

Vatican City, March 11st 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

in this serious moment of crisis which is testing the whole world, I would like to show you all my proximity, ensuring my incessant prayer and the request for intercession to the Virgin Mary and to our heavenly patron Saint George.

In particular, I would like all the sick and their families to find comfort and hope in the faith. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the doctors and to all the women and men who work in the healthcare field, which is the real barricade against this calamity.

I keep a special memory in my prayers for all the women and men of the civil and military institutions who, in various capacities, are engaged on the same front to ensure the development of civil life and the security of all.

Dear Brothers, even during this new hard battle, which is challenging humanity and is shaking it like a hurricane, we must not stop testifying and defending the truth of the Cross of Christ, our only source of salvation: let us feel more conscientious instead!

Revitalized and relieved by Mary on Golgotha and by our patron Saint Georges, let us look and indicate the Crucifix, cure of salvation and life, to our brothers as well. *In signo vinces*: all victories come from the glorious Cross of Christ.

«Vexilla Regis pròdeunt; Fulget Crucis mistèrium, Qua vita mortem pèrtulit, Et morte vitam rèddidit».

Finally, I offer you a prayer to implore the intercession of Saint George and encourage you to recite it every day, just like me, on your own or with your loved families. The Virgin Mary, our heavenly mother, will be able to collect them all and present them to Jesus so that He can listen to them and grant them.

I invoke the Lord's blessing on you and your loved ones.

Renato Raffaele Cardinal Martino

Grand Prior