



SPEECH OF HE SIR ANTHONY BAILEY, KGCN, OBE, GCSS,

**MAGISTRAL DELEGATE FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS AND DELEGATE FOR
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND OF THE SACRED MILITARY CONSTANTINIAN
ORDER OF ST GEORGE**

ARMOURERS' HALL - 9 NOVEMBER 2015

Governor General, Your Excellencies, Your Serene Highness, Your Eminences,
My Lords, Alderman, Reverend Fathers, Knights and Dames, Ladies and
Gentlemen

It gives me very great pleasure as Delegate of the Constantinian Order to
warmly welcome each of you this evening to this our Autumn dinner.

I am pleased to do so once again in the magnificent setting of Armourers' Hall,
in the heart of the City of London and surrounded as we are by its countless
references to chivalry, faith and St George, our Patron Saint, which gives also
the name to the capital of Grenada, St George.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In fact, may I begin by welcoming most warmly our Guest of Honour, Her
Majesty's Governor General of Grenada, HE Dame Cecile La Grenade. I am
delighted that Her Excellency has found time in her busy agenda and joined us
tonight following her return from a most successful and first ever Official Visit
to the Holy See, which included a very lengthy Private Audience with His
Holiness Pope Francis and the Secretary of State. I have no doubt that the
usual Grenadian warmth must have impressed the Holy Father.

I warmly welcome our Prior His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor
and the Apostolic Nuncio, HE Archbishop Antonio Mennini as well as
ecumenical leaders including the Head of the Russian Orthodox Church, His
Eminence Elisey, Archbishop of Sourozh.

May I also welcome our Guest Speaker Lord Patten of Barnes who really needs no introduction and to Baroness Howells of St David's who is herself a daughter of Grenada.

I am delighted too, to welcome the Vice-Delegate of Wales, the Rt Hon Paul Murphy, and extend to him our warmest congratulations for his recent and much deserved elevation to the House of Lords as well as our first Vice-Delegate for Gibraltar, Sir Peter Caruana and Lady Caruana. I hope that the Order will extend its activities in Gibraltar in the near future and build on the 200 years old relationship with the rock.

It is my pleasure to welcome tonight the High Commissioners of Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago the Ambassadors to the Court of St James's of Venezuela, the Slovak Republic and Kosovo.

In particular, I wish also to pay tribute to the outgoing High Commission of Grenada, HE Joslyn Whiteman who has been so instrumental to the involvement of the Constantinian Order in Grenada. And I wish to welcome and congratulate the Slovak Ambassador HE Lubomir Rehak who has just presented his Credentials to HM The Queen.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Ambassador of Kosovo here tonight, further to the excellent Official Visit paid by the Order to his country last year as part of a regional visit, which included also Albania.

Many of you have travelled from abroad to join us tonight and I welcome those from Ireland, Germany and Gibraltar.

I would also like to welcome Mr Guy Sainty and to extend him this delegation's condolences on the recent passing of his Grand Master.

I also greet in a special way, the City of London, tonight represented by Alderman John Garbutt.

May I finally welcome my wife, Marie-Therese whose continuous support allows me to serve as your Delegate and work for the fulfillment of our Order's mission and organise events like this!

Distinguished guests,

Her Excellency's visit to us follows the Official Visit to Grenada paid by the Grand Prior, Renato Raffaele Cardinal Martino in June., Her Excellency also visited the Grand Chancellor, HRH Princess Beatrice of Bourbon Two Sicilies and Cardinal Martino on Friday as part of her visit to Rome.

I was delighted to launch together with His Eminence Cardinal Martino a number of charitable projects in the fields of education, national patrimony, social and community welfare, such as the restoration and rehabilitation of the Grenada Public Library and the National Archives, the New Life Organisation (NEWLO) Vocational Training Project, the St. Joseph's Convent Education and Training Project, St Patrick Roman Catholic Church, the Dorothy Hopkin Home for the disabled, Grand Anse Home for the Aged, Grand Anse Girls Centre and other worthy projects.

Cardinal Martino and the wider delegation also visited the former Government House in Grenada, a once magnificent structure, symbol of the nation which was devastated by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. Sadly, it still lies in a state of ruin and I know Her Excellency will launch tonight an appeal of national importance for the restoration of this building of historical importance, which I am confident we can support.

I am delighted by the presence here of Sir Steven Wilkinson and Sir Christian Sweeting who also visited Grenada with the Grand Prior and who will lead the Order's its engagement in the country and who were honoured earlier today by the Governor General.

The activities of the Constantinian Order in Grenada are part of a wider regional engagement underway in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda and St Lucia which allows the Order to focus on the important role of the Caribbean region within the global Christian family, which the Holy Father Pope Francis has also highlighted in his discussions with Her Excellency and other regional leaders.

Dear Knights and Dames,

Since the earliest origins, the Order has resolved to work for the glorification of the Cross and the propagation and defence of Faith. Today, the Order manifests these principles, through charitable and humanitarian assistance, focused on those most vulnerable in society. The activities that the Order undertakes worldwide are central to this mission.

By strengthening and increasing our charitable activities, we accomplish to the ancient mission of the Order in defence of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church.

At the same time and uniquely, among Catholic orders, the Constantinian Order and its sister Order, the Royal Order of Francis I, continues to play a significant role across the world in furthering inter-religious understanding between the followers of all faiths and of none. I am pleased that our Order includes among his members Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox and Muslim believers. We remain true to our Roman Catholic heritage yet proud of our diversity.

The benefits of our charitable projects go well beyond the Catholic communities to impact society as a whole. The projects that the Order identifies in partnership with national and local institutions aim to encompass a full spectrum of needs, to develop understanding and trust within the communities and to deliver relief to the poor, as the Holy Father Pope Francis has so encouraged us all to promote.

I am pleased to inform you all that following the reports of the Bishop of St John's – Basseterre and the Bishop of Roseau, that all the multi-million dollar projects are well advanced, to include schools, community centres, training facilities, the reconstruction of the St Joseph's and St Patrick's Catholic Church in St John's, damaged since 1974, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Roseau whose rebuilding works have continued over the last months despite the devastating passage of the tropical storm Erika.

And as we speak of Dominica, I take this opportunity to wish well our Vice-Delegate for England, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, a daughter of Dominica who is a candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Commonwealth,

which will be decided at the end of the month, as we know how important this multilateral organisation is, bringing together as it does, the smallest and the biggest countries, the poorest and richest.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, I would like to thank the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers for bringing charme to the event tonight, and the Chancery assistants, Xhoana Papakostandini, Talat Gokdemir and Alexandra Graff who have made this evening possible.

Dear Friends,

In conclusion, tonight's dinner brings together once again the long traditions of our Constantinian Order and the Royal Order of Francis I. Our centuries old and internationally recognised Orders of Knighthood have as its hallmark the feel on an extended family, the dedication to assisting people through times of crisis and need which is at the heart of their mission, gathering resources and building relationships and channeling them to make the world a better place and most especially keeping in mind those in need. This mission makes the Order relevant into today's fast changing world.

Long may this continue and may I conclude with two relevant mottos:

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES, BY THIS SIGN SHALL WE CONQUER

And Grenada's own:

"Ever Conscious of God We Aspire, Build and Advance as One People".