



**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 - 25 NOVEMBER 2014

Distinguished Guests, Knights and Dames,

It gives me very great pleasure as Delegate of the Constantinian Order in Great Britain and Ireland 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.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have many distinguished guests here tonight and may I begin welcoming most warmly our new Grand Chancellor Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice of Bourbon Two Sicilies, who has travelled from Paris. Her Royal Highness is the first female to hold this important office and through her I would like to extend our good wishes to the Grand Master and the Grand Prior. I am most delighted to welcome also His Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon, Deputy President of the Royal Deputation.

I would also like to extend a hearty welcome in the name of the Grand Master and the Cardinal Grand Prior, to Her Majesty's Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, HE Sir Rodney Williams and HE Lady Williams who only three weeks ago hosted an excellent Official Visit of the Order to their country. I am delighted That His Excellency has joined us tonight just a few days before his audience

with Her Majesty when he will be invested as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George and to whom we offer our most sincere congratulations as you assume this important role.

I warmly welcome His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster and Prior of the British & Irish Delegation of the Constantinian Order.

I welcome our new Council Member, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, a daughter of the Caribbean who is a candidate for the post of Secretary General of the Commonwealth. We wish her well for her candidature as we know how important this multilateral organisation is to the UK and the wider world, bringing together the smallest and the biggest countries, the poorest and richest.

I am delighted to welcome as well Lord Watson of Richmond of the English Speaking

Union who is another champion of the Commonwealth engagement.

It is my pleasure to welcome tonight the High Commissioners of Dominica and Grenada and the Ambassadors to the Court of St James's of Bolivia, Kosovo, Mexico and Romania. Your Excellencies, you are most welcome as you also represent countries deeply committed to inter-church and inter-faith relations.

Your Excellency, Francine Baron-Royer, High Commissioner of Dominica, please extend our thanks to the President and the Prime Minister of Dominica for the excellent Official Visit of the Order to your country. We value our long-standing relations with Dominica which started in 2012 and we are delighted that a series of high profile charitable projects are now agreed, including the Cathedral, a youth centre and an old people's home.

I am pleased to welcome tonight His Excellency Ambassador Don Sforza

Marescotto Ruspoli and Princess Sforza Marescotto Ruspoli who have joined us from Italy.

Many of you have travelled from across the world to be with us tonight as Sir William Jeffcock from the USA, Mr and Mrs Steven Wilkinson from Germany and Alexander Brennan from Latin America. I also note with pleasure the presence of distinguished national ecumenical leaders including Egyptian Coptic Bishop Angaelos, as well as Canon Christopher Tuckwell from Westminster Cathedral and Monsignor Vincent Brady from the Apostolic Nunciature.

The City of London is tonight represented by the former Lord Mayor of London Sir Gavyn Arthur, whom I congratulate once again for his excellent speech, and also Alderman Vincent Keaveny.

May I finally welcome my wife, Marie-Therese

whose continuous support allows me to work for the fulfillment of our Order's mission and organise events like this!

Distinguished guests,

2014 has been a very busy year for our Delegation and the Order in general and allow me to highlight only a few of them.

In February this year, our longstanding chaplain for 25 years, Vincent Nichols was appointed Cardinal in addition to his duties as Archbishop of Westminster and promoted within the Order.

Cardinal Nichols and Grand Prior Cardinal Martino have sent warm wishes for this evening and paid tribute for the work the Order undertakes in this country for the Church and Society at large.

In April we hosted in this Hall an excellent dinner to celebrate St George's Day.

The Order has participated this year to numerous events in commemoration of the Centenary of WWI, in the UK and throughout Europe. We have joined our prayers for those who sacrificed their lives for the future generations and for a better society, founded on our shared Christian and European values.

2014 also marks the conclusion of the 50th anniversary or Golden Jubilee of the Constantinian Order's formal recognition by successive decrees of the President of the Italian Republic and the Italian Government.

This year, the moving Beatification of Queen Maria-Cristina of the Two Sicilies highlighted once again the historic and continued importance and relevance of the Bourbon Two Sicilies dynasty in Italy today.

It was also the occasion when the two branches of the Two Sicilies family put aside historic differences and signed an Act of

Reconciliation in Naples. This is something many of us have been working towards for a long time and in this same spirit as the Duke of Castro would wish, I would like to warmly welcome HE Mr Guy Sainty representing the Duke of Calabria here tonight. You are most welcome.

In September, important reforms were undertaken in the Rome Summit by the Grand Magistracy which include the appointment of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice as Grand Chancellor and my appointment as Secretary General.

This delegation is proudly a two-nation organisation and we have always considered this to be one of our great strengths. The Vice Delegate Professor Richard Conroy whom I warmly welcome hosted an excellent event on the 3rd of October this year, the Delegation's Annual Irish Mass and Dinner, which I was delighted to attend.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the course of 2014, the Order has strengthened its international religious and charitable endeavour through new charitable projects in Europe, from Albania and Kosovo to Italy and Hungary, and across the world, in Southern Africa, Lesotho, and throughout the Caribbean: in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and St Lucia, St Vincent, Barbados.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Ambassador of Kosovo, here tonight, and through His Excellency to the President and Prime Minister of Kosovo for the excellent Official Visit paid by the Order to his country earlier this year as part of a regional visit which included also Albania.

A high delegation of the Order, leaded by the Grand Master and the Grand Prior has just concluded a tour of very successful Official Visits to six Caribbean nations. A number of high profile charitable projects were

announced in education, national patrimony, inter-religious understanding, social and community welfare during each visit which were hosted by the Governor Generals, Presidents and Prime Ministers of each nation.

I was amazed and surprised to find out that in some of the countries we visited, Cardinal Martino was the first ever Cardinal to have paid a visit or to have celebrated Mass and so I feel we should not leave him alone too long in this record. I am sure especially on a cold and wet evening like this, that Cardinal Cormac would be most welcome as well in the sunny islands of the Caribbean.

To mark the new international engagement of the Order, the Grand Master announced in Antigua and Barbuda the creation of a Permanent Delegation for the Caribbean to include illustrious newly appointed chaplains of the Order such as His Eminence Kelvin Cardinal Felix, His Grace Archbishop Robert

Rivas of Castries, Bishop Kenneth Richards, the Most Rev., Bishop of Roseau, the Most Rev. Gabriel Malzaire and The Most Reverend Charles Jason Gordon, Bishop of Kingstown and Bridgetown.

The new delegation will allow 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 regional Leaders in the Vatican. These small nations have founded their national identity on their multifaceted Christian values.

Ladies and gentlemen,

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 fostering inter-religious understanding between the followers of all faiths and of none. We remain

true to our Roman Catholic heritage yet proud of our diversity.

It is again the Holy Father who chose Albania for his first visit to a European country, a land of historical peaceful religious coexistence, to remind us of the importance of the the inter-religious understanding and harmony among different faiths in our societies.

Finally, I would like to thank the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, present tonight and the Chancery Staff, Xhoana Papakostandini, Talat Gokdemir and Dita Krauze.

Dear Friends,

In conclusion, tonight's dinner mixes the long traditions of our Constantinian Order, with the ancient traditions of the City of London. 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, gathering resources and building relationships and channeling them to make the world a better place and most especially keeping in mind those in need. Long may this continue and may I conclude by wishing each of you a wonderful evening.

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES.