

Courtesy translation

Vatican City, March 2nd 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,
Distinguished Knights and Dames,

The path that is leading us to Holy Easter is for us a path to Jerusalem. In Luke's Gospel, everything is conceived from a geo-theological point of view. Indeed, Jesus lived his life as a preparation, as it was a trip to Jerusalem, where the days of his Passion, Death and Resurrection finally took place giving rise to His Easter mystery.

The 122 psalm (121) helps us in our ascent towards Jerusalem:

I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD. And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem. Jerusalem, built as a city, walled round about. There the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD. As it was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

Whiten the Psalms of Ascent(s) the ascent towards Jerusalem, the Holy City, is considered as a symbol of the ascension to God, to which everyone is called. These psalms provide us with a metaphor for life, considering it as mankind journey towards the Heavenly City where the dwelling and home of each of us is.

Jesus is asking us of following Him and of being coherent:

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?" (Luke 9, 23).

Jerusalem is both an arrival and starting point. Indeed, thanks to the gift that the disciples received from the Spirit of the Risen One, they had the opportunity of starting their trip to the ends of the world in order to bring the good news of the Risen One to all people (Acts). Furthermore, every one of us must become witness and missioned of the new life in the Spirit for the entire mankind.

Being Dames and Knights of the Sacred Constantinian Order requires us with the responsibility of announcing both Jesus and the Lord in a coherent way, everywhere and in any occasion such as in our family and in daily life.

In occasion of this Holy Easter we ask to live the same experience that St. Paul lived:

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2:20)

Invoking our patron St. George’s powerful intercession,

I wish you the joy of a Holy Easter.

Χριστός Ανέστη: Αληθώς Ανέστη!

Renato Raffaele Card. Martino