

Let us walk together
in unity, sharing, and coordination
Action Plan of the General Government 2022-2028

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Presentation

Let us walk together! This was the significant exhortation that was repeated several times during the day of recollection in preparation for the 13th General Chapter. The invitation came from Msgr. Angelo Mezzari, who is charismatically united with us and called to serve the Church in the episcopate, but it was all the more timely since the theme of the General Chapter was “The Rogationist Religious Life Today: Unity, Sharing, and Coordination.” The theme, moreover, can be said to have been a “duty” since, as a Church, we are reflecting and examining synodality.

When we look at our Congregation, on the one hand, we must praise and bless the Lord for its development, and on the other hand, we must recognize our limitations and failures, as well as the problems and difficulties we encounter on our journey.

To walk means to go one step at a time, and today, as we go the distance, we would like to say with the pace of the mountaineer, with the right rhythm of breathing to climb the mountain, because the road before us is not easy and we need the Lord's help, a lot of patience, discernment and commitment.

Patience, because some goals take time to achieve; discernment, because situations are often complex and we need to pay attention to multiple implications; and commitment, which we need in order not to give up at the first difficulties that arise.

Situations vary from Circumscription to Circumscription, among the communities themselves and among all of us Confreres, but we must not forget that through our religious consecration, we have become one true family, united by the charismatic spiritual bond and by the same apostolic mission.

We build this unity in our communities, then in our Circumscriptions and in the fraternal communion of the members of the Congregation, which is realized as a true sense of belonging that goes beyond the local reference.

This is a reflection that we have been doing for some time now since the beginning of decentralization. It is a conviction that we must put into practice and make the basis of our growth and our common commitment to overcome the difficulties that we encounter.

What is there to look forward to in the Action Plan? What are the challenges we face today? What can and must we do? What would Fr. Hannibal do today? Father Hannibal would probably formulate the questions we ask differently, asking not so much about our “doing” but about our “being” as people consecrated to God in the mission of the Rogate, for the salvation and spiritual and material well-being of our brothers and sisters. He would remind us that our charismatic unity is to be concretized in our Rule of Life, as the Chapter Document reminds us, appropriately recalled by the Action Plan: “Our Rule of Life, Constitutions and Norms, as well as the Directory of Circumscription, find their roots and inspiration in the values of the Gospel; the Rogationist Rule of Life is “an expression of consecration, a guarantee of charismatic identity, a support of fraternal

communion, a project of mission”, which strengthens and promotes our unity.¹

The Six-Year Action Plan is intended to be the fruit of this common discernment, which began with the preparation and then the celebration of the 13th General Chapter and was expressed in the Chapter Document. The Action Plan intends to draw from the journey that has been completed the operational choices to be made available to all of us, according to our areas of responsibility, so that we can implement them in our daily actions, as we walk together.

The Chapter Document, while calling us to unity, sharing, and coordination, tells us that all of this must take place in the dimension and on the basis of today's Rogationist Religious Life. It is from here, dear Confreres, that we must always begin to address the problems and challenges of our religious family.

We are facing a widespread crisis of vocation and formation. We are aware that this crisis is rooted in the prevalent crisis of faith in some of the socio-cultural contexts in which we are present, but we must agree that it also depends on us, on the care we give to prayer for good workers, on the witness we give in evangelization and in the service to the poor. In fulfilling this commitment, we are called more than ever to walk together and to support one another.

In the Circumscriptions, there is a need for restructuring, sometimes for different reasons. Even in these cases, we must open ourselves willingly to the choices to be made, keeping in mind the common good of the Circumscriptions and of the Congregation.

With regard to the specific apostolate of Prayer for Vocations, I would like to recall what Fr. Hannibal says in his *self-eulogy*: “With the Rogate we say nothing: he devoted himself to it, either out of zeal or fixation, or both.” We are not unaware of the commitment in general in the Congregation in this area, but we must admit that we are far from the *zeal* and *fixation* of Father Hannibal. Unity, sharing, and coordination will also help us in this growth.

Father Hannibal's love, compassion, and closeness to the little ones and the poor marked his entire existence. I would like to mention two proposals from the Action Plan. On the socio-educational apostolate: “There should be a consolidated collaboration among local communities which are involved in the same educational service, connected in a network and in synergy with other educational agencies.”² On evangelization and care for the poor, openness to inserted communities: “Promote and support the experience of inserted communities among the poor... with projects and services done in poor areas, with structures and organizations that are simple and according to the concrete needs of the territory.”³

As Rogationists and as the Family of the Rogate, we want to welcome the call *for us to walk together* in the areas mentioned, especially in the spread of the charism and spirituality, but also in the promotion and accompaniment of the lay faithful who are linked to the charism or share it in various ways. We heard this request for

¹ CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *Rogationist Religious Life Today: Unity, Sharing and Coordination*, Document of the 13th General Chapter, Rome 2022, no. 60. From now on this document will be cited as follows: *RRLT*.

² Project no. 22. Cf. CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *The Rogationist Rule of Life*, Document of the 11th General Chapter, Rome, 2010, no. 81. From now on this document will be cited as follows: *RRL*

³ Project no. 24. Cf. *RRL*, no. 85.

accompaniment very clearly from the representatives of the lay associations at the General Chapter. The Action Plan states, among other things: “Encourage the creation and networking of all the lay and volunteer groups that are flourishing in the different areas of the Circumscriptions.”⁴

Economic difficulties have marked the life of the Work from the beginning, together with the help of Divine Providence. Even today, when we experience such difficulties, we want to continue to entrust ourselves with confidence to the Lord and to the intercession of St. Anthony. At the same time, we are called to live in closeness to the poor and in simplicity.

Regarding the sharing of material and spiritual goods, our Rule of Life states: “The awareness that we form a single family with our Confreres and work for a common mission teaches us to share also the goods that Divine Providence gives us. For this reason, according to the principles established by the General Chapter and the rules set by the General Government, we implement the sharing of goods among Confreres, Houses, and Circumscriptions. *For it is not that others should have relief while you are burdened, but that as a matter of equality* (2 Cor 8:13).” (Const. 41).

We will have no difficulty in living in such sharing if we make our own the statement suggested by Fr. Hannibal: “With what concerns Holy Poverty, I declare to acknowledge it as the most precious pearl and as a solid foundation not only of my vocation but also of the existence of the entire Institute.”⁵

The Action Plan begins by pointing out some priorities that we are called to pursue together and, speaking of *sharing*, it reminds us of the motives for our *common journey*: “The success of this path of decentralization comes when a constant balance is maintained between the central authority, the guarantor of the unity and communion of the whole body, and the peripheral realities that promote and embody the charism in a specific geographical and cultural context. In order to achieve their goals, the Circumscriptions must possess “just autonomy,” but also walk together in the spirit of “dialogue” and “subsidiarity.”⁶

This is our fervent desire, which we entrust to the blessing of the Divine Superiors.

Rome, July 5, 2023

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

⁴ Project No. 27. Cf. *RRLT*, no. 205.

⁵ *Declarations and Promises*, No. 5.

⁶ *Instrumentum Laboris of the XIII General Chapter*, n. 91, Rome, 2022.

PRIORITIES

General Principle

Rogationist Religious Life Today

The General Chapter invites us to reflect on the journey our Congregation is making today in the cultural contexts in which we live and work. We have become aware of the evolution that has taken place over the last 50 years and how our religious family is called to respond to the challenges that inculturation presents to us. Openness to mission has not only marked our growth but has also enriched us with the experience of the different cultures in which our charism has been planted.

