



## SACRO MILITARE ORDINE COSTANTINIANO DI SAN GIORGIO

### IL GRAN PRIORE

Dear Knights and Dames,

approaching Christmas festivities, we also approach a particular atmosphere, full of traditions, lights, presents, decorations, feasts, invitations and much more. We presume that everybody lives in a surreal dimension where, as if by magic, everything turns beautiful, good and peaceful.

Unfortunately it is not like that for everybody! Especially for lonely, poor and needy people. Pope Francis invites us to spend Christmas always thinking to those who can not celebrate it. "We are asked- Pope Francis said- to share the happiness that comes from the nascent Christ, staying near the others, giving support and hope to the poor people, to the sick, to lonely and sad people." For Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George's Knights and Dames, Pope's words must resonate like a recall to essential things in life and to concrete charity.

Luca evangelical message, after the serious description of Jesus Christ birth, reports:

*"In that region there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. But the angel said to them: 'Have no fear, for, look! I am declaring to you good news of a great joy that all the people will have, because there was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in David's city. This will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'"*

Spending Christmas in a Christian manner means following this announcement and this event that still takes place nowadays for us and for each person that God loves. It means believing in the logic according to which God still shows himself like *an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger*.

The Eternal that reveals himself teaches us to assess earthly things in the dimension of Eternity, in the dimension of immortal Love.

For each member of our beloved Order, it is necessary to rediscover the real root of Christmas. It should not be considered as a *routine* that takes place each year with more and more laical exterior rituals, but as an event that warms our hearts and fills our lives giving hope and joy.

A true and shared happiness through all the charity initiatives that will mark a serious and convincing sign of the fact that we belong to the Constantinian Order.

May the Virgin Mary, the “handmaid of the Lord”, help us to hear God’s voice through our prayers and serve him among our brothers with compassion, in order to be ready for Christmas and to welcome Jesus in our hearts.

I wish you and your families a Holy Christmas.

Rome, December 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

Domenica Gaudete

His Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino

Proto-deacon of the Holy Roman church