

MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM



OFFERING TO THE APOSTLE

*Lord Saint James,
Apostle and Patron Saint of Spain,*

I come to this Cathedral of Compostela, as Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, to offer you once again our determined will to live Christianity with a fervently renewed dedication in a world that questions and fights viciously traditional values and customs. In spite of this, the spirit of Saint James which summons the faithful and pilgrims of all nations, has remained strong; a spirit found in all the “ways” that come to this “Campo da Estella” (Compostela), where you will rest until the end of time.

A religious spirit that has contributed as nothing else to spread the idea of Europe, as our common home, which found here an impulse of unity and exchange, promoting the encounter of people, to the point of making the Saint James Way the first example of cultural exchange. A spirit that has enabled us to overcome the old concept of borders, and consolidate an unparalleled monumental, artistic, documentary, and literary Heritage.

Today, after so many generations, these “ways” are full of pilgrims coming from afar, crossing oceans and countries to reach the “Monte do Gozo” and feel the joy of making out these towers. This joy which is a daily miracle occurring during this jubilee year, year of the great forgiveness.

To arrive in this Cathedral, to come in pilgrimage to Santiago, for the Knights and Dames of our Order of Saint Lazarus “he who was raised from the dead”, is to aim at something different in a world dominated by immediate targets, and find the opportunity of encountering the greatness of this “way”. Our world has fallen in the temptation of materialism. All the moral values of our forefathers are questioned and evil is shown as relative. Help us, Lord Saint James, to know how to fight these wrong doings with the best weapon we have: Christian love.

We come to kneel before you, Christians of different confessions: Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, together longing for unity in the Baptism and Faith of Christ which characterizes us and makes us unique amongst the Orders of Christian Chivalry. This ecumenical movement is driven by the Holy Spirit whose impulse we will specially beg for tomorrow, Whitsun, and the desire of the re-establishment of unity is a divine vocation. Help us, Lord Saint James, to persevere in obtaining this yearning.

Help us, Lord Apostle, to preserve and improve what we have all achieved, to encourage the collective thrill and set aside personal interests, selfishness and inflexibility. Extend your protection to our country, Spain, as you have always done, and to the many nations represented here by their

pilgrims; that we may overcome difficulties; that our youth may find the generous spirit of solidarity of the “way”; that they may know how to identify the truth that lights up the path.

I also bring with my offering, Lord Saint James, the command received by the ancient travelers passing through medieval villages: of those that wish to come and cannot do so; of the helpless; of the sick and in hospital; to those victims of the dangers of drugs and to all those that have difficulties in the access to a decent home and work; to those who live away from homeland, to soldiers in different missions and to the immigrants that arrive daily in other countries looking for a better future.

Lord Saint James, allow the values of the “way” that bring us here to live within us: the value of individual effort and to know how to propose a target, to fulfill a stage each day, to look for solidarity, to long overcoming and the banish indifference. That our teachers and masters may know how to transmit these values to future generations.

Lord Saint James, Patron Saint of Galicia and Spain, we are here at your Shrine to beg you to protect our Order of Saint Lazarus. That your silver cape may be the mantle where we can find refuge and I humbly request of your generosity that the Apostolic shelter may reach our brothers all over the world. I also beg your paternal blessing, through the merits of Saint Lazarus, the friend of Jesus. Amen.

by H.E. Grandmaster **Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis de Almazán**

*during the Pilgrims-Mass in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela
Saturday , 21. May 2010, 12.00*

*in presence of 420 members of the Order, thousands of worldwide pilgrims
and the 42 present Heads of the national jurisdictions*