



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 2018

As 2018 draws to a close we should not only pause a few moments 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 touched in some way by natural and man-made disasters.

Many, if not all of us, have been affected and suffered in some way because of world events, natural disasters, social upheaval, political folly and personal trials during this past year; indeed for some, 2018 has been a bumpy ride fraught with many ups-and-downs.

Around the globe life for many is 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 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 endeavour 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, hear and don't wait to be asked for help; if you see a someone 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.

Throughout 2018 we held a number of official functions, gala, and charitable events around-the-world with Investitures held at Tallinn (Estonia), Cevide (Portugal), London (UK), St Petersburg and Moscow (Russia).

With our ongoing charitable initiatives, good works and undertakings we were able to raise much needed funds to provide for, and support many in need.

2018 also saw a number of watershed moments in the history of our beloved RCST.

By the Grace of God, and through the most generous bequest of our esteemed RCST Brother, Confrade Mario Monteiro we did institute the RCST KNIGHTS' CHAPTER CHAPEL in Cevide (Portugal) on Wednesday 2 May 2018.

On Tuesday 26 June 2018 our RCST Spiritual Protector and General Chaplain, H.E. Most Rev. D. Francisco Jose Villas-Boas Senra de Faria Coelho was appointed the Archbishop of Evora.

And now we look forward with much anticipation and expectation to February 2019 when we will gather in Cevide (Portugal) to dedicate our RCST Knight's Chapter Chapel (the Capela de Santo António de Cevide / Chapel of St Anthony of Cevide).

During the weekend of 15-18 February 2019 we will celebrate the official unfurling of the Heraldic Standards and Vimpel Pennants of our Brothers Confrade and Sisters Confreira.

That being said, I now take this opportunity Brothers Confrades or Sister Confreira 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,*" especially when these are held at the location, or country of your abode.

To all, 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!

On a more sombre note, we remember those of our number who 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: Manuel Bosco Lázaro (Papa Joe) and Cav. Norman Offield.

Please remember well, and never forget that the essence of the Festive Season is not something that should be forgotten, discarded or lost at the dawn of the New Year; the spirit of charity, selflessly giving to, and helping those less fortunate than ourselves should resonate throughout the whole year.

Let us all hold fast to the principle that each person should take some time to help out, assist and nurture others – especially those genuinely less fortunate, disadvantaged, and needy – wherever, whenever, and in whatever way they can in order that those lacking might aspire to higher ideals, standards and values.

So to all of our RCST Protectors (Royal and Spiritual), our 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'*



Ulisses José Pauleta Rolim, Count of Rolim and Reigada  
Grand Prior of the Royal Confraternity of São Teotónio (RCST)

22 November 2018