



SPEECH OF HE JÀNOS CSÀK
AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY TO THE COURT OF ST JAMES'S
RECEPTION TO CELEBRATE THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF HE CORMAC
CARDINAL MURPHY O'CONNOR
HUNGARIAN EMBASSY, LONDON – 31 JANUARY 2013

Your Eminences, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Warm welcome to all of you at the Hungarian Embassy in London.
Laudetur Jesus Christus.

Europe is the historical creation of Greco-Roman culture and Judeo-Christian morality. It was built on values and morals that we should actively stand up for and defend. The alternative of moral neutrality and a kind of hedonist materialism cannot and should not be an option.

A European or Western civilization that has forgotten about its Christian roots is like a man who built his home on sand with no foundations, and when the floods come and the waters hit the building, he finds it on the brink of collapse. Today, it is the common goal of many responsibly thinking leaders that Europe should once again be built on the rock solid foundations of Christian morality. To successfully face the crisis, Europe must clarify its relationship with its own Christian past and must



consolidate its identity. It is our firm conviction that without nations, Europe has no heart, and that without Christianity, it has no soul. This is why we set down in the new Fundamental Law (the Constitution) of Hungary that Christianity is a nation-preserving force, and it is the family and the nation that form the basis for social coexistence.

We are privileged to welcome and celebrate the 80th birthday at our Embassy His Eminence Cormac Cardinal Murphy O'Connor, Prior of the Delegation of Great Britain and Ireland of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of George.

His eminence has been an adviser, guide and partner, official and unofficial, to the monarch, Prime Ministers, ambassadors, other religious leaders (of all faiths), NGOs and many other people and organisations in different walks of life, who has shown just how rich and contributory can be the role of the Catholic Church to British society.

It was during his tenure as the Archbishop of Westminster, that the Saint Stephen Centre of the Hungarian Catholic Community in London was opened in 2008. Our first King, St. Stephen reminds us of one thousand years of Christian life and worship, of reverses and revivals, of repression, persecution and always resurgence.



And Saint Stephen's advice to his son more than a thousand years ago also reminds us of the qualities that make a good King, but more importantly a good man, and a good Christian.

“My beloved sonI command, that at every time and in everything,...you may show favour not only to relations and kin, or to the most eminent, be they leaders or rich men or neighbours or fellow-countrymen, but also to foreigners and to all who come to you. By fulfilling your duty in this way you will reach the highest state of happiness. Be merciful to all who are suffering violence, keeping always in your heart the example of the Lord who said: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. Be patient with everyone, not only with the powerful, but also with the weak.

Be humble in this life, so that God may raise you up in the next. Be truly moderate and do not punish or condemn anyone immoderately. Be gentle so that you may never oppose justice. Be honourable so that you may never voluntarily bring disgrace upon anyone.”

I would also like to warmly welcome Mr Anthony Bailey, Grand Magistral Delegate for Inter-Religious Relations, who in the run up to the Hungarian Government's formal recognition of the Constantinian Order in 2011 by decree of the President of Hungary, together with senior



government and diplomatic officials in Budapest, London, Rome and Vatican City have worked to promote stronger and more meaningful relations between the faith communities of Hungary and its European partners including the United Kingdom and Italy. Activities included a high profile official visit to Hungary by the Constantinian Order delegation in December 2010.