of the charism, spirituality, history of the Congregation and knowledge of the Founder.
  2. Diffusion of the charism and devotion to the Founder.
  3. Animation and reflection on the pastoral care for vocations.

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<sup>52</sup> STC 32.

<sup>53</sup> STC 84.

<sup>54</sup> Cf. Norms 82.

<sup>55</sup> Cf. Relazione al XII Capitolo Generale n. 136.

<sup>56</sup> STC 97.

## **Coordination**

- The Secretariat of the Rogate and its organisms, such as the International Studies Center (ISC) and the Historical Institute (HI);
- The Rogate Centers of the Circumscription, Centers of Spirituality, and Local Communities.
- General Secretariat of Formation, for the greater assimilation and deepening of knowledge about the Founder, charism, spirituality and history of the Congregation.
- General Secretariat of the Laity, Parishes and Youth Ministry.

## **Interventions**

- In collaboration with the sector on formation, encourage the production, in different languages, of manuals and aids on the charism, Founder and Congregation suited for the various stages of formation.<sup>57</sup>
- Verify the formative contents on the Rogate in the various stages of formation.<sup>58</sup>
- Elaborate the Statutes of the Rogate Centers of Circumscription, whenever it is lacking.
- Enhance linkage among Rogate Centers.
- Conduct a biennial meeting with those responsible for the Rogate Centers of the various Circumscriptions, for sharing of programs, fostering confrontation and exchange of experiences.
- Support of the Quasi Provinces of India and Africa for the improvement of activities of the Rogate Center and the Spirituality Center and study the possibility of starting a Rogate Center in the Hispanic area.
- Promote the participation of the Rogate Centers in national and international ecclesial events to increase the spread of the Prayer for Vocations and the knowledge about the Founder.
- Promote and encourage the coordination for the animation and celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Rogationist day par excellence, favoring the sharing of ideas and materials.
- Encourage in various Circumstances the preparation and designation of qualified staff to work in the Rogate apostolate and for the inculturation of the charism in their own geographical context.
- Study the opportunity of starting in Rome a postgraduate Institute for Vocations, by affiliating it with a Pontifical University, that would give students the opportunity to pursue degrees in theology and Pastoral Ministry of Vocations.<sup>59</sup>
- Look for funds to support the activities of the Rogate Centers.<sup>60</sup>

## **Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

## **PROJECT 13**

### **International Studies Center and Historical Institute**

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<sup>57</sup> Cf. STC 27.

<sup>58</sup> Cf. STC 92.

<sup>59</sup> Cf. STC 95.

<sup>60</sup> STC 84c.

**Objective**

- To promote the International Studies Center (ISC) as an institute of study and deepening of the charism and spirituality and the promotion of an updated culture of vocational ministry.

- To study attentively the opportunity and possibility of reviving the Historical Institute (HI).

**Itinerary**

Continue what has been done of general interest up to now and integrate it with new ideas.

**Coordination**

- The International Studies Center, the Historical Institute and the Circumscriptions;

- Confreres who are permanently in charge, as resident members;

- Confreres who are appointed as coordinators in various districts (non-resident members);

- All the Confreres and lay people who can contribute.

**Interventions**

- Appointment of resident and non-resident members of the coordinating group of the ISC.

- Meeting of ISC members for general programming.

- Analysis of the journey done by the Historical Institute up to now, assessment of the real possibilities for an eventual re-launching.

**Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

**PROJECT 14****Central Office of Communications****Objective**

To promote communication in support of the unity of the Congregation, fostering exchange and use of information, and offering to all Confreres the opportunity to have access in an adequate way to new media of communication.

To assure the presence of the Congregation in various media contexts, in order to present its image and its activities, values, methods, relations with the communities of reference.

