



Madrid, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Saint Lazarus,

First of all I wanted to thank everyone for the beautiful words and all the prayers that were sent to me as condolence for the loss of my sister and my mother. It has been the most difficult month of my life, but all these kind words and thoughts are helping me get through it.

I wanted to reach out to everyone in this difficult time and during this horrible pandemic to give a message of hope. I tested positive for the Covid-19 virus in early March and was hit fairly hard with the virus. The doctors believe it was because of all the time I was spending in the hospital while caring for my mother. I quarantined myself from March 8 and I've been able to heal and beat this virus from my home. I have a final test this Wednesday to confirm that I am fully cured. But please be assured that I am as healthy as ever and as motivated as ever to be your Grand Master and continue on my mission to make this Order the best it can be.

Just like I did, we all can beat this horrible pandemic and we will move forward and continue to do amazing work as an Order.

I understand that a large group of our members are in the "high risk" sector. So, I'd like to remind you and stress the importance of staying home and performing social distancing, even if your city hasn't made it mandatory. Many politicians are ill prepared or acting as is necessary to protect us, so we need to take it upon ourselves

to stay safe. It will be a short time to make these sacrifices, but they will save many lives.

I would also like everyone to know that in our private company we have been busy helping governments and medical facilities with acquisition of the much needed medical supplies to be able to fight this pandemic. I'm speaking to the members of the GMC to put together a plan or campaign where St Lazarus can be involved in specific projects in order to help out as much as possible. We really need to focus on helping out the people and places in most need. We will be informing everyone and including the heads of jurisdictions as soon as possible in order to have a concrete plan.

At this time, I would like to ask everyone to continue to pray for all the people who we have lost during these tragic times and to keep us all safe and vigilant in order to move past this tough moment.

Please be safe and monitor each other to make sure we get through this as well as possible.

We will continue to be the Order of St Lazarus and we will continue to do our great work around the world.

Sincerely,

Atavis et Armis

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, somewhat abstract representation of the name.

Francisco de Borbón Graf von Hardenberg  
The Grand Master