Messina, Cristo Re. October 19, 2019

DEAR CONFRERES,

As we leave our beautiful House of Messina - Christ the King, which hosted us for a week for the Conference of Superiors and Councils of the Circumscriptions, our thoughts go to everyone of you, to whom the meetings of these days has addressed further commitments.

We want to share with you the experience we had, also to assure you that we were with you in the moments of prayer, as well as in open debates during the assemblies or in group work.

It could not have been otherwise because, in this mid-term Conference, which gathered us together from all over the world in this city from where our Rogationist family started, it was only right that we should return here together, bringing with us the life of our communities, with the riches and the problems, tiredness and zeal, joys and the sufferings, fears and hopes. As one of us pointed out, we seemed to relive the gospel memory of the Lord's disciples, who were sent two by two for the mission, and then returned together around the Master to recount how they had lived.

The theme of the Conference was "Journeying Together". We confirmed that our Congregation, as a whole, continues to move forward, with the blessing of the Lord. Its growth is promising in some areas while it is critical, or very critical in others. We felt the need to look more closely at the road we are taking, often with obstacles. We found that the critical issues experienced in the different Circumscriptions require a coordinated action that involves everyone.

We recall that in the Congregation the General Chapter reviews the life and mission of the Congregation, indicates a path to be taken and entrusts it to the new General Government to translate it into an action plan so that it may be implemented together in the Circumscriptions and in the Communities.

It is underlined that the Circumscriptions, according to our regulations, rightly grow with their own autonomy but, at the same time, especially in the current situation, they are called to walk together with a community project. Hence the need, on the part of the Major Superiors, to communicate more, reciprocally, and to meet together more frequently to reflect and coordinate, with the guidance of the Superior General.

We experienced a moving emotion on Thursday afternoon, October 17, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Inspiration of the Rogate, as we gathered in the Church of San Giovanni di Malta, at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament, in the sacred place where “everything begun” for our Family of the Rogate.

The experience of faith, love and sense of belonging was equally intense during the concelebrated Mass, at the conclusion of the Conference, in the crypt where the remains of our holy Father Founder rest at the Mother House. We asked him with all our fervor, to intercede with the Divine Superiors, to bless each one of us, and the journey of our Communities and our beloved Congregation.

The Confreres of the Conference of Major Superiors 2019