



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 2017

Many, if not all of us, have (or know of someone who has) been touched, affected, or suffered in some way by world events, natural disasters, social upheaval, political folly and personal trials during this past year; indeed for some, 2017 has been a horrendous year fraught with many ups-and-downs.

Around the globe borders have been redrawn, political landscapes have changed and are evolving at such a rapid pace that we find ourselves in an uncertain world - and in uncertain times, more so now than ever before - where inherent traditional Christian values and our stoic faith are being continually challenged and tested as we slide into an abyss where our social standards are being defiled and depreciating, where our morals are being attacked and corrupted, where economies are failing and many are doing it tough and struggling to find sustained work to be able to make ends meet and put food on the table for their families; even those of our own ilk are affected in some way.

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 someone's life. Pay-it-forward and help someone in need; bring those alone into your life, invite a neighbour to your table, provide a meal for somebody less fortunate, give hope to a stranger.

Whatever happens, I am quietly confident and sincere in the belief that our creator is utilizing us as we assist those less fortunate among us and those whom we endeavor to help.

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 hesitation, 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.

Brothers Confrades or Sister Confreira, I take this opportunity to remind you all of your obligations "*to defend Christian values; to maintain the spirit of, to remember, and to promote devotion to Saint Teotónio (Portugal's first Saint); to support our charitable endeavours, initiatives and projects in all ways possible - and to help your fellow Confreres in need.*"

It is the obligation of all Confreres to attend at Investitures, and to support our fund raising functions, dinners and events, especially when these are held at the location, or country of a Confrere's abode.

As 2017 draws to a close I would like to congratulate and sincerely thank you all for your enthusiasm, generosity, support and hard work throughout the year; to those who travelled great distances and selflessly expended much time, effort

and expense to support our beloved RCST and to promote and further our worldwide charitable causes, initiatives, endeavours, activities, and projects of our Royal Confraternity of Saint Teotónio (RCST) – thank you!

Throughout the year we held a number of official functions, and gala events around-the-world, with Investitures held at Evora (Portugal), London (UK), Moscow (Russia), Santander (Spain), Tallinn (Estonia), The Hague (Netherlands); a pilgrimage to Santo Toribio de Liebana (Spain) and to the Holy Land too where I had the distinct pleasure to meet with many of you personally.

Our charitable undertakings included a monetary donation to 'Project Man' (Proyecto Hombre, Spain) and the provision of financial support to other causes.

On a more sombre note, we remember those of our number whom have passed away this past year and left the world to meet the Risen Lord. To the families, friends and associates of all, we offer our sincerest, heartfelt and respectful condolences: Rev. Belmiro Narino de Campos; Cav. David Moran; Cav Don Carlos Gereda y de Borbón, Marquis of Almazan, and Cav Commander Larry D. Baron Perkins.

Please 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 Patrons, 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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