As we continue our journey together, we ask ourselves if our choices allow us to live our charismatic identity in today's world, facing the problems of daily life with the same compassion of the Heart of Christ that gave birth to the Rogate.

The General Chapter invites us to read the signs of the times, interpret our present, appreciate our past, and choose what is most appropriate to continue the journey of “our caravan.”

We are all called to be protagonists of the “Rogationist Religious Life Today” that belongs to us.

The General Chapter has given us priorities to which we want to give appropriate attention in the journey ahead: unity, sharing, and coordination.

First priority: UNITY

All Christians have a common vocation to follow Christ, the cornerstone that unites all believers. He is the center of our unity. Through religious consecration, and through the evangelical counsels, we are united to Christ, to the Church, and to one another. Our discipleship is characterized by following the Christ of the Congregation. His actions, feelings, and concerns are expressed in the pericope of the Gospel of Matthew (9:35-38), where Jesus, before the tired and exhausted crowd, commands the Rogate. This word gives birth to our charism.

The different expressions of the Rogationist apostolate cannot ignore the value of the unity that comes from belonging to the same charismatic family.

It is the charism that identifies our specific spirituality, our fraternal communion, our consecration, and our mission in the Church. Fraternal life becomes a laboratory of unity and of radiating the charism.

St. Hannibal is the point of reference for Rogationist unity and identity. We are bound together as his children, heirs of his spiritual legacy, which gives us the key to understanding how our charism can respond to the challenges of our time.

The Rogationist charism is a specific experience of the Gospel lived in the Holy Spirit and expressed in a specific spirituality, Eucharistic and biblical. Prayer is the privileged expression of our unity and communion with the Holy Trinity and with one another. In prayer, we strengthen our identity and our mission.

The Founder draws our attention to the unity that must characterize communities, because the prayer of a divided community, of a torn body, “does not penetrate the clouds, does not reach the heavenly Father.”⁷

The Word of God is the source of unity. Sacred Scripture is at the center of the life of the Church and of communities, as well as of each individual. The Rogationists have in the Rogate the source, the foundation, and the goal of their unity.

Fidelity to the Word of the Rogate challenges our fraternal relationships in the community and our commitment to building unity.

The daily celebration of the Eucharist is a way of welcoming, preserving, and promoting unity. The Eucharist, the bond of unity, is the sacrament that unites, builds, expresses, strengthens, and increases unity.

Our specific mission in the Church, marked by the Rogate, is the firm foundation of our unity.

The fundamental rule of life is the Gospel of Christ, which guides the pilgrimage of all who follow it, regardless of culture, place, or time. Our Rule of Life, Constitutions and Norms, as well as the Circumscription Directory, find their roots and inspiration in the values of the Gospel; the Rogationist Rule of Life is “an expression of consecration, guarantee of charismatic identity, support for fraternal communion, project of mission” which strengthens and promotes our unity.⁸

Second Priority: SHARING

It is of paramount importance that a family spirit be cultivated in our Congregation, where everyone listens and is heard, in order to manifest our charismatic unity, fraternal sharing, and a common mission.

The Congregation, in step with the synodal journey of the Church, grows in unity in sharing and coordination, embodying the charism in the socio-cultural contexts in which the Lord places it.

The Rogationist synodal journey, like that of the Church, requires conversion. Communities have meetings and councils which are the expression of their synodal life. These moments of listening, dialogue, planning, and sharing among Confreres constitute our fraternal life; together with the service of authority, they are grounded in the Gospel and in the tradition of our religious family, and they aim at a lifestyle marked by fraternal harmony and mutual collaboration for the common mission. By living the synodal style of fraternal life in common, new models of relationships, more human and less bureaucratic, more evangelical and less functional, can be creatively realized.

In order to promote the growth and development of the Congregation, it was necessary to begin the process of decentralization. It requires a constant balance between the central authority, the guarantor of unity and communion, and the peripheral realities that promote and embody the charism. These realities must have the necessary autonomy to achieve their goals, but they must also walk together in a spirit of dialogue and sharing.

⁷ *Instrumentum Laboris of the XIII General Chapter*, n. 49. Cf. DI FRANCIA, A., *Scritti*, Vol. VI, Rogate Ed, Rome 2010, p. 325.

⁸ Cf. *RRLT* no. 39-67.

The Rogationist Synodal Way is characterized by a culture of encounter, dialogue, and sharing, based on a sense of belonging, respect, and trust at all levels: between the General Government and the Circumscriptions, between the different Circumscriptions, and between the Circumscriptions and their respective communities. The need to improve and perfect communication in the Congregation is very much felt by the Confreres because it strengthens unity, sharing, and coordination.

The sharing of human resources is a response both to the need for people for the planning of the Circumscriptions which lack them, and to the inspirations of the Spirit to venture together into new apostolic horizons.

The synodal way of life is also about stewardship and sharing the gifts of Divine Providence and everyone's work, regardless of place or apostolate. Like Jesus and our Founder, we are naturally called to share. It is necessary to initiate a change of mentality that will allow us to live more humanly, with a Rogationist lifestyle permeated by the evangelical logic of welcoming everyone and everything as a gift for our brothers.⁹

Third Priority: COORDINATION

The journey together in our religious life must be based, first of all, on our relationship as brothers in Christ, and it must also be expressed in structures and functions that generate co-responsibility and understanding, willingness to serve, listening, and dialogue, through dynamics and itineraries that seek increasing interaction, capable of translating concretely into personal and community life projects.

Our Congregation has matured in the path of synodality, expressing it, especially in the Rule of Life, and equipping itself with appropriate instruments such as chapters, assemblies, house councils, family councils, spiritual reading, and retreats. All the Circumscriptions, under the leadership of the Superior General, should engage in a continuous synodal journey in order to grow in harmony with one another. This synodal spirit, without neglecting the legitimate expectations of each Circumscription, should bring together the energies and resources of all and promote and strengthen the coordination of the General Government with the Circumscriptions: The same must take place among the Circumscriptions and between the Government of the Circumscription and the respective communities.

The service of authority plays a key role in the life of our communities, first of all in animating the religious life of each Confrere, and also in organizing effectively the apostolic services, making each member of the community a protagonist in the common journey of consecration and mission. In order to make this ministry effective, it is important to strengthen coordination.

Networking is an effective sign of synodality and synergy and promotes the realization of a common project. The realization of coordination requires the networking of the various apostolic works and ministries in our communities. Proper coordination of people and activities makes work easier, more efficient, and more professional. Planning and organizing our activities will help to give them unity, sharing, and coordination.¹⁰

⁹ See *RRLT*, nos. 68-108.

¹⁰ See *RRLT*, nos. 102-219.

THE GENERAL ACTION PLAN

General Principle:

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

The document of the 13th General Chapter of the Congregation, “Rogationist Religious Life Today: Unity, Sharing and Coordination” draws our attention to the need to walk together, moved by a living sense of belonging, in our communities, in our Circumscriptions, with those called to the service of the Fraternity, with the whole family of the Rogate.

Looking at the path that our Congregation is taking today has shown us the priorities that must accompany us in order to promote coordination between the General Government, the Circumscriptions, the Communities, and the Religious; coordination and collaboration that involve proper planning and programming and that are the fruit of unity and sharing. In particular, the fourth part of the Chapter Document outlines operational guidelines for walking together, for initiating or continuing common actions, and for understanding among the Confreres in local communities, at the level of the Circumscriptions, and at the level of the General Government.

