



SACRO MILITARE ORDINE COSTANTINIANO DI SAN GIORGIO

IL GRAN PRIORE

Vatican City, 23 April 2018

Feast of Saint George the Martyr, Patron Saint of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George

My beloved, for the Constantinian Order, Saint George the Martyr is not just a patron, he is also an example and a friend. Once again we are happy to joyfully celebrate him and to entrust ourselves to his intercession.

I would like to offer you some simple ideas, to help you celebrate this liturgical feast day with a genuinely Christian spirit.

First of all, it is precisely through our liturgical celebrations and the commemoration of the Saints that we can enhance the spiritual dimension in our life, as in the words of the Council "In the earthly liturgy we share in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the Holy City of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God with all the warriors of the heavenly army we sing a hymn of glory to the Lord; venerating the memory of the saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them; we eagerly await the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, until he, our life, shall appear and we too will appear with him in glory" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* No. 8).

Secondly, the feast day of our patron helps us become aware of the fact that the saints encourage and accompany us. Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate*, reminds us that "The saints now in God's presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us". Truly, each of us can say that we are "Surrounded, led and guided by the friends of God" (No. 4).

Thirdly, we must not forget that all the baptised are called to sainthood, a journey which, as the Holy Father reminds us, takes place in constant prayer: "though it may seem obvious, we should remember that holiness consists in a habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration. The saints are distinguished by a spirit of prayer and a need for communion with God I do not believe in holiness without prayer" (No. 147).

Therefore, the members of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George must follow up on this appeal to undertake a concrete journey, the ultimate aim of which is to achieve Christian perfection; through prayer, listening to the Word of God, celebrating the

Sunday Eucharist, the Easter of each week and the cornerstone of a life of faith, together with the evangelical witness of charity.

The works of charity are the true banners that represent us. The saints have been men of charity; in the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: yes, I have experienced many human weaknesses, many human frailties yet He still loves the world and he sends us, you and me, to be his His love and His compassion to the poor, despite our sins, despite our weaknesses and defects. He depends on us to love the world and to show how much the world loves Him. If we are too focused on ourselves we have no time for others”.

With these feelings, I hope the feast of St. George is a time of intense faith and joy, of fraternity and charity, and therefore invoke on You the blessings of our Resurrected Lord through the intercession of Mary our Mother and Queen of all the Saints and of our patron Saint George.

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