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Rome, November 1, 2026
Solemnity of All Saints

Prot. n. 287/26
Re: The 10th World Day of the Poor

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This coming 15 November 2026 will mark the 10th World Day of the Poor. This occasion of grace, in this special year in which we celebrate the eighth centenary of the passing of Saint Francis of Assisi and begin our journey toward the centenary of the birth into Heaven of our beloved Founder, Saint Hannibal Maria Di Francia (1927–2027), invites us to welcome with open hearts the message that the Holy Father, Leo XIV, has addressed to the whole Church: "The Lord is the refuge of the poor" (cf. Ps 14:6).

On this joyful occasion, we, the Rogationists and the Daughters of Divine Zeal, feel a deep desire to journey forward together. This joint letter is fully part of our shared journey toward this great milestone in our history of grace: the centenary of the Founder's birth into Heaven. As sons and daughters of one Father, we wish to shape this period of preparation by deepening our communion and our mission in the service of the least among us.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that poverty is not merely material; it is also often manifested in loneliness, digital exclusion, loss of hope, and the absence of authentic human relationships. In a world marked by a throwaway culture and inequality, the Church must become a safe refuge and a place of personal encounter. Saint Hannibal, as he took his first steps in the Avignone neighborhood alongside the poor Francesco Zancone, taught us that the Rogate and charity toward the poor are two inseparable dimensions of the same charism. He did not limit himself to distributing aid; he entered into a deep relationship with each person, listening to their suffering and teaching them "the things of God." In his last will, he urged us with heartfelt concern "not to forget his poor," remembering each one by name. Today, the Pope's question echoes in our hearts: "Are we a sign of a God who is a refuge for the poor? Do we listen to their thoughts and share their hopes? Do we speak their names with divine tenderness?"

We therefore wish to emphasize the importance of listening and personal relationships. Even before giving material things, we are called to offer our time, our presence, and our respect, recognizing that the poor are not merely people receiving assistance, but brothers and sisters who must be listened to and who are bearers of a particular word from God for us.

In this regard, we wish to recall and renew the invitations to raise awareness and the initiatives already proposed last year in the letter addressed by Father Bruno to the Rogationists and the Rogate Family (Prot. No. 265/2025-it, dated 4 November 2025):

-Reread in our communities the message of Pope Leo XIV and the writings of our Founder - devoted to the poor, such as the well-known letter "The Hunt for the Poor" (30 August 1899), along with other texts that invite us to assist the least among us. Let these readings become an opportunity for reflection and a communal examination of conscience.

-Organize a food collection in every Circumscription during the week of 9–15 November. The food collected may be shared or distributed on 15 November 2026, creating opportunities for dialogue, shared meals, and mutual listening with the poor.

-Make Saint Hannibal known as the father of orphans and the poor through the various means and media at our disposal.

-Whenever possible, share these moments with one another—the Rogationists and the Daughters of Divine Zeal—and with our collaborators (staff members, those who support us in our daily mission, and those whom we serve), as well as with the Rogate Family, the Rogationist Missionaries, and the various Rogationist Associations.

We emphasize that these proposals are intended as guidelines. They should be enriched, adapted, and developed in accordance with the places, contexts, and specific needs of the different communities in which we serve. It would, however, be a beautiful testimony of fraternity if they could be experienced and carried out together, wherever possible, as sons and daughters of Saint Hannibal.

To ensure that this journey of preparation for the centenary of the Founder's birth into Heaven leaves a lasting mark and is preserved for future generations, we kindly ask you to send photographs, videos, and brief accounts of all initiatives undertaken, individually or jointly in each area, to the respective General Secretariats. In this way, we can preserve and enrich the living memory of this important centenary journey.

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence; Saint Anthony of Padua, illustrious protector of our works of charity; and our Father, Saint Hannibal, intercede for us and bless all our efforts in charity, listening, and fraternity.

With fraternal affection and our blessing in the Lord,

(Madre Maria Eli Milanez, FDZ)
Sup. Gen.

SUPERIORA GENERALE ISTITUTO DELLE FIGLIE DEL DIVINO ZELO
Circonvallazione Appia, 144 00179 ROMA

(P. Bruno Rampazzo, R.C.J.)
Sup. Gen.

Curia Generalizia (P.) Rogazionisti
V. Tuscolana n. 167-Roma

Suor M. Anna Diana

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Sr. Anna Diana, FDZ
Sec. Gen.

.....
Fr. Fortunato Siciliano, RCJ
Sec. Gen.