



From the Desk of
**H.E. Ulisses José Pauleta Rolim,
Count of Rolim and Reigada**

Grand Prior of the
Royal Confraternity of São Teotónio [RCST]



The Grand Prior's Christmas Message 2016

As 2016 draws to a close we should not only pause for a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved throughout the last twelve months, but take some time out to think about all those peoples around-the-world who have been affected and suffered in some way by both natural and man-made disasters: destruction, sickness, famine, dispersal and exile.

Around the globe borders are being redrawn, political landscapes are changing and evolving at such a rapid pace that we find ourselves in an uncertain world - and in uncertain times - where social standards are depreciating and economies are failing with many struggling to find sustained work to be able to make ends meet and put food on the table; even those of our ilk are affected in some way, or know of someone who is doing it tough.

This Festive Season spare a thought for, and consider those less fortunate and make it your goal to bring a little joy and happiness into somebody's life.

As Christ entreated his apostles: treat, respect, provide for and do unto others as you would have them do to, and for you. Look, see, and don't wait to be asked for help; if you see a stranger in need, afford that help which you can without want of recognition, reward, or otherwise. Never judge a person by his or her looks, or treat a person with disdain because tomorrow that person could be your Saviour!

That we are able to render help to others in need is a truly magical experience; to be able to alleviate suffering when all hope seems lost; to be able to put a smile on a despondent person's face - these are truly humbling experiences.

Your continued support, generosity, hard work, dedication, commitment, loyalty and friendship is very much appreciated and has not gone unnoticed.

And as always, many of our Members have rendered outstanding, exemplary and special meritorious service in supporting, promoting and furthering the worldwide charitable causes, initiatives, endeavours, activities, and projects of our Royal Confraternity of Saint Teotónio (RCST).

We have pursued a number of charitable endeavours which included the provision of financial support for "The World in Postcards" contest (Estonia); donations to the Home Egalité Des Chances (HEC) in Burundi and the Kadaka Elementary School for children with special needs (Estonia), as well as assistance to the Fedasil Center (Belgium).

Our RCST is blessed and undeniably privileged to have among its number many Heads of Royal and Noble Houses, Princes, Spiritual Protectors, Ecclesiastics, Dignitaries, and indeed countless high-calibre Members whom - with drive, initiative and sincere intentions - have selflessly demonstrated a sustained and on-going commitment to the Principles, Aims and Statutes of our RCST.

We could not hope to further our worldwide charitable initiatives, endeavours, activities, and projects without the continued effort and sustained dedication of our Royal Patron, Royal, and Spiritual Protectors, Chaplains, RCST Officers, Members, friends, supporters and volunteers; some of whom have passed away this past year.

With great sadness we report that our beloved brother H.M. King Kigeli V Ndahindurva Mwami of Rwanda recently left this world to meet the Risen Lord; to the Royal Family, his entourage and friends of His late Majesty, and to all of the People of Rwanda we offer our sincere, heartfelt and respectful condolences.

We remember too: Cav. Ytsen "Boy" Zeilstra; Cav. John Raymond Lippert, Baron of Iyasu Castle; Cav. Lt. Col. Joachim Penschke, and Cav. Guy Wautot. May they all eternally rest in peace with Our Lord.

And it has been a real privilege and a pleasure to personally meet with those of you who have attended at, and supported many of our Investitures, gala events and charitable occasions that were held in Toledo (Spain), London (United Kingdom), Tallinn (Estonia), Limont (Belgium), and in Carlisle (United States of America).

To all, I remind you that our second quadrennial International Chapter, Pilgrimage and Investiture Ceremony will be held at Santander, Spain on 6 May 2017.

Remember well, and forget not that the essence of the Festive Season is not something that should be forgotten, discarded and lost at the dawn of the New Year; the spirit of selflessly giving to, and helping those less fortunate than ourselves should resonate throughout the whole year.

So to all RCST Officers, Members, Friends and Supporters, I wish you all:

Feliz Natal e Próspero Ano Novo
[Portuguese / Português]

Häid Jõule ja Head Uut Aastat
[Estonian / Eesti Keel]

გილოცავთ შობა-ახალ წელს
[Georgian / ქართული]

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος
[Greek / Ελληνικά]

Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
[Italian / Italiano]

¡Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!
[Spanish / Español]

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
[English]

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année
[French / Français]

Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr
[German / Deutsch]

Kellemes Karácsonyt és Boldog új Évet
[Hungarian / Magyar]

Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku
[Polish / Polski]

Веселого Різдва і з Новим Роком
[Ukrainian / українська]

'Surge Rex Meus Erige Regnum Tuum'



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