**Itinerary**

- Care of the official organ of communication of the Congregation;

- Maintaining a continuous dialogue with the public (external communication) and with the whole Congregation, with the Daughters of Divine Zeal and with the entire Rogate Family (internal communication);

- Promote the culture of defense of life and human rights, especially of the little ones and the poor;

**Coordination**

-The Office of Communications with those in-charge in the Governments of Circumscription, those responsible of the Rogate Centers of Circumscription, FDZ Sisters, and the various lay associations of the Rogate Family.

## **Interventions**

- Set up the General Commission for Communications.
- Start the activities of the Office of Communications, which is carried out mainly by producing articles, press releases, press reviews, photo and image production, and through the organization of press conferences and interviews
- Coordinate and strengthen the organs of communication of the Curia (website, bulletin, directory, information, calendar, etc.), enhancing and preferring especially the use of the internet and the website.<sup>61</sup>
- “Evaluate the proper use of modern instruments (interactive exhibits, short films, websites, movies, etc.) to present the life of the Founder and his charisma; support and qualify the specific apostolic activities of the Congregation”.<sup>62</sup>
- Upgrade the Congregation's web site, enriching it with new forms of formative and informative contents and providing a private section that would function as a forum for sharing ideas and confrontation of opinions among Confreres.
- To improve the periodical “Studi Rogazionisti” in its identity as a cultural tool, enriching it with new features, a set of editorial staff extended to non-residents and an online publication.<sup>63</sup>

## **Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

## **3.4 SERVICE OF CHARITY AND MISSIONS**

### **Introduction**

With regard to the sector of Charity and Missions, the XII General Chapter urges us to reflect and take decisions on multiple concerns. As Rogationists, we are called upon to rediscover the wealth of the Rogate, a charism founded on the obedience to the command of the Lord of the mystical harvest with prayer and in being good workers, realizing concrete actions of charity toward the most needy and engaging in the missions. Since the time of Father Hannibal, in fact, “there is a vital circle between prayer for vocations and service to the little and the poor”.<sup>64</sup> This union, which has been always the means of attracting blessings and has characterized our history, leads us to be truly “collaborators in the new evangelization”<sup>65</sup> and “prophets of charity”<sup>66</sup>. In the next six years, the Congregation is urged to fully take on the ecclesial challenge of evangelization and inculturation of the Gospel of the Rogate into new lands and cultures, but also to be creative in the fields of education and of charity, in order to provide adequate responses to new poverty, with new choices and new strategies.

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<sup>61</sup> Cf. STC 83d.

<sup>62</sup> Cf. STC 84b.

<sup>63</sup> Cf. STC 105ab.

<sup>64</sup> STC 50.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.* 74.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.* 70.

## **PROJECT 15**

### **The Poor and the Gospel**

#### **Objective**

To be at the side of the poor in the spirit of the Gospel.

#### **Itinerary**

- Verify at the levels of the Congregation, Circumscription and Community if our lifestyle and apostolic activities are truly an expression the compassion of the Heart of Jesus for the tired and exhausted crowds, with the same intensity and passion that characterized the life and action of the Holy Founder.
- Take the option of living side-by-side with the poor, defending and supporting them in confronting new forms of poverty by making our own houses a place of welcome and evangelization, and making courageous apostolic choices in favor of the “peripheries” of human life.
- Keep constant attention in monitoring social needs where we can better express our mission.<sup>67</sup>
- Establish a relationship of collaborative networking with local services.<sup>68</sup>

#### **Coordination**

With the Central Missionary Office and with the Missionary Office of the Circumscription, with benefactors, organizations and local institutions.

#### **Interventions**

- Opening the doors of our communities to welcome the poor and at the same time to become their companions by being in solidarity with them in particular situations of material and spiritual needs;
- Educating young religious in formation to compassion and assistance of the poor, offering them specific experiences both in our structures and in other significant realities;
- Allowing ourselves to be guided by the poor in our choice of places for new foundations, and go wherever they are more numerous;
- Creating places with adequate structures for the reception, assistance and evangelization of the poor.<sup>69</sup>
- Support the distance and missionary adoptions.
- Support the PBK Association (Pro Bambini di Kabul).
- Keep in mind the possibility of a specific service to poor in the place when choosing new foundations or starting new works.
- Ensure appropriate environments for the reception, assistance and evangelization of the poor, drop-in centers or facilities for families and children from problematic situations.
- Place at the disposition residential structures as a temporary lodging for poor or migrant families wherever this assistance is needed and with the deliberation of the respective Superiors of Circumscription.<sup>70</sup>

#### **Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

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<sup>67</sup> STC 85abc.

<sup>68</sup> STC 100a.

<sup>69</sup> Cf. STC 86abcd.

<sup>70</sup> Cf. STC 103.

## **PROJECT 16**

### **Socio-educative works**

#### **Objective**

To come up with orientation guidelines for the Rogationist *mission-vision* departing from the experience of the different Circumscriptions.

#### **Itinerary**

- Formulate common guidelines, in the light of the socio-educative realities of the Circumscriptions, considering the conclusions of the 2014 International Educational Congress, the common guidelines for our schools and educational works.
- Collect the data of educational institutions in the world.

#### **Coordination**

With the Councils of Circumscription.

With the Daughters of Divine Zeal.

With the Missionaries of the Rogate

#### **Interventions**

- Inspect the educational material already existing and in use.
- Coordinate make this material available online.
- Draw up a concise document applicable to the whole Congregation.

#### **Deadline**

- Organize the gathering of data in 2018
- Within 2010 gathering of local experiences.
- In 2010 definition of the general *vision-mission* and proposal of the orientation guidelines.

## **PROJECT 17**

### **Missions and Missionary Stations**

#### **Objective**

To pay particular attention to the consolidation of the missions, missionary stations and presences, which are already started and to evaluate the opportunity for expansion in other geographic areas where there is sensitivity to the charism and vocational response.

#### **Itinerary**

The missionary spirit requires the availability, participation and co-responsibility of all the Religious.<sup>71</sup>

Promote, animate and consolidate the missions, missionary stations and presences, project new openings, where there is a possibility.

#### **Coordination**

With the concerned Government of the Circumscription.

With the concrete reality of the missions / missionary presences.

With the Religious and Circumscription who are available to missions.

Collaboration between the Circumscriptions.

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<sup>71</sup> Cf. Norms 103.

### **Interventions**

Consolidate the new missions, missionary stations and presences with sufficient personnel.

Verify, according to the regulations,<sup>72</sup> the possibility for evangelization and diffusion of the charism in new geographic areas.

### **Deadline**

Within the six-year mandate.

## **PROJECT 18**

### **Central Missionary Office (CMO)**

#### **Objective**

- To update the structure of the CMO considering the new challenges.
- To establish a Missionary Office of the Circumscription, where it is needed.

#### **Itinerary**

- Replacement of the religious personnel working in the CMO.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of the Provincial Councilors of the sector in relation to the CMO and the missions.
- Promote with competent personnel the collaboration with the CMO, accompanying the presentation, execution and reporting of the missionary projects funded by local or international agencies.<sup>73</sup>
- Define the function of the Missionary Office of Circumscription.
- Evaluate the strategies used for the missionary animation of the Rogationist Mission Day.
- Involve lay people and young people in missionary experiences.
- Choose new initiatives for fundraising.
- Resolve the situation of the NGO Labor Mundi.
- Provide general guidelines on funding and partnership for projects in favor of the missions.

#### **Coordination**

- With the General Government
- With the Missionary Offices of the Circumscription.
- With the local in charge of the Missionary Offices of Circumscription.
- With the General Secretariat for the Laity, Parishes and Youth Ministry.

#### **Interventions**

- Develop a unified format for distant and missionary adoption.
- Find addresses to increase the number of benefactors.
- Organize the link with the notices (bandi) for European Funding.
- Invite young people and volunteers for missionary experiences abroad.
- Encourage the sharing of multimedia materials for the propagation of the Rogationist Mission Day.

#### **Deadline**

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<sup>72</sup> Cf. Norms 227 §2,e.

<sup>73</sup> Cf. STC 104.

- By December **2016**: replacement of personnel.
- By October **2017**: Presentation of the new format.
- In **2017**: participation in European Funding notices.
- In the Conferences of the Superiors: update regarding the activities of the CMO.
- During the six-year term: organization of youth missionary volunteering.
- Rogationist Mission Day
  - 2017: Butamwa (Rwanda)
  - 2018: Aluva - Seminary
  - 2019: St. Matthew Province
  - 2020: St. Luke Province
  - 2021: St. Joseph Quasi Province
  - 2022: Nostra Señora de Guadalupe Delegation

### **3.5 LAY, PARISHES AND YOUTH MINISTRY**

#### **Introduction**

Starting from the XII General Chapter this Sector has been expanded and has taken a new configuration. From now on it takes charge of the three vast areas: Parishes, Laity and Youth Ministry. This is the harvest of the Lord where we are called to be good workers, to pray and to spread the charism expressed in the two icons: inspiration of the Rogate and encounter with Zancone.<sup>74</sup>

In coordinating the Sector, we have the first task of knowing the complex reality, getting closer and trusting even more those who are responsible in the different Circumscriptions, whether religious or lay. We have also developed a specific proposal for each of the three major areas included in the Sector:

- I - Elaborate the “Rogationist Project for Parishes and Shrines”.
- II- Organize the “First International Symposium of the of the Rogationist Laity” in Messina in 2020.
- III - Develop the Orientation Guidelines of the “Rogate Youth Ministry”.

The proposals allow us to produce documents which are rich in reflections and orientations drawn up with the participation of the confreres, and in some cases, of the entire Family of the Rogate. With the accompaniment of the Major Superiors and the Commissions that will be constituted for this purpose, we propose to develop general guidelines that will serve as the point of reference for the vocational evangelizing action of the Congregation which has now become international and multicultural.<sup>75</sup>

In this open, dynamic and participatory process we want to accompany and welcome the contribution of all those working in the different fields of action and in the different geographical and cultural areas. We know that the vocational evangelizing action must be “made of sharing and of love, of affective proximity and of diligent accompaniment and human and spiritual support of all those who adhere with us the charism of Rogate.”<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Cf. STC 49.

<sup>75</sup> Cf. STC 55, note 23.

<sup>76</sup> STC 12.



## **PROJECT 19**

### **Rogationist Parishes and Shrines**

#### **Objective**

To work on the Rogationist Project for Parishes and Shrines.

#### **Itinerary**

- Constitute a Commission who will be tasked for the elaboration of the Rogationist Project for Parishes and Shrines utilizing the previous draft: “The Rogationist mission in parishes and Shrines”.<sup>77</sup> Enrich the text with an appendix on the Rogationist catechesis, with a special attention to the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Encourage in every Circumscription the elaboration of the Pastoral Project for Rogationist Parishes and Shrines.<sup>78</sup>
- Accompany those responsible so that our parishes and shrines would be more qualified as communities with “Rogationist physiognomies” where the Rogate is spread and the Rogationist associations flourish.<sup>79</sup>
- Promote a culture of vocation in parish communities and shrines.

#### **Coordination**

In collaboration with those responsible in the Circumscriptions and some parish priests or rectors of Shrine whom they have indicated.

#### **Interventions**

- During the first meeting of the Major Superiors (October 2017), create the committee who will be responsible for the drafting of the document and establish a working timetable.
- Send to the confreres of the various Circumscriptions the draft of the “new document” that will be discussed and refined in the various meetings of the Rogationist parish priests and rectors of shrine (from July 2018 to June 2020).<sup>80</sup>
- Collect the material produced in the different geographic and cultural areas and examine it in the committee meeting (July to December 2020).
- Approve and publish the Rogationist Project for Parishes and Shrines.

#### **Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

## **PROJECT 20**

### **The Rogationist Laity**

#### **Objective**

Promote and accompany the Rogationist Laity.

- To secure that in each Circumscription there should be a Project for lay people, which specifies their Rogationist lay identity and their mission in the Church and in the world, to respond to the challenges besetting the Congregation.

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<sup>77</sup> RGG n. 211, p. 122.

<sup>78</sup> Cf. STC 101b.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid*, n. 98.

<sup>80</sup> Cf. STC 101.

- To assure the accompaniment of families who are living the conjugal spirituality in the light of the charism of the Rogate.
- To “support the family in its double mission to live within itself the ‘Gospel of vocation’ and to proclaim it to other families, thus creating a cultural environment which favors the acceptance of life as a vocation, and promoting, above all among their children, the development of the “sacred vocation which they may discern in them”<sup>81</sup>
- To promote the diffusion of the UPV and PUPV through the works not only by those entrusted with this task, but also by all the Rogationists who strive to make it take root in the apostolic activities of the communities<sup>82</sup> and express it especially in the places of pastoral service (parishes, shrines).<sup>83</sup>
- To elaborate, in “each Circumscription, its own *Rules of application*, besides the provisions of art. 82-89 of the Norms, and the Statutes of the respective associations (UPV and PUPV), identifying and providing dedicated religious to this area. Sharing and collaborating with the Family of the Rogate is necessary”<sup>84</sup>
- To organize the First International Symposium of the Rogationist Laity.<sup>85</sup>

### **Itinerary**

- Mobilize all the members of the Family of the Rogate who will help in the preparation of the First International Symposium of the Laity.
- Encourage those responsible to take special care of the Rogationist laity, associates and not, and suggest some practical orientations to reach the proposed objective.
- Motivate and accompany the realization of congresses at the level of the Circumscriptions.
- Resume the proposal of the previous government to start at the level of Circumscriptions the “National Day of the Rogate Family” and if possible to establish a “World Day of the Rogate Family” together with the Daughters of Divine Zeal.<sup>86</sup>
- Continue the journey already made by the previous governments in improving the Cultural Project of the Rogationist Laity and bringing it to the knowledge of the Circumscriptions.<sup>87</sup>

### **Coordination**

In collaboration with those responsible in the Circumscriptions of the Union of Rogationist Associations (UAR) and other members of the Rogate Family.

### **Interventions**

- It is proposed that the venue, date, theme of the First International Symposium should be decided through a consultation with the Superiors of Circumscription after consulting those who are responsible.
- Organize an Executive Commission for the Symposium that should be accompanied by those responsible of the laity in the Circumscriptions.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Cf. STC 87 and 102 Cf. AA 11.

<sup>82</sup> Cf. *Norms*, art. 87.

<sup>83</sup> Cf. STC 98.

<sup>84</sup> STC 99.

<sup>85</sup> Cf. STC 102.

<sup>86</sup> Cf. MEZZARI, *Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ of the Rogate according to the Rule of Life. Plan of Action of the the General Government 2010-2016*, Rome 2011, Project 19, p. 54-56.

<sup>87</sup> Cf. UAR, *Il Progetto Culturale del Laicato Rogazionista*, Morlupo, 2012.

<sup>88</sup> The First International Symposium of the Family of the Rogate will be a *Kairos* enriched by the participation of all its segments. In preparation we have to elaborate with the laity a Slogan, a Prayer, a Hymn, a Logo and the *Instrumentum Laboris* (Basic Text).

- “Provide the Laity with adequate Christian and Rogationist formation, spiritual and sacramental accompaniment and solicit their involvement in the various activities of the Congregation, starting from the Rule of Life and according to their explicit request”.<sup>89</sup>
- Promote sharing of charism with the Daughters of Divine Zeal, the Missionaries of the Rogate, the associated and non-associated Rogationist Laity.
- Continue working with the Daughters of Divine Zeal for a common growth in the charism through a joint initiative in some areas (permanent formation, important events of the Founder and the two Institutes, Union of Prayer for Vocations, Laity, Economy ...).
- Organize regular encounters between the two General Governments; organize meetings and moments of cooperation.
- Accompany and promote the Missionaries of the Rogate on their path of growth in the various realities.

### **Deadline**

The process will end with the publication and dissemination of the final document of the First International Symposium (Point of arrival and departure for the shared mission).

## **PROJECT 21**

### **Rogationist Youth Ministry**

#### **Objective**

To draw up the Guidelines for Rogate Youth Ministry.<sup>90</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

- Mobilize those responsible in the Circumscriptions for the animation of the Rogate Youth Ministry.
- Create an international coordinating team to develop orientation guidelines and animate the pastoral care of the Rogate Youth.
- Ensure a dynamic and participatory process in the Circumscriptions in view of the elaboration of the document.
- Accompany the journey towards the “Synod for the Youth” and encourage the participation, as far as possible, of the Rogate Youth.
- Involve the young religious, seminarians and youth who are close to our communities.

#### **Coordination**

In collaboration with those responsible in the Circumscriptions.

#### **Interventions**

- Promote in the parishes and shrines the Rogate Youth Ministry.
- Identify in the younger Circumscriptions those who can be part of the international coordinating team of the Rogate Youth Ministry.
- Visit the Circumscriptions, involving them in the animation and care of the Rogate Youth.
- Encourage the participation of representatives of the Rogate Youth in the First Symposium of the Rogationist Laity.

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<sup>89</sup> STC 102a.

<sup>90</sup> STC 75.

- Organize in the Circumscriptions formative encounters of young operators.

### **Deadline**

Within the six-year mandate, with the approval and publication of the document.

## **3.6 ADMINISTRATION OF GOODS**

### **Introduction**

“One of the current challenges particularly affecting our Congregation is the economic problem generated by the global crisis, but also by some imprudent management of the goods received and by an unsustainable lifestyle.

Our full and effective response is to rely on the Providence by investing in charitable works, reviewing our ways management, reducing expenses, recovering new sources of income, and trusting in the intercession of Saint Anthony, the evangelical worker full of love for the little ones and the poor, in support of our apostolic activities.

The following proposals intend to offer concrete indications for improving our way management of goods, confident in the help of the Providence and in the witnessing of the religious”.<sup>91</sup>

## **PROJECT 22**

### **Economic Instruction**

#### **Objective**

To implement the current Economic Instruction, adapting it to new situations in the Houses and Circumscriptions.<sup>92</sup>

#### **Itinerary**

- Reprise the current Economic Instruction, based on the previous Legislation, to take full account of the reality of decentralization and various related issues.
- Take into consideration the economic and financial problems of the society, of the Circumscriptions and of the Congregation.
- Apply the new regulations governing management of goods.

#### **Coordination**

- Between the General Government and the Governments of Circumscription, the General Treasurer and the Treasurers of Circumscription.

#### **Interventions**

- Make use of the Instruction really as a basis for an Economic Plan for the Congregation.
- Provide the necessary elements through which the Circumscriptions and the Houses can make a program and economic planning appropriate to the new reality.
- Accept and consider the diversity of civil and fiscal legislations.

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<sup>91</sup> STC 106.

<sup>92</sup> RVR 90

**Deadline**

Within 2019.

**PROJECT 23****The Percentage****Objective**

“The best and most effective means for sharing the goods is that of solidarity through the percentage system depending on the situation of each Circumscription. Each Circumscription, besides giving a portion of the percentages coming from the Houses, should agree with the General Curia also on a percentage of its external incomes”.<sup>93</sup>

**Itinerary**

- All Circumscriptions are invited to pay attention to this principle of sharing of goods.
- Evaluate the possibility of applying this Percentage System to all Circumscriptions using our historically proven formula, taking into consideration the situations of individual Houses.

