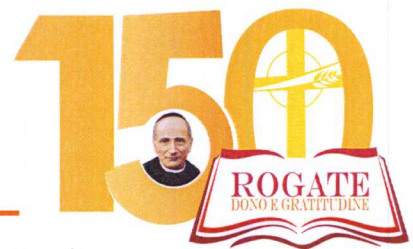


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Rome,
1 June 2018
Solemnity of St. Hannibal Mary

On the 150th Anniversary of the Inspiration of the Rogate
ROGATE GIFT AND GRATITUDE

To the Rogationists
To the Daughters of Divine Zeal
To the Family of the Rogate

Dearly beloved,

On this day particularly dear to all of us, we come together with great joy to communicate to you the choice made by the General Governments to make due memory of the 150th year of the Inspiration of the Rogate.

We rightly place our origins, daughters and sons of Father Hannibal, at the time of our Founder's entrance in the Avignone district in the spring of 1878. Furthermore, Father Hannibal explained that we must find our origins on July 1, 1886, when the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus deigned to come to live permanently in our midst, as the Founder, Superior, Father and Companion of our pilgrimage,

We know that from the very beginning of the mission in the Avignone District, Father Hannibal brought with him the inspiration of the Rogate which he had since his adolescence and which he identified as his mission since his youth.

In 1880, he already placed in the hearts and on the lips of the little ones and the poor the beautiful prayer which begins with the words "Compassionate Heart of Jesus", which very clearly expresses his theological vision on the charismatic inspiration of the Rogate.

The *Positio super virtutibus* helps us to pinpoint the local and temporal context in which the young Hannibal had that inspiration, which progressively became clearer, and enlightened and moved all of his existence.

We read that he had the pious habit of visiting daily the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the *Quarantore* [Forty-hour adoration] in the various churches of Messina. One day, finding himself in the Church of St. John of Malta¹, he "had this predominant thought in mind, that in order to bring about the greater good to the Holy Church, to

¹ The grandiose temple of St. John of Malta once stood where the Prefecture is located today. The current Church corresponds to the apse of the old one which was demolished by the earthquake of 1908. Cf. Picture 1, in *Storia, Arte e Tradizione nelle chiese di Messina*, Messina, 1983.

Rogate ergo Dominum messis ut mittat operarios in messem suam (Mt 9,35-38; Lc 10,2)