The richness of the guidelines placed in our hands can be a valid guide in our renewal efforts.

As Pope Francis reminded us in the message he addressed to us last June 24, “Reflection on Rogationist Religious Life Today: Unity, Sharing, and Coordination,” the Pope sets us on the Church’s journey to find a common itinerary aimed at harmonizing unity, plurality, communion, and diversity, laying the foundations for building the present and future of our religious family on the pillars of participation and mission.

The projects to be carried out aim to consolidate our unity and deepen our communion in fraternal coordination between the General Government and the individual Circumscriptions with their respective communities and all the Confreres.

PROJECTS GOVERNMENT

Project 1

The Chapter Document

Objective: To promulgate the Document of the 13th General Chapter, “Rogationist Life Today: Unity, Sharing, and Coordination.”

To print the Italian edition; to translate and print it in different languages (English, Portuguese, Spanish, and French) by December 2022.

Itinerary:

- Study and deepening of the Document in Provincial Chapters, Circumscription Assemblies, community and formation houses, and conferences.

Project 2

Structure of the Congregation

Objective: To ensure that the decentralization underway in the Congregation continues to maintain the unity of the Institute with the proper autonomy of its parts, according to the principle of subsidiarity, by respecting and appropriately distributing competencies and powers (cf. C 133).

More than structural, decentralization is relational. More than organizational efficiency, it is openness to the movement of the Spirit that inspires the embodiment of the same charism in different historical and cultural contexts (cf. RRLT, n. 8).

Itinerary:

- Examine the possibility and opportunity of creating new provinces, new missionary stations or delegations, or of merging existing Circumscriptions.
- Promote and strengthen the collaboration among the Circumscriptions, including the exchange of personnel according to the Letter of the Superior General of October 24, 2020, Prot. 220/20.
- Within the six-year period, the unification of the two Italian Provinces, St. Hannibal, and St. Anthony, is planned for July 2025 (see Letter of the Superior General, December 29, 2022, Prot. 314/22).
- Examine the path of preparation for the establishment of the Delegations in Vietnam and in Indonesia.
- Study the possibility of changing the Circumscription and legal affiliation of the Houses of Manizales (Colombia), Lisbon (Portugal), and Cafunfo (Angola).
- Accompany the journey of the St. Thomas Quasi-Province towards the establishment of a Province; to accompany the journey of St. Joseph Quasi-Province towards further decentralization.

The proposal to open new missionary stations or apostolic presences is maturing in the Circumscriptions. It is in the process of being studied for its appropriateness, which will be examined in consultation between the General Government and the Circumscription(s).

- Support and strengthen the Our Lady of Guadalupe Delegation on its way to becoming a Quasi-Province.
- Plan for the sharing of religious personnel from other Circumscriptions for the development and presence of the Delegation in Central America and for other presences in North America.
- Study the possibility of opening a Spanish-speaking International Residence for Religious Students in Tonalá (Mexico) by 2025.

Little Mission for the Deaf and Mute. On June 19, 2020, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life initiated the process of commissioning a Congregation, the Little Mission for the Deaf and Mute (PMS), with the intention of merging it with another Institute, appointing Fr. Matteo Sanavio as Pontifical Commissioner. After our Congregation was chosen as the receiving Institute, a process of the merger was initiated until the last General Chapter (2022), which approved and welcomed the merger.

All the necessary steps are being taken to obtain the final decree of the merger from the Holy See. The process is expected to be completed by 2024. In the meantime, various steps are being organized for the incorporation of the Religious of the Little Mission for the Deaf and Mute into the Congregation.

Project 3

The Conference of Superiors and Councils of Circumscriptions

Objective: “Superiors at all levels, share in one and the same authority, and exercise it in communion with the Superior General for the good of the whole Congregation. While promoting the good of the individual communities, they are concerned for the unity, growth, and perfection of the whole Congregation” (cf. C 131).

The coordination of the General Government with the Circumscriptions and among the Circumscriptions can be improved by means of the annual conference of the General Council with the Superiors of the Circumscription (see *RRLT*, No. 111 a).

Itinerary:

- In consultation with the Superiors of the Circumscription, a Conference with the Superiors of Circumscription and the Treasurers is planned for March 13-18, 2023.
- A meeting of the Superiors of Circumscriptions and their respective Councils is planned for September 2023, when the Action Plan of the General Government 2022-2028 will be finalized.
- It is agreed to convene the Conference of Superiors of and Treasurers of the Circumscriptions in February of each year.
- Study the possibility of holding Conferences in the Circumscriptions.
- It is also planned to hold online meetings between the General Council and the Councils of the Circumscriptions.

Project 4

Canonical Visit to the Circumscriptions

Objective: “To visit the Circumscriptions and Communities as a sign of unity, fostering communion, sharing and coordination for the greater good of the entire religious family and of the individual Confreres” (cf. N 172).

The Superior General should encourage and facilitate the exchange between the different Circumscriptions of the Congregation in order to understand the life, the apostolate, and the problems that each one of them goes through, both through officially planned moments and through specific initiatives, in order to care for communion and to carry out its service of formation for unity.”¹¹

Itinerary:

- It is planned that the canonical visitation will take place twice during the six-year term (N 172.4): the first in 2024-25 and the second in 2026-27.
- Appropriate times and dates will be determined in consultation with the Superiors of the Circumscriptions.
- A meeting with the Government of the Circumscriptions will be planned at the beginning and at the end of the visit, as well as a fraternal visit, if possible, to all the Communities, including a meeting with Religious, Rogationist lay groups and associations, local Bishops, and the Apostolic Nuncio.

Project 5

General Chapter

Objective: To prepare for the celebration of the 14th General Chapter of the Congregation as an expression of the participation and concern of all the members and as a sign of their unity in charity, involving all the Confreres through prayer, study, discussion, and reflection.¹²

Itinerary:

- With the understanding that the general theme of the Chapter will be the religious life and the apostolate of the Institute, in fidelity to the charism and the Rule of Life, with a view to their renewal and updating, the General Government, as it has been done since 1986, will hear from the Circumscription Governments and consult the Confreres for the definition of a specific theme, mid-term, by June 2025.
- A Commission will be appointed to study and draft a basic text (Lineamenta) to be sent to all the Communities for additions by February 2026.
- The XIV General Chapter will be convened in July 2027 and the Pre-Chapter Commission for the preparation of the *Instrumentum Laboris* will be appointed in October 2027.
- The *Instrumentum Laboris* will be sent to the members of the Chapter five months before the General Chapter.

¹¹ See *RRLT*, no. 149.

¹² Cf. C 138; *RRLT*, nos. 93 and 110.

Project 6

Central Organisms

Objective: “Several bodies have been created to better serve the entire Congregation. It is necessary to study and propose a plan of action to improve their organization and promote their effective functioning, thus promoting coordination and general organization.”¹³

Itinerary:

- Revitalize Sector General Secretariats, chaired by the respective General Councilor or General Treasurer and sectoral Councilors of the Circumscriptions.
- Resume the activities of the Rogationist Research Center (*Centro Studi Rogazionisti*) with the collaboration of all the Circumscriptions.
- Continue the service of the Commission on Translations by creating subgroups of translators and editors.
- Make operational, at the general level, a Center for the Pastoral Service of Social Communication, which would coordinate the various areas of animation in the Congregation (see N 90). Organize a Liturgical Office in the General Curia to promote the liturgical life of the Congregation.¹⁴ These organisms should be operational by 2023.

Project 7

The Directory of Circumscription

Objective: To update the Directory of Circumscription, the internal regulations in which the articles of the Norms are adapted to local realities (cf. C 180), taking into account the work of updating recently completed and approved by the General Chapter of July 2022, where in addition to eliminating some inconsistencies, it was deemed appropriate to reorganize the different parts of the Norms in a way that parallels the Constitutions (cf. Presentation New Edition of the Norms, Rome 2022).

Itinerary:

- Present the updated Directory of Circumscriptions to the General Government for approval by 2023.

Project 8

Writings of the Founder

Objective: “The continual revisiting and studying of the Founder's life, his spiritual experience, writings, and teachings is a fundamental requirement. The knowledge of the Founder and his life aims to increase in us his sensitivity and obedience to the impulses of the Holy Spirit.”¹⁵

¹³ *RRLT*, no. 115.

¹⁴ See *RRLT*, nos. 191-193.

¹⁵ *RRLT*, no. 43-44.

Itinerary:

- Continue the publication, the translation into different languages, and the distribution of the writings of the Holy Founder and the Rogationist literature.
- Make use of the most appropriate means of dissemination, including online publication of the basic texts of Rogationist spirituality.
- Promote awareness of the Rogationist Brothers and Sisters Daughters of Divine Zeal, who, by consecrating their lives to the Rogate, have been shining examples to us of holiness lived in charity and mercy.

RELIGIOUS LIFE, FORMATION, AND VOCATION MINISTRY

Preface

The 13th General Chapter called for synergy and synodality in the ongoing journey of the Congregation, which is constantly evolving and taking on different and new forms. It gave indications of how unity, sharing, and coordination can be concretized in the process of renewal of religious life, formation, and apostolate through common reflection and implementation of projects among the different Circumscriptions which live the same charismatic identity, consecration, and mission, although expressed in different ways in different geographical, cultural and ecclesial contexts.

With regard to **unity**, the Chapter emphasized the need to update the general guidelines and orientations common to all the Circumscriptions, which will be implemented and adapted in different contexts. It also provided guidelines for the content and common programs of initial and ongoing formation organized at the general and inter-Circumscription levels.

The Chapter also identified areas for **sharing the** human resources, experiences, skills, and structures of the Circumscriptions in order to help each other grow in consecrated and apostolic Rogationist religious life.

Finally, with regard to **coordination**, the Chapter encouraged the promotion of the Sector Secretariat and collaboration with other Service Sectors through regular meetings and communication. This coordination will be further strengthened by the visits of the General Councilor of the Sector to offer support, encouragement, supervision, and review of the programs implemented in the Sector by the Circumscription.

Objective 1: Unity: To strengthen unity in diversity in the initial and ongoing formation of Rogationists through a common framework of reference such as the Ratio, Guidelines and Orientations.¹⁶

¹⁶ See *RRLT*, no. 65.

Project 9

Draft the Guidelines for Rogationist Vocational Ministry (RVM) at the general and circumscriptional levels,¹⁷ with special attention to the changing realities of the world of youth and the promotion of the vocation of the religious Rogationist Brother.¹⁸

Itinerary:

- Draft the Guidelines for Rogationist Vocational Ministry, in collaboration with the Sector Secretariat and with the help of the Brothers involved in vocation ministry.

Project 10

Revise the *Ratio Institutionis* of the Congregation (*RRLT*, nos. 65, 119-120, 151)

With the necessary updating and adaptation of orientations of the Church and the Congregation, with the inclusion of the common framework of reference of formation to the charism,¹⁹ and the integration of initial and ongoing formation in a single Ratio.²⁰

Itinerary:

- Update the *Ratio Institutionis* of the Congregation and prepare a revised edition, in collaboration with the Sector Secretariat and with the help of the Confreres involved in initial and ongoing formation.

Project 11

Draft the Guidelines for the Fraternal Care of Confreres in Special Situations Requiring Accompaniment. (Report of XII General Chapter; *RRLT*, no. 103)

Itinerary:

- Creation of a Commission to draft the Guidelines.
- The Congregation's *Delegate for Safeguarding* updates the Circumscriptions regarding the guidelines of the Holy See. Provide for the appointment of Delegates for Safeguarding at the Circumscription level, coordinated in their activity by the Congregational Delegate.

Project 12

Promote the work of translating important Rogationist literature and documents and making them available for initial and ongoing formation through a virtual library.

Itinerary:

- Reorganize the Commission on Translations; revise the By-laws; organize seminars for members; create a virtual library for access to materials.

¹⁷ See *RRLT*, nos. 162,166.

¹⁸ See *RRLT*, nos. 64,185.

¹⁹ See *RRLT*, no. 152.

²⁰ See *RRLT*, no. 151.

Project 13

Organize the formation of formators and incorporate part of the **sabbatical period**: those organized at the general level in Rome and at the inter-Circumscriptional level in different countries by language groups.

Itinerary:

- Redesign the formation of Rogationist formators in Rome that will last 10 months; design of a two-month sabbatical program that will coincide with that of the final phase of the formation of Rogationist formators; collaboration and coordination with the Circumscriptions for inter-Circumscription initiatives.

Formation of Rogationist formators in Rome:

1st Phase (September - January): 5 months of Italian language course and practice

2nd Phase (mid-February - May): 3½ months of ongoing formation for formators at the Salesian Pontifical University

3rd Phase (June-July): 2 months of specific Rogationist formation course in various areas, including a pilgrimage to Messina, spiritual exercises, and visits to places significant in the life of the Founder and the history of the Congregation.

Sabbatical period in Italy:

Annual, which lasts 2 months: June - July; coincides with Phase 3 of the program of the formation of Rogationist formators.

Ongoing Formation for Brothers (VRRO, n. 124):

Organize a time of ongoing formation for the brothers during the six-year term, culminating in the retreat in Messina.

Project 14

Creation of a Rogationist Distance Learning School (*RRLT*, no. 123) for formandi in the various stages of initial formation and for ongoing formation in the religious life and specific responsibilities (e.g., leadership, Rogate Center, formation, economics, socio-education, youth and vocation ministry, parish ministry, media apostolate, etc.).

Itinerary:

- Collaboration among the Sector Secretariats and among the Circumscriptions; designing the curriculum of the formation programs according to the stage of formation, or the specific service; creating the team of speakers/experts, collecting the materials produced, organizing the online course, coordinating with the different Circumscriptions and those linked to our charismatic family.

Project 15

Creation of a Central Liturgical Office for the Congregation to promote the liturgical unity of the Rogationists and the Family of the Rogate and to provide common spiritual resources for the promotion of spiritual life.²¹

Itinerary:

- Create a liturgical team composed of Confreres from different Circumscriptions, not necessarily residing in Rome, coordinated by the General Councilor for Religious Life and in collaboration with the Rogate Sector. Organizational meetings and planning according to a chronogram.
- In collaboration with other service sectors at the general and Circumscription levels, animate communities become houses and schools of prayer.²²

Objective 2: Sharing. To bring together the human and material resources of the Circumscriptions for mutual help, growth, and development of our Rogationist religious life today: formation, consecration, and mission.

Project 16

Promote the stability, growth, and development of the Rogationist International Student Residence (SIR) in Rome (RRLT, no. 159).

Itinerary:

- In collaboration with the General Government and the Circumscriptions concerned
 - i. Definition of the By-laws.
 - ii. Collaboration between the Circumscriptions for formation team and the formands.
 - iii. Determine an appropriate logistical arrangement and location to meet the formative needs.
 - iv. Explore the possibility of replicating the experience in other Circumscriptions.

Objective 3: Coordination. To improve and develop communication, coordination and networking between the General Government and the Circumscriptions, and among the Circumscriptions themselves.

²¹See *RRLT*, no. 192.

²² See *RRLT*, no. 186.

Project 17

Animation, support, and coordination with the Sector in the Circumscriptions.

Itinerary:

- Effective functioning of the Sector Secretariat; regular online meeting of the Secretariat; personal meeting of the Sector Secretariat during the Conference of Superiors and Councils of the Circumscriptions; informal and official visits of the Sector Councilor to the Circumscriptions.

ROGATE

Preface

The 13th General Chapter,²³ after analysis and discernment, proposes some concrete directions that can contribute to the enhancement of the Rogate sector, both at the level of general coordination and at the level of collaboration with local Circumscriptions.

With this in mind, concrete and flexible actions are planned which, in the course of the six-year term, can promote unity, sharing, and network coordination with other Sectors of the General Government.

The overall objective of this sector will be to animate and spread the Rogate (internally and externally) by promoting a network of participation and communication in the Congregation and in the Church.

Recalling the orientations of the 13th General Chapter, the specific objectives of this Sector will be:

- a) Structure the “Secretariat,” composed of all the councilors of the Rogate Sector of the Circumscriptions.
- b) Ensure the coordination with the Rogate Centers of the Circumscriptions for common and shared planning.
- c) Establish an operational core group, a center for charismatic formation to promote the study of the charism and spirituality, to spread the knowledge of the Founder and the study of the history of the Congregation.
- d) Plan and establish a dedicated central office for communication.

Project 18

Sharing of the Rogate Sector in the Circumscriptions.

Objective:

²³ See *RRLT*, nos. 186-194.

- Share projects, activities, and their experiences among Circumscriptions.
- Have on-site visits to know the realities of the Circumscriptions.
- Strengthen unity and evaluate the activities carried out.

Itinerary:

- Create a communication group for the councilors of the Rogate Sector (WhatsApp).
- Organize an annual meeting and plan common actions with the Councilors (online).
- Conduct on-site visits to Circumscriptions during the six-year term.

Project 19

Coordination among Rogate Centers

Objective:

- Review the realities of the local Rogate Centers.
- Ensure having a local point person for the propagation of the charism.
- Provide guidelines for the common mission of the Rogate Centers.
- Further stimulate the sense of spiritual unity and creativity of the charism among the Rogate Centers.

Itinerary:

- Annual meetings with those in charge of the Rogate Centers.
- Promote the establishment of the local Rogate Centers where they do not exist.
- Encourage and promote the production of vocational resources and materials in the network.
- Produce guidelines that can indicate and guide the mission of the local Rogate Centers.

Project 20

Strengthening the Center for Research (Centro Studi) and the Formation on the Charism

Objective:

- Facilitate formative moments on the charism with the collaboration of experts and researchers from the Congregation.
- Prepare manuals and resources on the charism, the Founder, and the history of the Congregation.
- Facilitate knowledge of the history of the Congregation and the spirituality of the Rogate.

Itinerary:

- Promote the study of the charism and spirituality.
- Spread the knowledge of the Founder and promote the study of the history of the Congregation.
- Create an operational nucleus of the Center for Formation on the Charism.

Project 21

Rogate Communication and Outreach Network

Objective:

- Promote a collaborative vocational network between the Central Office of Communication and the Circumscriptions for the spread of the charism.
- Update and revitalize the online communication channels of the Congregation.
- Animate, unite, and bring together the existing communication channels for spreading the charism.
- Encourage and promote formation meetings for new Rogationist communicators.
- Introduce the main Rogationist prayers and Rogate spirituality into a digital software application.

Itinerary:

- Plan and establish a dedicated Central Communications Office.
- Create an online library of Rogationist Literature.
- Motivate and coordinate the Congregational Communication Service in collaboration with the Circumscriptions and the various Sectors (Rogate Network);
- Create an Application of Rogate prayer and spirituality (En, Es, Fr, It, Pt).

CHARITY AND MISSION

Our Congregation was born in the context of charity because our Holy Founder was touched by the compassionate Heart of Jesus, who sends (Lk 10:2-3a). The document of the 13th General Chapter tells us clearly, “The charism of the Rogate, entrusted by the Holy Spirit to the Founder for the edification of the whole Church, sown in the fertile soil of poverty in the Avignone District, has grown and branched out from Sicily to Apulia, to all of Italy and to the five continents.”²⁴ We are, therefore, aware that the Congregation has the primary duty of safeguarding this precious heritage. This is because “it continues to fulfill its mission of proclaiming the Gospel of the Rogate in the new existential frontiers,²⁵ collaborating with the local Churches both in the first proclamation (kerygma) in the *missio ad gentes* and in the mission of the new evangelization.”²⁶

Although the spatial, historical, and socio-cultural context has changed considerably from the Avignon District of 1891 to today, and although the context in which St. Hannibal lived is different from that in which we live today, “to the compassion of the Heart of Jesus in the face of the weary and exhausted crowds and the abundant harvest that is being lost, the Lord's remedy of praying for evangelical laborers and the commitment to serve the little ones and the poor are ever-present Gospel values that continue to flow from the Divine Command of the Rogate.”²⁷

The Sector of Charity and Mission, in collaboration with all the other Sectors of the General Government, and with the Councilors of the same Sector in the various Circumscription Councils, would like to achieve the following objectives during the current six-year term:

Project 22

Rogationist social-educational project

Objective: Our charism is expressed in a concrete and privileged way, through the socio-educational apostolate. It is necessary that religious who work in the field of charity and mission be qualified to respond to the signs of the times in different contexts. This requires preparation from the time of initial formation is required.²⁸ Collaboration with the laity is also essential in order to benefit from their expertise in our works of charity.²⁹

Itinerary:

- Collaborate with the Sector of Formation and the Rogate to offer our young Confreres a formation that will enable them to manage our socio-educational works with the necessary qualifications.
- Collaborate with the different Communities that carry out the same educational service,

²⁴ See *RRLT*, no. 1.

²⁵ Cf. PAPA FRANCESCO, *Messaggio al meeting per l'amicizia fra i popoli*, Rimini 24-30 agosto 2014.

²⁶ See *RRLT*, no. 1.

²⁷ See *RRLT*, no. 6.

²⁸ See *RRLT*, no. 195.

²⁹ See *RRLT*, no. 197.

favoring networking, in synergy with other educational agencies.³⁰

- Identify and make known to the whole Congregation, through our website and other networks, all the socio-educational works we have in the different Circumscriptions.
- Collaborate with other Sectors and Circumscription Councilors to give a Rogationist identity to our educational works.
- Have a theme chosen among those that are of interest to young people, which will serve as an orientation for each school year.
- Organize in collaboration with the Rogate Sector, at the Circumscription level, in collaboration with the Sector Councilors of the Circumscriptions and FDZs, training workshops on the pedagogy of St. Hannibal.

Project 23

Preferential option for the poor

Objective: As heirs of the evangelical witness of our Founder, we consider love for the poor to be characteristic of our mission. Therefore, wherever we are present, we dedicate ourselves to the relief and evangelization of those in material and spiritual need. In a world torn apart by discrimination and social exclusion, we are committed to promoting life and eliminating the causes of poverty (C, 71).

