



SACRO MILITARE ORDINE COSTANTINIANO DI SAN GIORGIO

IL GRAN PRIORE

**Message**

**from His Most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino  
Proto-deacon of the Holy Roman Church  
Grand Prior of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George  
for Holy Easter 2018**

***"Haec dies, quam fecit Dominum: exsultemus et laetémur in ea".  
This is the day the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
(Psalm 117)***

Rome, 19 March 2018

Dear Knights and Dames,

I wish to extend to you my Easter Greetings, consistently with the meaning of this forthcoming "holiday of holidays", with the hope that the Constantinian Order of St. George may truly be an Easter Community!

An Easter Community is the community that Jesus Christ has established in the world, as the outcome of his death and resurrection. This is what we read in the Word of God, which testifies to the resurrection of Jesus and to our own resurrection with him.

An Easter Community is, first and foremost, a community that "believes" in the Risen Christ. This was announced to us all, *"I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, He has risen, just like He said!"*. Jesus is not merely a man, however remarkable and exemplary. He is the Risen Lord who, with his divine power, has vanquished sin and death. Moreover, an Easter Community also purges out the "old leaven" so that we may become "new dough", and celebrate Easter "not with the leaven of malice and wickedness" but "with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth". An Easter Community is a community of workers of peace bringing with them, on the roads of the world, the love and joy of giving, like Christ, who died to deliver us from death, and all those who bring death, who passed blessing and restoring, who gave us the gift of his divine life so that we could all live and live plentifully.

Dearest beloved, the Risen Christ makes us new men, Easter men, and renews the world: the true innovation of Jesus shines in his resurrection. To the amazed eyes of his disciples the Risen Christ appears as a new man who can not be vanquished by the hate of mankind and not even death. "You have taken off your old self with its practices and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge, in the image of its Creator!" (Colossians 3:9-10). In this sense, Vatican II reminds us that: "whoever follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes himself more a man" (G.S. 41).

Therefore, I invite you, in the final days of Lent and the Holy Week, and with the help of the priors and chaplains, to intensify your prayers, to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Holy Easter by returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in good time, to renew your commitment to living a Christian life.

May Mary, the Mother of the Church, involved like no other in the Easter of Jesus, grant us the gift of foretasting the beauty and joy of this Holy Day, to the greatest possible extent, with the hope of partaking of it fully in Heaven.

I wish you all a Happy Easter.



**Cardinale Renato Raffaele Martino**  
**Gran Priore del SMOCSG**