



On the occasion of the forthcoming Easter festivity, I am sending my most cordial greetings to all the members of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem with the hope that the light of the Risen Christ will bring them serenity and peace.

The Paschal victory of Christ establishes the sovereignty of the love of God that conquers death: freedom takes over from slavery, and sadness is replaced by joy. Christ reconciles us with God our Father, rich in mercy, with our neighbour, and with creation, which we are called on to respect by preserving and enhancing the resources offered for the service of mankind.

The news of Christ's resurrection opens horizons in our present and future towards the ultimate meaning of our lives and the destiny of the universe. We must throw away sadness and resignation and open ourselves to the courage of hope.

We do not seek among the dead for the one who is the Living, we live in the light of the resurrection of Christ, we sing joyful songs that reflect the Paschal joy in our heart of stone transformed into a heart of flesh, a living heart for living men who reach eternal life through death which is both lamentable and meaningless.

Easter greetings are more than just a wishful hope, they spring from the certainty that the victory of the Risen Christ is our victory and nourish the Church prayer that makes us ask the Father to "renew us in the Spirit and allow us to be reborn in the light of the Risen Lord."

+ Michele Pennisi

Ecclesiastical Grand Prior of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem