

Congregazione dei Rogazionisti

Curia Generalizia

Via Tuscolana, 167 - 00182 Roma

Tel. 06.7020751 - Fax 06.7022917

e-mail: segrgen@rcj.org

Rome, 8 November 2013

Prot. N. 268/13

Re.: Rogationist Mission Day 2014

To the Most Rev. Superiors
of the Rogationist Circumscriptions
and To the Rogationist Communities
c.c. To the Family of the Rogate

Dearest Confreres,

while we are approaching the conclusion of the Liturgical Year and the Year of Faith, I invite you to look forward to our Rogationist Mission Day 2014.

Faith leads us to the discovery and encounter with Jesus, our Savior, sent by the Father, and reminds us that in response to his invitation, with our Baptism, we are called and sent as witnesses and apostles.

Besides, as Rogationists and members of the Family of the Rogate, with our charism and our spirituality we want to feel the compassion of Jesus for the crowds, scattered like sheep without a shepherd, to pray for good workers and to go as good workers, for the evangelization and assistance of the little ones and the poor.

This is the sense of the mission and the ultimate reason for our Rogationist Mission Day. This was the aspiration of Father Hannibal, as we are reminded also by our Constitutions.

“At the service of *missio ad gentes* – Father Hannibal, who personally wanted the grace to go to missions¹, has proposed this holy ideal² to his children by explicitly speaking of mission to other peoples (*missio ad gentes*)³. He also felt the urgency to announce the Rogate to all peoples. Following the example of the Founder and in answer to the missionary commitment that the Church asks in particular to the religious, we look at all the peoples of the earth as to a field ripe for harvesting (cf. Jn 4:35) and we prefer the places where poverty and neglect affect especially the children. We recognize that the *missio ad gentes* favors the spreading of the charism, the renewal and the growth of the Congregation⁴. Therefore we educate ourselves to the missionary spirit in the various stages of formation” (Art. 72).

The Rogationist Mission Day is a strong moment for missionary awareness.

I think it is important to recall to mind the nature and objectives of this day: “(a) To promote missionary awareness in all areas of the Congregation (religious communities, parishes, schools, colleges, oratories, etc.); (b) To implement initiatives that lead to reflection on the ecclesial co-responsibility; (c) To invite all (religious, students, the faithful and those who are in contact with us) to spend at least a day to join in universal communion with the Rogationist Missions; (d) To keep in mind that the

¹ Cfr. TUSINO T., *The Father's Soul. Testimonials*, Rome 1988, p. 44.

² Cfr. DI FRANCIA A. M., *Rules for the Daughters of Divine Zeal*, in *Scritti*, VI, p. 532.

³ Ibidem.

⁴ Cfr. *Redemptoris Missio* (RM), 2.

missions invigorate the faith and the identity of Rogationist charism, giving new impulse and generating more genuine enthusiasm and motivation of faith: "faith is strengthened by giving it"; (e) To make known the reality of our missions, the work of the Rogationists missionaries, their concerns and needs, difficulties and achievements, as the heritage of the whole Rogationist family; (f) To open our parishes and schools to the universality of the Rogationist missions, promoting interest for concrete actions; (g) To promote involvement and support to projects of the Rogationist missionaries, especially where there are greater economic difficulties; (h) to enhance and promote the vocational dimension of the missionary proposal even as volunteers"(Circular of 4.12.2007, prot. N. 390/07).

This is likewise indicated in our Norms: "In all Houses of our Circumscriptions we celebrate the Rogationist Mission Day, on a convenient date and with due attention to local liturgical calendar" (Art. 107).

The Rogationist Mission Day, while aiming to rekindle our missionary awareness, calls us also to a concrete gesture of solidarity and generosity towards some areas of the Congregation where there are special emergencies.

For the year 2014 we will be giving all our support for the realization of the **"Project Maumere – Good workers for the harvest of Maumere – the construction of our Rogationist Seminary in Indonesia"**, Ribang, Maumere, Flores Island, NTT, Indonesia.

Our Congregation is present in Maumere since 2004 and from the beginning, with the grace of the Lord, it has seen a continuous entry of talented young people who are admitted as aspirants and then as religious, engaged in the formative journey and in the spiritual and charitable activities of the community.

The aspirants and the young religious in theology, are presently living in particularly precarious housing facilities. Thus the urgency of constructing the Seminary, in the land which we have previously purchased, so as to favor their formation as well as to allow us to accommodate other young men who seek to fulfill their Rogationist vocation.

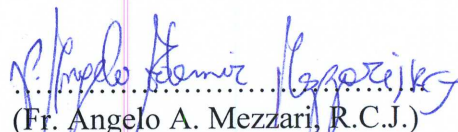
The realization of this project will allow us to gradually extend our charismatic presence throughout Indonesia.

Let us entrust the success of the Rogationist Mission Day 2014 to the Child Jesus and to the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin. Let us ask from our founder, Saint Hannibal Mary Di Francia, his zeal for the Rogate and his compassion for the little ones and the poor, so that we may be blessed with the gift of vocations.

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


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(Fr. Jessie Martinizar, R.C.J.)
General Councilor for the Missions

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(Fr. Fortunato Siciliano, R.C.J.)
General Secretary


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(Fr. Angelo A. Mezzari, R.C.J.)
Sup. Gen.