

INVESTITURE OF
HIS GRACE THE MOST REV
DESMOND TUTU
ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS OF CAPE TOWN

AUTOMOBILE CLUB DE MONACO
23 boulevard Albert 1er
98000 MONACO

Thursday 5 June 2014

Remarks by HE Mr Anthony Bailey, OBE, GCSS
Grand Magistral Delegate for Inter-Religious Relations
and Delegate for Great Britain and Ireland of the
Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MINISTERS,
YOUR EXCELLENCIES, YOUR GRACE,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Principality of Monaco is an international country with many nationalities. It has fallen today to a British and Irish national to say a few words with limited French.

As Grand Magistral Delegate for Inter Religious Relations, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here this evening.

I would like to start by welcoming most especially our hosts this evening, the 59th Grand Master of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George, Prince Charles of Bourbon Two Sicilies, Duke of Castro and his consort, Princess Camilla of Bourbon Two Sicilies, Duchess of Castro.

I would particularly like to thank the Duchess of Castro for arranging such beautiful flowers in the colours of and in the design of the South African flag.

The Constantinian Order of Saint George is an ancient Order of Knighthood that is recognised worldwide and from its earliest origins has resolved to work for the glorification of the Cross, the propagation of the Faith and the defence of the Holy Roman Church.

Today, the Constantinian Order manifests these principles through hospitaller and humanitarian assistance as well as the charitable relief of the poor and those most vulnerable in society.

The Order is fully recognised by many governments across the world including first and foremost by the Italian State through successive decrees of the

President and the Government of the Italian Republic.

In 2011 the Constantinian Order was granted Consultative Status of the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

Uniquely, among Catholic orders the Constantinian Order and its sister Order, the Royal Order of Francis I, continue to play a significant role across the world in furthering inter-religious understanding between the followers of all faiths and of none. We remain true to our heritage yet are proud of our diversity.

We are proud of our longstanding relationship with the Anglican

community in Britain and elsewhere. We are happy to include two past Archbishop of Canterbury's among our members in Lord Williams and Lord Carey. Long may this relationship continued to grow.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege to especially greet now our distinguished guest of honour this evening His Grace The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town.

Archbishop Tutu has for many years been a true social rights activist and a voice for the oppressed around the world.

He has often spoken in the defence of human rights and led many high profile campaigns, fighting against racism, homophobia, poverty and AIDS.

One of the worthy campaigns was of the launch in 2006 of the global campaign to ensure that all children are registered at birth, to escape the horrible crime of human trafficking.

Archbishop Tutu was the patron of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was a crucial and important development after the abolition of apartheid, where many victims of human rights violations were given a voice.

His Grace also served as Chair of the Elders, alongside Nelson Mandela and together with others put their

knowledge and humanity to work on some of the world's toughest problems.

Many countries including the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy have honoured Archbishop Tutu. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. He has received the Gandhi Peace Prize in 2007 and the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. In 2013 His Grace received the Templeton Prize "for his life-long work in advancing spiritual principles such as love and forgiveness".

Ladies and Gentlemen

In 2008, I had the pleasure to meet Archbishop Tutu when he attended the special ceremony marking the 125th anniversary of the founding of United Learning - one of the largest Anglican Church schools trusts in Britain and an organisation which I have sat on board for a number of years.

I remember well when His Grace entered Canterbury Cathedral to find a rather hushed and somber and nervous audience of several thousand.

Archbishop Tutu took immediate action and broke the ice by insisting that everyone get up from his or her seats and to wiggle and dance and then to sit down again. It worked.

Now ladies and gentlemen I have no idea if the Archbishop is planning to do so tonight with this distinguished audience but prepare for every eventuality!

In that spirit of celebration it is now my honour to invite our Grand Master, His Royal Highness The Duke of Castro, to present His Grace with the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Order

of Francis I and the Gold Benemerenti Medal of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George.

Both are senior honours with Heads of State, Heads of Government and the leaders of many faiths among its members.

Both awards are also our signal that the Order wishes to engage even more in South Africa and other Southern African countries. Only last year King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho was invested into the Order.

Thank you.