**GRAND MASTER**

Madrid, 27th of February, 2011

To all members of the Grand Priory of New Zealand

Dear Confreres and Consœurs,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and particularly those in the Christchurch Commandery, as you are confronted with this devastating earthquake so soon after the one you suffered last year. We are deeply concerned for all of you, your families, friends and loved ones. It seems that, although there have been great material loses, no one in the Commandery has suffered physical harm and we are all glad about that. Please be assured that every member of the Order of St. Lazarus stand ready to offer our support in any way appropriate. I know you have received words of comfort from every corner of the Order and especially from your nearest neighbours in the Grand Priory of Australia that has also suffered recently terrible floods and fires.

Nature is a brutal teacher when we face a natural disaster we are also confronted with moments in which a definite course of life is decided. New Zealand can convert this catastrophe into an event of massive deep love. These days when we have seen so much pain, we Christians should be aware, more than ever, of the great love we have inside that does miracles among us. This should be the Christian contribution. Earthquakes maybe our fate but solidarity is our vocation. They do not occur to blame the Lord but are an occasion to love our neighbours, believe in God, and to bring out the best of us.

We will stay in close contact to determine how the Order can assist our brothers who have been affected by this terrible disaster.

Atavis et Armis

The Marquis of Almazan

*Carlos Gereda de Bourbon*
*Marquis of Almazan*
*Magnus XLIX Magister citra et ultra maria, Praeceptor Boignaci*