**Coordination**

Between the General Government and the Governments of Circumscriptions.

**Interventions**

Invite all Circumscriptions to agree with the General Curia regarding the percentage on external revenues.

**Deadline**

Within 2017

**PROJECT 24****New sources of income****Objective**

To promote, at all levels, the culture of economy and work for the life and mission, the dynamics of sharing of goods, and the search for the needed sustenance and alternative ways of fundraising.<sup>94</sup>

**Itinerary**

- Fostering among the Confreres a new culture of economy and use and management of goods.
- Considering that a new economy begins with the life of real poverty and sharing, based on one's own work and ministry.
- Changing lifestyle in religious life in the perspective of a new ethics of goods, founded on faith, providence, and charity.

**Coordination**

Between Governments, in different levels, Houses, Religious.

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<sup>93</sup> STC 108.

<sup>94</sup> RVR 72,89.

**Interventions**

- Formation of religious in the field of economics and administration, according to new situations.
- Ensure that the Superiors and Treasurers have the necessary preparation to carry out their tasks.
- Avail, with sense of ethics and responsibility, of the help of consultants and / or technical offices in legal, fiscal, administrative concerns.
- Search and promote new alternatives to raise funds needed in carrying out the mission.
- Take advantage of the different availability of funds for projects from private and public entities, including the collaboration of the Missionary and Development Office.

**Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

**PROJECT 25****Extra contribution for the General Government****Objective**

“To support the initiatives of common interest to the Congregation, of which the General Government is particularly concerned in the current economic climate. For this, at the beginning of the mandate of the new Government, all Houses and Circumscriptions are expected to offer a one-time extra contribution, according to their economic possibilities. Even Formation Houses will also have to give their share with a small contribution from their external income. The Houses will agree with their respective Circumscription regarding the ceiling and the modalities of their contribution. This concrete gesture will reinforce the sense of belonging of each Community”.<sup>95</sup>

**Itinerary**

Invite all Houses through the Circumscriptions to pay their contribution.

**Coordination**

Between the Governments of Circumscription and the Houses.

**Interventions**

- Continue the construction of the Seminary in Maumere, Indonesia.
- Start the building of the Seminary in Phu Cuong, Vietnam.

**Deadline**

June 2019.

**PROJECT 26****Online Archive****Objective**

To be able to manage and view information and resources at a global level by availing of the modern means of communication. To facilitate access and consultation of

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<sup>95</sup> STC 110.

the essential technical and administrative documents of the Houses of the Circumscriptions, an online archive with remote access will be set up in the General and Circumscription levels.

#### **Itinerary**

- Evaluate the possibility of setting up such an archive.
- Organize the collection of documents related to the real estate patrimony of each House.

#### **Coordination**

Between the General Government, Governments of Circumscriptions and Houses.

#### **Intervention**

Organize the inventory of all the patrimonial goods of the Congregation.

#### **Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

### **PROJECT 27**

#### **Stable Patrimony**

##### **Objective**

To define the “Stable Patrimony” of the Congregation, according to the indication of the Document *Guidelines for the Administration of Assets in Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*: “Every Institute of Consecrated Life and Society of Apostolic Life, after careful evaluation of its overall structure and its works, develops a list of all the assets belonging to the stable patrimony in such a way that reflects the current situation, as with respect to civil law”.<sup>96</sup>

##### **Itinerary**

- Establish, with proper deliberation, the legitimate designation of such “Stable Patrimony”.

##### **Coordination**

The General Government and the Circumscriptions.

##### **Interventions**

Collect the necessary documentation in collaboration with the Technical-Legal Office of the General Curia and and of the Circumscriptions.

##### **Deadline**

During the six-year mandate.

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<sup>96</sup> STC 112.