



GRAND MASTER

Madrid, 23rd of April 2014

Dear Consœurs and Confreres,

Once again we commemorated the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. And what is even more important, just when we felt the hopeless loss of Our Lord, we rejoiced once more to celebrate and discover that on the third day He rose from the dead. Jesus was aware of his sacrifice for mankind, He resurrected to redeem us from sin and lead us through a path fulfilled with light.

Charity is our most important and outstanding Insignia. The Order is called to serve others under the Christian values such as Faith, Hope and Charity. Let us not betray ourselves by letting down others when not accomplishing our own noble expectations and actions due to fear, ignorance or even laziness. Christ is all we need to keep us on our feet, to keep us walking forward, together, and not succumbing to the darkness in the mist of unbelief.

Our recently appointed Ecclesiastical Grand Prior, Msgr. Michele Pennisi, Archbishop and Abbot of Monreale, has compared Christ's resurrection to our own *awaking* from the hypocrisy, materialism and cruelty that seems to rule our society nowadays. As they say, times of crisis are also times of opportunities. We should take a chance on the opportunity the Lord granted us when he offered his Son in exchange for our own salvation from the morbid and dreadful blindness we live in. In Archbishop Pennisi's words: *"Just as Jesus wept for his friend Lazarus he also weeps for me: I am Lazarus, I am the friend, sick and loved, but also protected by Jesus from breaking down. In the tears of Jesus we discover the heart of God. The reason for our resurrection is in the love that melts into tears. We resurrect now, we will resurrect after death because He loved us. The love of God is stronger than death"*.

Certainly the love of God is stronger than death, and we should all hold to that statement as if it were a lifelong *mantra*. No pain or suffering is unbearable when he who endures it firmly believes that one day it will fade away in the same darkness he steps out of.

Happy Easter to all of you. I hope to see you at the upcoming June Pilgrimage in Walsingham. May Christ and Saint Lazarus guide all of you through a path of light and resurrection.

Atavis et Armis,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "The Marquis of Almazan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Carlos Gereda de Bourbon
Marquis of Almazan
Magnus XLIX Magister