Itinerary:

- Work closely with the laity as collaborators, who are organically involved in our works of charity.³¹
- Support the service to the poor and monitor the various educational initiatives of charity for the poor in the Circumscriptions and bring them to the attention of the entire Congregation for useful information and possible emulation.³²
- Encourage the experiences of Religious Communities that are inserted among the poor, with the projects and services in the places where they live, with simple structures and organizations that respond to the concrete needs of the territory.³³
- Provide the Religious engaged in this apostolic field with the necessary qualifications, professionalism, and continuity of work within a common project.³⁴

Project 24

Central missionary office (CMO)

Objective: To give a new impetus to the Central Mission Office, making it first of all a center for the promotion of missionary activity in the Congregation, with interventions for

³⁰ Cf. *RRL*, no. 81

³¹ See *RRLT*, no. 197.

³² Cf. Cfr. *Consacrati per la Missione. Linee di programmazione del Governo Generale 2004-2010*, Roma, 2004, p. 66.

³³ Cf. *RRL*, no. 85.

³⁴ Cf. *RRL*, no. 82.

the formation, preparation, accompaniment, and support, especially for new missionaries.

Itinerary:

- Promote coordination between the CMO and the Circumscription Mission Office and/or similar bodies in order to study the opportunity of:

* using the new means of communication, “online.”³⁵

* using the rcj.org website to serve our missions.

- Coordinate with the Sectors of Youth Ministry, Laity, Parishes, and Shrines to plan a more active involvement of our youth, laity, associated groups, parishes, and oratories in the various initiatives and activities for our missions: Rogationist Mission Days, Adoptions, 5 x 1000, missionary volunteers.

- Promote the sharing of multimedia propaganda materials for the Rogationist Missionary Day: participation and collaboration of the Circumscriptions in the preparation of aids (translations, printing, distribution) and celebrations.

- Promote Rogationist Mission Days (RMD) and organize at least two with the FDZs (which we can call *Rogationist and FDZ Mission Day* or simply *Rogate Mission Day*):

2023: St. Thomas Quasi Province (Punjab)

2024: St. Joseph Quasi Province

2025: St. Matthew Province

2026: St. Luke Province (with FDZs and for the benefit of the FDZs)

2027: Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Delegation.

2028: St. Thomas Quasi Province (with FDZs and for the benefit of the RCJs)

Project 25

Missions and mission stations

Objective: To review and disseminate the Mission Project of the Congregation, with the participation and sharing of the Circumscriptions, taking into account the need for consolidation, downsizing, and development opportunities. The missionary spirit requires the readiness, participation, and co-responsibility of all the Religious.³⁶

Itinerary:

- Promote, animate, and consolidate missions, missionary stations, and presences, plan, according to the regulations,³⁷ the possibility of new geographical areas for evangelization and for the spread of the charism, if possible.

- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the official departure from Italy for the foreign missions, organize a Rogationist Mission Summit in Brazil as the country of the first Rogationist presence in the missions (following the example of the one organized in

³⁵ Cf. *RRL*, nos. 91-92.

³⁶ Cf. RAMPAZZO B, *From Compassion to Mission*. Plan of the General Government 2016-2022, Rome 2017, Project 17.

³⁷ Cf. *From Compassion to Mission*.

the Philippines in 2009 on the occasion of the centenary of the departure from Messina).

PARISHES, LAITY, AND YOUTH MINISTRY

In the coordination of the Sector, the first task is to study the Final Document of the 13th General Chapter, to hear from the Circumscriptions with their respective leaders for the areas of the Sector, and to work out the planning for the period 2022-2028. This service will take into account the experience of the last six years, the final report of the Government 2016-2022, and will seek the continuity of projects, especially those that could not be implemented due to the pandemic and other reasons.³⁸ The main objective is to plan and operationalize all the indications of the last General Assembly attentive to unity in the plurality of the Congregation and in synergy with the synodal journey of the Church, the celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025, and the 1st Centenary of the Death of our Father Founder (2027). The participation of the Daughters of Divine Zeal and other members of the Charismatic Family will be considered in the development of various activities in the sector.

In this journey of participation and communion, several specific proposals for each of the three major areas of the Sector (Parishes - Laity - Youth Ministry) have matured and been elaborated, as well as a transfer of the Union of Prayer for Vocations and the Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations to this Sector, as proposed by the 13th General Chapter.³⁹

Project 26

For Parishes and Shrines - Rogationist physiognomy in step with the times

Itinerary:

- a) Stimulate and follow up in the Circumscriptions the elaboration or updating of the Pastoral Project of Rogationist Parishes and Shrines with synodal style.⁴⁰
- b) Accompany in different geographical areas the meetings of parish priests and rectors of shrines in order to deepen and apply the guidelines of the recent document of the Congregation: *Rogationist Mission in Parishes and Shrines*.⁴¹
- c) Ensure that in each Circumscription there is at least one church where perpetual adoration for vocations is practiced and that each of our parishes opens a Center to help families with minors in need.⁴²

Project 27

For the Rogationist Laity - Charismatic Expressions and Identity.

³⁸ Cf. *From Compassion to Mission*, pp. 57-63.

³⁹ See *RRLT*, no. 207.

⁴⁰ Cf. CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONS 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 12th General Chapter. Rome, 2016, no. 101b.

⁴¹ These meetings are an opportunity for the formation of Rogationist shrine pastors and rectors. CONGREGATION OF ROGATIONISTS OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *The Rogationist Mission in Parishes and Shrines - Guidelines*, Rome 2022., *Rogationist Religious Life Today*, no. 203.

⁴² See *RRLT*, n. 204 and n. 206.

Itinerary:

- a) Hold the 1st International Symposium on the Laity to be prepared with several similar events in the Circumscriptions and in this journey to reflect on the spirituality and formation of the laity in the theological and cultural profile of the charism.⁴³ In this perspective, a theme for reflection to strengthen the unity of the Laity in their common formation should be presented each year after appropriate consultation with the Circumscriptions and the UAR.⁴⁴
- b) Accompany and support the Assembly of the Union of Rogationist Associations - UAR and the updating of its By-laws and to encourage the birth and growth of similar bodies in the different geographical areas of the Congregation.⁴⁵
- c) Encourage the creation and networking of all the lay and volunteer groups that are flourishing in the different areas of the Circumscriptions.⁴⁶
- d) Encourage in the Circumscriptions the formulation of a charismatic prayer book specifically for the laity.
- e) Accompany the Circumscriptions in the organization of conferences, retreats, and other activities with the laity.
- f) Promote meetings with the ecclesiastical assistants of the lay associations in the Circumscriptions.

Project 28

For Rogationist Youth Ministry - The formation of the Lord's "tender harvest"

Itinerary:

- a) Accompany the Circumscriptions in the development of the Rogationist Youth Ministry program in the light of the new document, *Rogationist Youth Ministry - Guidelines* and the *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Christus vivit*.⁴⁷
- b) Organize together with the Daughters of Divine Zeal, the International Rogationist Youth Meeting, two years after World Youth Day (Portugal, Lisbon, August 1-6, 2023). This should be preceded by similar initiatives in the Circumscriptions. The Meeting can take place in a physical or virtual format.⁴⁸ In this service of youth animation, the Year of Rogationist Youth will be established in the six-year term, in common agreement with the Circumscriptions.

Project 29

For the Union of Prayer for Vocations and the Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations.

⁴³ See *RRLT*, no. 211.

⁴⁴ See *RRLT*, no. 208.

⁴⁵ See *RRLT*, no. 210.

⁴⁶ See *RRLT*, no. 205.

⁴⁷ Cf. CONGREGATION OF THE ROGATIONIST FATHERS, *Rogationist Youth Ministry*, Rome 2022. *RRLT*, no. 209.

⁴⁸ See *RRLT*, no. 212.

Itinerary:

- a) Together with the Circumscriptions, promote, spread and animate these two “umbrella” Associations with special attention to parish communities and shrines.⁴⁹
- b) Animate, together with those responsible in each Circumscription, the institution of the Union of Prayer for the Youth in order to increase their awareness of the commitment of prayer for vocations and the spread of the Rogate.⁵⁰
- c) Organize in the Circumscriptions means of communication, animation, and prayer guides for the members of the Prayer Union for Vocations and the Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations.

The Sector, with its dynamic and participatory projects, receives with creative fidelity and hope the various lines of action indicated by the Chapter Assembly and summarized in its Final Document. Parishes and Shrines are privileged places to welcome, animate and develop the Laity in its various manifestations and Rogationist Youth Ministry. Special attention is given to the accompaniment and support of the Missionaries of the Rogate and other Lay Associations. In this service, the Sector aims to accompany the Superiors of the Circumscriptions and the religious and lay leaders in the Circumscriptions. These projects have been developed with the participation of Confreres attentive to the historical and ecclesial moment - Synod - in which the Lord once again invites us to be good laborers in his harvest.

The Sector accompanies and promotes, within the charismatic family of the Rogate, the Institute of Theology and Human Sciences in order to support the adequate formation of lay people and Rogationist youth. In this synodal road - walking together - the valuable help of the internet is considered in the development of any project for online meetings in view of the unity, coordination, and sharing of the Sector with the Circumscriptions and the whole charismatic family of the Rogate.

- Organize online meetings with the various persons in charge of the Sector in the Circumscriptions during the term with the aim of accompanying and animating the activities.
- Determine, together with the UAR and the leaders of the Circumscriptions, the theme of the annual reflection for the Laity.
- Accompany the Union of Prayer for Vocations and the Priestly Union of Prayer for Vocations and organize a “database.”
- Accompany and collaborate with the Institute of Theology and Humanities in order to support the proper formation of the laity and Rogationist youth.
- Walk together and collaborate with the Missionaries of the Rogate and other Lay Associations.

⁴⁹ CONGREGATION OF ROGATIONIST FATHERS, *The Rogationist Mission in Parishes and Shrines*, Rome 2022, p. 25-26.

⁵⁰ See *RRLT*, no. 212.

ECONOMY AND ADMINISTRATION

The vow of poverty in the service of the charism and mission

“The global economic crisis affects everyone, especially the poor. The faithful observance of the evangelical counsel of poverty will be a prophetic and hopeful sign for our times. Some Confreres and many communities, especially through their daily contact with the poor and the most vulnerable in society, are experiencing the economic crisis in an existential way. This situation has provided an opportunity to return to the basics of religious life and community, with a simpler lifestyle in solidarity with the people, stimulating creative ways of joyful sharing, working together with solicitude and responsible commitment.”⁵¹

“It cannot be denied, however, that one also encounters resistance to the necessary changes demanded by today's society and by the Church itself, for example, the mentality of accumulating possessions and the pursuit of a comfortable lifestyle. There is a danger, at times, of locking oneself within the concerns of one's own community or Circumscription, remaining indifferent to the needs of the whole Congregation.”⁵²

Project 30

General objectives

1. Promote sobriety in personal and community lifestyles, returning to the basics of religious life and community, with a simpler lifestyle in solidarity with the people, stimulating creative ways of joyful sharing, working together with solicitude and responsible commitment.⁵³
2. Overcome the mentality of accumulating possessions and the pursuit of a comfortable lifestyle. There is a danger, at times, of locking oneself within the concerns of one's own community or Circumscription, remaining indifferent to the needs of the whole Congregation.
3. Rediscover an economy with a human face, in which the person is his true asset and never loses his centrality.
4. Overcome the manner of considering the human person as a commodity to be used and then thrown away. Avoiding living in our environments the mentality of the culture of waste, which is even promoted in many spheres, where the excluded are not only exploited but more often than not considered waste and leftovers.

Itinerary:

1. Revive fraternal relationships in the Circumscriptions, in the communities and among the religious, based on sincere appreciation and mutual trust, so that each religious feels that he is a precious resource.

⁵¹ RRLT, n . 33.

⁵² RRLT, no. 34.

⁵³ RRLT, n . 33.

2. Place the person, with all his or her characteristics and peculiarities, at the center, in order to strive to overcome the functionalist mentality even within the communities, especially with the careful care and appreciation of all members, especially the elderly and the young, each in his or her own frailties.
3. *“Responsibility, transparency, and the maintenance of trust interconnected principles: no responsibility is given without transparency, transparency generates trust, trust verifies both.”*⁵⁴ The application of these principles is as indispensable as ever to good economic management. Indeed, a responsible, correct, and timely accounting of the effects of management is appropriate, allowing the necessary corrective actions to be taken before irreversible negative situations arise. Conversely, poorly controlled economic activity wastes resources.
4. *The term “transparency” refers to the ability to report on activities, the choices made, and the results achieved.*⁵⁵ Care should be taken not to neglect the principle of transparency in the use of money and in the distribution of what Providence has placed at our disposal.
5. Promote effective community sharing of personal management and monthly monitoring of the financial situation of the community (House Councils).
6. Encourage transparent and fair economic management in the Circumscriptions and communities regarding salaries, pensions, and other income of religious.⁵⁶

Project 31

Assets Management

*“The goods of the Congregation are a gift of Divine Providence through the generosity of benefactors and the work of the Confreres. The goods are administered with sentiments of gratitude in the service of the charismatic mission of the Rogate in the spirit of evangelical poverty and solidarity with the poorest.”*⁵⁷

General objectives

1. Property Management

“The inventory of all the real estate properties owned by the Congregation in all the Circumscriptions is invited to be completed with an accurate compilation of the deeds of ownership of the properties acquired or received by succession to the Congregation. Let each Circumscription send annually to the General Curia the list of all the real estate properties it owns, indicating in a standard form common to all, which properties should not be omitted from this inventory.”⁵⁸

2. Financial and administrative management

“Let the system of financial and administrative management, works and religious personnel be updated so that the information is updated and monitored daily and

⁵⁴CIVCSVA, *Economy at the Service of Charism and Mission - Orientations*, no. 41. From now on this document will be cited as follows: *ESCM*.

⁵⁵ *ESCM*, no. 42.

⁵⁶ See *Norms*, art. 302.

⁵⁷ *Norms*, art 290.

