

Rome, September 14th 2023

Dearest Knights and Dames,

We are preparing to celebrate and live out the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross which represents the very essence and charism of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George, whose Statutes, in the First Chapter, concerning the purposes of the Order, reads as follows: “The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George is an Equestrian Order which, from its earliest origins, aims to glorify the Cross, propagate the Faith, and defend the Roman Apostolic Church, to which it is closely linked by special merits acquired, and by multiple proofs of gratitude and benevolence received from the Supreme Pontiffs.”

Glorifying the Cross of Christ, today, for believers, means first of all knowing its cosmic significance, having the awareness and experience, to bear witness to its true and profound meaning through a credible coherence of Christian life authenticated by love towards others which is manifested in works of charity , both material and spiritual.

In the message he sent on September 21, 2021 to the International Theological Congress, Pope Francis offered us profound food for thought: “The Apostle Paul,” the Pope writes, “speaks of the breadth, length, height and depth of the love of Christ. Contemplating the Crucified One, we see every human dimension embraced by God's mercy. His kenotic and compassionate love touches, through the Cross, the four cardinal points and reaches the extremities of our condition, inseparably joining the vertical relationship with God and the horizontal relationship with men, in a brotherhood that the Death of Jesus has definitively made universal.”

With these thoughts, dear Brothers and Sisters, I also invite you to pay particular attention to the dignity of the Liturgies and to all aspects and initiatives, that they may truly glorify the Cross, demonstrating even in our present day, the vitality of our beloved Order.

With my blessing,

Marcello Cardinal Semeraro

Grand Prior