



To the Reverend Father **Bruno RAMPAZZO**
Superior General
of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus

On the occasion of your 13th General Chapter, I wish to encourage you in your spiritual preparation for this event of grace: it is an important reminder to return more and more to the roots of your Congregation, to deepen its charism in order to be able to incarnate it in the present socio-cultural context, in the most suitable ways, and in the new existential frontiers.

You propose to reflect on the theme "Rogationist religious life today: unity, coordination, and sharing." You, thus, intend to insert yourselves in the synodal journey of the Church, to identify a common itinerary aimed at harmonizing unity, plurality, communion, and diversity. It is about laying the foundation to build the present and future of your Institute on the pillars of participation and mission. To realize this project, you are called to journey along apostolic paths, including new ones, to witness to the Gospel of charity, committing yourselves to be eloquent signs of God's love and instruments of peace in every environment.

For this to happen, it is important that you preserve the spiritual heritage handed down to you by your founder, St. Hannibal, who loved Christ with intensity and was always inspired by Him in the carrying out of a courageous apostolate in favor of his neighbor in need. Follow his example and continue his mission which is still valid today, even though the social conditions in which we live have changed.

The great challenge of inculturation asks you to proclaim the Good News in languages and ways understandable to the men and women of our time. Vast, therefore, is the field of apostolate that opens before you! Through contemplation of the compassion of the Christ of the Rogate, docility to the aspirations of the Holy Spirit,

live the Rogationist prophetic charism with joy and generosity as men of prayer and charity. Give your existence to the poor, cultivate a true educational passion, especially for the young, and spend yourselves with intense pastoral activity among the people, especially in favor of the last and the discarded.

So many in the world are still waiting to know Jesus and his Gospel: there is a need to create fraternity and collaboration to proclaim with joy that Jesus is the Savior of all. Therefore, involve the lay faithful as well, sharing with them the spiritual and cultural inheritance received as a gift from the Founder: seek together with them new ways of closeness, promoting sobriety as a form of sharing. Each one of you, knows well, however, that in order to fruitfully carry out the Gospel proclamation as Apostles of the Rogate, it is first of all necessary to cultivate constant contact with Christ in intense and fervent prayer.

May the Virgin Mary protect you and may St. Hannibal confirm you in your intentions. For my part, I assure you of prayerful remembrance and, while I ask you to pray for me, from my heart I impart to you my Blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, June 24, 2022, *Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*.

Franciscus