⁵⁸ *RRLT*, no. 217.

online through ad hoc application.”⁵⁹

3. Overcoming the economic crisis

“The new General Government, in consultation with the Circumscriptions, will study how to overcome the current economic crisis.”⁶⁰

4. One-time (*una tantum*) contribution for the work of formation in missions

“In view of the urgent need on the part of the General Curia to support formation work in the missions, a *one-time contribution* is requested from all the Houses, to be used exclusively for this purpose.”⁶¹

Itinerary:

1. **Ufficio Patrimonio (Property Office).** On the basis of the new edition of the Economic Instruction 2022, which in Art. 170 stipulates the presence of the most important technical function of the Property Office. It is necessary to lay the groundwork for the creation of such an Office with the designation of a point person at the general level and one for each Circumscription to supervise all the actions of exploration, cataloging, and management of the real estate assets.
2. **Rogate.it software.** For the support of this Office, a **new software is being developed**, which will allow for an immediate awareness of the size and situation of our real estate assets and of any needs, in order to identify consequent choices for the revaluation of the assets.
3. **Stable Assets (*Patrimonio stabile*).** The reasons for an orderly and farsighted management require a general knowledge of the Institute's assets, so as not to circumvent the norms of canon law, which are intended to guarantee the subsistence of the Institute and facilitate the accomplishment of its institutional purposes. The stable assets of the Institute consist of all the movable and immovable property which, by lawful assignment, are intended to ensure the economic security of the Institute. The process of identifying the stable assets of the Congregation and the Circumscriptions according to the relevant regulations will be initiated.
4. **Administrative and accounting management software.** In addition to the management of works, facilities, and personnel, accounting and financial management, in the broadest sense, is the most important challenge for our Congregation. The regulations in this area are becoming increasingly stringent and binding, involving everyone and in all Circumscriptions. The irregularity of one falls automatically on all. Is necessary to update the administrative and accounting management software for our Congregation in all its locations.
5. **Percentage.** The tool that has always been used in our Congregation for the distribution of goods is commonly called “Percentage.” The principle on which this criterion of sharing is based is as follows: “A *Community, after having carried out its planning both ordinary and extraordinary, if at the end of the year it has a surplus of money or an “ordinary balance,” can keep 25% of this “asset” to strengthen its economic planning, while 75% of the balance (not of the income!) is paid to the*

⁵⁹ RRLT, no. 218.

⁶⁰ RRLT, no. 215.

⁶¹ RRLT, no. 214.

Circumscription as a “percentage.”

Circumscriptions and Houses are obligated to a monthly sharing of goods (percentage) to meet the needs of the Congregation in the world. Because of the principle of sharing and solidarity, it is appropriate for the poorer Houses, even those in the missions, to make a (symbolic) contribution of the percentage.

6. **Economic Planning.** *The determination of the percentage must be connected with serious Economic Planning, in which the final figures and budgets of the so-called ordinary income and expenses are well determined.* Therefore, it is necessary to become accustomed to planning and to urge the various Houses to prepare the economic plan in a timely manner and in the proper form at the beginning of each year.
7. **Other Sources of Financial Support.** Given the changes in the nonprofit world is experiencing, alternative sources of funding and fundraising should be identified. Anthonian Benefactors Office (ABO) secretariats must also be open to new systems of Fundraising, and bidding in National and International Projects. Therefore, a **Fundraising and Projects Office will be** established at the Central level, which will accompany the Circumscriptions to set up the same office in their locations, if possible.
8. **Council for Economic Affairs.** “‘*Working together*’ means, in fact, basing the work not on the isolated genius of one individual, but on the cooperation of many. It means, in other words, ‘creating a network’ in order to take advantage of everyone’s gifts without, however, overlooking each person’s distinct uniqueness.”⁶² According to CIC can. 1280, it is necessary for the Institute and the Circumscriptions to provide for the establishment of a Council or similar organ for economic affairs. The composition of this organ is open to the collaboration of laymen and laywomen with specific professional competence. A Council for Economic Affairs will be formed with the participation of the General Treasurer and the Treasurers of the Circumscriptions and preferably lay professionals.
9. The **Council for Economic Affairs** will try to find comprehensive solutions to address the current economic crisis; it will take into account the time needed for all the Houses to make *one-time* contributions for the support of formative works as requested by the General Chapter; its other specific functions will be reviewed and approved in planning and review meetings. The Council is, as the term itself defines, “advisory only” to the competent authorities.
10. **Technical Office (*Ufficio Tecnico*).** The increasing complexity of economic-administrative situations often makes it indispensable to collaborate with external professionals. It is necessary to update professional expertise and appropriate procedures, and this is not only at the level of individual operational units. For this reason, it is necessary to establish a General Technical Office in the General Curia and to assist the Circumscriptions in establishing such an Office in their own locations.

“In the choice of the technical team, preference should be given to persons who are familiar with the characteristics of the institutions and who are experts in the specific field of intervention, avoiding undifferentiated recourse to a single professional. The

⁶² ESCM, no. 32.

professional relationship should be regulated in such a way as to define, in advance, the objectives of the activities and the submission of estimates regulated on the basis of clear and time-bound contracts. An evaluation of the achievement of the established objectives set is to be recommended, including through requests to the same professionals for periodic reports on the activity carried out."⁶³

11. **Acts of extraordinary administration.** Given the serious economic situation, it is appropriate to carefully consider the authorization to be granted for acts of extraordinary administration. In view of the ceiling for extraordinary expenses established by our legislation, the *superior competent to authorize acts of extraordinary administration, in addition to the consent of his council (cf. can. 627 & 1), also obtains the opinion (cf. can. 127 & 2, 2°) of the Circumscription Technical Office, and if opportune, also the opinion of the Council for Economic Affairs.*
12. **Vademecum or Manual of Administrative Procedures.** In response to the request contained in the document "Economy at the Service of the Charism and Mission" of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, no. 62, which suggests that "*the competent Superior with his Council may adopt, if appropriate, administrative procedures manual – especially in the Institutes that manage major public works – which provides operational guidelines within the framework of the charismatic plan and the economic procedures manual*" the St. Hannibal Province, since 2016, has prepared the so-called *Treasurer's Vademecum*. It is an internal regulation that contains the indications offered in administrative matters, in the annual meetings of Superiors and Treasurers, and all the useful data for immediate consultation. It is necessary that the Circumscriptions provide for the acquisition of such an instrument to assist the work of the Treasurers in the various Houses.
13. **Cloud rcj.org.** Because of the complex and varied location of our Congregation in the world, it is necessary to use new technologies as a valuable aid and support for the orderly collection and cataloging of all technical and administrative documents of each House and Circumscription. The St. Hannibal Province has been using cloud-rcj.org (<https://cloud.rcj.org/>) for years and, after having verified its validity over time, has made it available to the entire Congregation. It is necessary and extremely useful that the Circumscriptions and the individual Houses use the innovative tool of cloud-rcj.org so that all the documentation can be found easily, immediately, and effectively.
14. **Archives.** "*The Code of Canon Law in canons 1283 and 1284 urges the orderly conservation of the documents and prescribes, for the purpose of the efficient administrative and accounting procedures, the preparation and constant updating of the inventory of goods and property received, a careful cataloging and conservation of documents, especially accounting records and securities against risks.*"⁶⁴ Each property administrator is urged to ensure the proper storage and conservation of such records.
15. **Training.** "*In the perspective of conversion of economic and management mentality and practice, rethinking economics requires specific skills and abilities.*"⁶⁵ The

⁶³ ESCM, no. 66.

⁶⁴ ESCM, no. 44.

⁶⁵ ESCM, no. 18.

*formation, the economic dimension in line with one's charism, is fundamental so that choices in mission can be innovative and prophetic.”*⁶⁶ Provide for the specific formation and updating of Circumscription Treasurers and Local Treasurers.

16. **The Unification of the Two Italian Provinces (St. Hannibal - St. Anthony).** To support the two Italian Provinces in the process of unification along the path of “unity, sharing and coordination” with the appropriate ways and stages in the administrative and economic spheres with the help of the General Technical Office.
17. **Merger Process of the two Congregations: the Little Mission for the Deaf and Mute and the Rogationists.** To initiate the process of merger, as mandated by the General Chapter, define the path to be taken and the goals to be achieved. The path of a merger is a complex and delicate one. The support of the CIVCSVA, the individual Circumscriptions, and the General Technical Office will be sought in order to carefully analyze the stages, the modalities, and the timeframe of the merger.

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⁶⁶ *ESCM*, no. 19.