



**GRAND MASTER**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Dear Confreres and Consoeurs,

Now that Christmas is not far away, I take the opportunity of sharing some words as your Grand Master during this important season. In these next few days, as in Holy Week, we are challenged to think about our Christian life and not forget the real significance of this great event for all mankind. Christmas celebrates the nativity of Jesus, Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. Christ's birth, his life and his death save us, and unites us to him, who is God revealed to us, and this unity liberates us.

Yet all of this said we live in a world where society is intent on paganising a religious festivity and converting the Holy days of Christmas into a days of material consumption and frivolous holiday; but society is trying to go even further, in some countries by removing symbols, some of which are not particularly Christian, like the Christmas tree, which has become so much part of the festival and saying that such things may "disturb" other traditions. There is even a clear change to the very name of the Christmas feast to "Winter Solstice". Such changes may have good intentions in a multi-faith world but, for we in a Christina Order, I pray for renewed contemplation to God, to the Son of God made man, to The Lord who will bring to each one of us, the absolute and clear message of his goodness and love and zeal for his gospel. Let it be that for us, his followers in this age, that we are determined to live up to the gospel's challenge, taking its example of love to this anxious world; so that, it is a call for all men of good will to reflect on the constant application of the principles on which our Christian culture is founded.

I invite you, my brothers and sisters, to pray with joy to Our Lord, to seek the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Lazarus always remembering those in need. I wish you all the happiness possible during these coming days and that we may return to the religious essence of Christmas with those we love, our own family and the great family of our Order, so that the New Year may bring us new strength to continue our plans in Faith, Hope and Charity.

*The Marquis of Almazan*

Carlos Gereda de Borbon

Marquis of Almazan

Magnus XLIX Magister citra et ultra maria, Praeceptor Boignaci