



Dear Confreres and Consoeurs,

As the interim Grand Master I would like to take the time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It has been a tough year for all of us with the loss of my uncle, our dear Grand Master, Carlos Gereda. But I am certain that all of us, along with the Grand Magistral Council and all the Heads of Jurisdictions, are doing everything we can to make this transition as smooth and seamless as possible.

I want to assure everyone that until the Chapter General takes place next year, my only priority will be to continue our late Grand Master's legacy and view.

I realize I am a bit younger than my uncle and my father, and that many people still haven't met me. But my nearly twenty six years dedicated to the Order, show, that I am more than committed and capable of developing this task. To help with this, I have taken it upon myself assisted by a highly qualified team, to create a new communication plan and an exclusive crowd funding platform for the Order.

We live in an era of connectivity and communication and as an international organization we should be able to take advantage of this. I truly believe this will be of great benefit for the wellbeing and survival of this great Order.

Francisco de Borbón von Hardenberg

Interim Gran Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem