

**Speech by HE Mr Anthony Bailey, OBE, GCSS,
Delegate for Great Britain and Ireland of the
Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George**

on the occasion of the investiture of

**The Hon Fabian Picardo,
Chief Minister of Gibraltar**

Gibraltar House, London WC2R 1JA - 21 October 2014

Dear Chief Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen

As the Constantinian Order's Delegate for Great Britain and Ireland and on behalf of our Grand Master, Prince Charles of Bourbon Two Sicilies, Duke of Castro, and our Grand Prior, Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, it is my distinct pleasure together with some of our British and Gibraltar knights to be here at Gibraltar House in London.

Chief Minister, I would like to express my thanks to your Government's representative Mr Alberto Poggio for hosting this short ceremony during which we can celebrate the historic ties between the Constantinian Order and Gibraltar and in both an institutional and personal way recognised the merits of you Chief Minister.

The Constantinian Order has had knights and dames in Britain and Gibraltar for well over two hundred years and in other parts of Europe for

hundreds of years before that. Our membership is a diverse one and covers all aspects of national and community life.

Today we are an Order of Knighthood recognised by decree of the President of the Italian Republic and by other governments across the world. In 2011 the Constantinian Order was granted Consultative Status at the United Nations.

The Constantinian Order is actively involved in the defence and promotion of the Roman Catholic faith and together with the multi-faith Royal Order of Francis I, undertakes spiritual, humanitarian, hospitaller, charitable and inter-religious initiatives across the United Kingdom, wider Europe, the Commonwealth and the world.

In 2003, the then Grand Prefect HRH The Duke of Castro, His Eminence Mario Francesco, Cardinal Pompedda, Grand Prior, and myself visited Gibraltar and during this visit, a set of three postage stamps, approved by HM Queen Elizabeth II, were issued by Gibraltar to mark the 1700th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint George. Gibraltar was the only United Kingdom Overseas Territory to mark this important anniversary.

This visit also witnessed the investiture of HM Governor & Commander in Chief Sir David Durie, and the then Chief Minister Sir Peter Caruana. I am pleased that the late Bishop Charles Caruana and Bishop Ralph Heskett, now Bishop of Hallam were invested as Ecclesiastical Knight Commanders of Grace and offering much needed spiritual guidance to our members. Long standing Gibraltarian Chaplain Monsignor Coronato

Grima, now in Malta, has also asked me to be especially remembered to you today.

Chief Minister, you join a distinguished line of Gibraltarian knights and dames who have been invested into our ancient and internationally recognised Order of Knighthood. You are also, only the second Gibraltarian in some 200 years to achieve the high rank of Knight Grand Cross, since the first known knight from Gibraltar, Sir Emanuel Viale, was decorated by our Order in 1811.

Your tireless efforts in promoting human rights, especially those of Gibraltarians to self-determine their future and stand for their values of education, rule of law and democracy among the international community of nations, are among the reasons for the Grand Master's decision on advice of our delegation to grant you this high honour.

Both the Grand Master and the Grand Prior look forward to visiting you in Gibraltar and it is therefore my honour in the name of His Royal Highness and His Eminence to invite you to receive this miniature, rosette and diploma of the honour, rank and dignity of a Knight Grand Cross of Merit of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St George.