



GRAND MASTER

Madrid, October 16, 2013

Dear Confreres and Consœurs,

The past month of September was the 5th anniversary of my installment as Grand Master. These years have been hard work, but with the very valuable help of all the members of our Order, from the Grand Officers and Heads of Jurisdictions to the newest member, we have managed to go a long way forward. The governing bodies of our Order have helped steer us to a better position.

The Order today has new Jurisdictions and some of the old ones are unified or in the process of harmonization. The Spiritual life of the Order has been placed in the forefront of our minds, and the Hospitaller activities are growing in quantity and quality all around. Moreover the awareness, by all, of these activities through the jurisdictional Hospitaller reports is having a multiplying effect. Finally, our Order is gaining more and more recognition because of our spiritual and charitable actions which is the primary reason for us to be acknowledged.

So I wish to congratulate each and every one of the members of the Order who have contributed with enthusiasm and personal sacrifice to realize the goal, not always easy, of helping those in need. One of our signs of identity is our charity, the love of our neighbours that comes from our love of Christ.

I have said several times during these years that an Order of Christian Chivalry is neither a democratic society nor a corporation that bestows awards to vanity. An Order of Chivalry such as our Order of Saint Lazarus is above all a personal commitment with our Lord, with the Ecumenism that characterizes us and with the protection of the weak and needy. Chivalry is also the way of learning that requires a high system of values to promote generosity, honour and justice in today's world.

The Order needs to cultivate the values of sacrifice, discipline, and obedience to serve as an example to society which strays apart more and more from the Christian ideals. To serve Christ, with the devotion to Saint Lazarus, must be an objective for each and every one of us. I convey this to you once again.

As in the past, we must rely on our prayers. In the times of tribulation in which we live, prayer is the fundamental vehicle of communication with the Lord. In these prayers, please remember our brethren suffering persecution because of their faith, particularly in the Middle East. Let us pray specifically for the intentions and protection of our Spiritual Protector, H.B. Gregorius III.

I look forward to working with all of you to realize a very promising, dynamic future for our Order.

Atavis et Armis,

Carlos Gereda de Bourbon
Marquis of Almazan