

**EASTER 2020 MESSAGE  
AND HISTORIC ACT OF CONSECRATION OF THE ORDER  
TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

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The Prelate of the Order of Malta**

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2020**



**Introduction**

Dear fellow Brothers and Sisters, Knights and Dames of our Order,  
Dear Brother Chaplains,  
Dear Friends, Volunteers and Young Members,

I am very happy that I may address to you in this Easter Sunday. Blessed and Happy Easter ! The current situation related to the diffusion of the Coronavirus does not allow us to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord in our churches , with our communities of faithful, as we would have done normally. So, in communion with the Risen Lord present among us and in communion with all the members of our Order, specially with our Grand Master and with all those we serve, I will now invite you to listen to the page of today's Gospel (John 20, 1-9) that will be followed by a brief commentary.

Then I shall proclaim the prayer of consecration of our Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is an historical event, a one-of-a-kind act, that is done by the express wish and under the authority of the eightieth Grand master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, the only person who has the authority to decide it. All the members of the Order must know that from this day on, the Sovereign Order of Malta has been consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This process involves committing the whole Order to a deepening of our spirituality at this particular moment of our history.

At the personal level, each person is invited to place themselves before God with confidence and with determination, in order to love and to serve their brothers, with the sentiments which were those of Christ Jesus, to place themselves in the school of his Heart, according to the words of the Lord Himself. Anyone who chooses to take this path in their life entrusts the step they are taking to the maternal solicitude of Mary: She is the privileged way which leads to her Son.

To conclude, I would like to present you and your families my best wishes for a holy and happy Easter.

## From the Gospel according to saint John 20, 1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them :

*They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.*

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first ; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

### Commentary

The beloved disciple, in whom the Tradition recognises the author of the Fourth Gospel, refers to an experience which is both personal and ecclesial. He finds himself together with Peter, both of them struck in their mourning and in their sadness at the death of Jesus, when Mary of Magdalen comes to meet them and informs them that the Lord has disappeared from the tomb in which he had been laid. Together, they begin to run; John stops in front of the tomb, allowing Peter to enter first and, in this way, to discover the founding event of the faith of the Church. John follows him into the tomb and, speaking about himself, in a formula of extraordinary depth, states: *he saw and he believed*.

We may ask ourselves, quite simply, what John had seen and what he believed. He sees only the empty tomb, and the linen cloths and the cloth which had been over his head, but the interpretation of this fact, already in itself unheard of, imposes itself upon him through an illumination of his spirit and of his heart, in an act of faith which is inspired by the word of the Scriptures: *the disciples had not understood*, says the Evangelist, *that Jesus was to rise from the dead in accordance with the Scriptures*. Without seeing, John believed that Jesus had risen.

Dear brothers and sisters, we find ourselves today in the same position as Peter and John when they ran to the tomb, struck, ourselves too, by sadness and, for many, by mourning, in a trial which today has struck the whole of humanity. The proclamation remains the same: Christ has risen! This does not cease to be a proclamation of joy: death has been defeated and, through the victory of the Risen Lord, the gates of heaven have been thrown open. Christ is risen. Christ is truly risen. *You are the Son of God. You have the words of eternal life!* A blessed Easter to you and to your loved ones; wishing you strength, hope and consolation from Christ, the Lord.

**THE CONSECRATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM, OF RHODES AND OF MALTA  
TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

*In the name of His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto; I am now going to proclaim the prayer of the Act of Consecration of our Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

**O, Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
O, Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Superabundant source of the living waters of the Holy Spirit and of the charity of God,**

**We consecrate to you, in complete submission and love, the Sovereign Military  
and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.**

**We offer you our spirits and our bodies, our souls and our hearts, our interior  
and our exterior goods, everything that we are and everything that we have.**

**We entrust you all those to whose service we are sent, our lords, the sick and the poor.  
We ask you always to recognise in them the face of Christ, the Lord.**

**We entrust you also all those who assist them.**

**We implore you to surround us all with your holy protection, especially in times of trial.**

**We beg you to make of each one of us, Religious, Obediences, Knights and Dames, Chaplains,  
Volunteers, Young Members, humble and superabundant Instruments of Your Charity  
and loving servants of our brothers in need.**

**Make of us true servants of the graces received by our family throughout the length  
of its history, through the intercession of our Patron, Saint John the Baptist, of our Founder,  
Blessed Gerard, respecting our traditions, being firmly resolved to be of service  
to the most deprived of our brothers, and in unshakable fidelity to the Holy Church  
and to her Supreme Pastor, the Successor of Peter.**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in You!  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, intercede for us!**