



GRAND MASTER

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Madrid, 13th of December, 2013

Dear Confreres and Consœurs,

Once again the Christmas Good News is about to arrive and together with my best wishes for all of you and your families, allow me to send you a reflection as Grand Master of the Order.

In a few days we will hear the announcement of the angel to the shepherds; we will renew the Holy Night when the Saviour of the world became man. On that day will resound the message of the angel, which is also an invitation to welcome the Christ Child. We must open our hearts to his message of love. By embracing His love, we can do so much to help our fellow brothers and sisters.

H.H. Pope Benedict XVI already said: *On Christmas, the Almighty becomes a child and asks for help and protection, his way of being God challenges our way of being human; his knocking on our doors questions us, questions our freedom and asks us to review our relationship with life and our way of conceiving it.* Christ is the light that enlightens the world. The life-giving power of his light should encourage us to be better, to follow his example in poverty and humility. A Child in the manger, the Creator of all, the Redeemer becomes one of us to love mankind so much as to die for us. During these Christmas days I urge you to love the child in order to love mankind.

The Order is committed to charity as a token of our love for God and this has become a reality when we see the great contributions of all members worldwide over 2013. Let St. Lazarus, the friend of the Lord, help us keep in our hearts the wondrous miracle of the birth of the Child and to guiding us on the path of generous and cheerful love to continuing our activities into the New Year 2014 and the work we do in His name.

On Christmas night we remember how that light shines on the world in these times of shadows. Also, as always, remember our brothers that are suffering and particularly those in the Holy Land where our Lord was born.

Atavis et Armis.

Carlos Gereda de Bourbon
Marquis of Almazan