Declaration on the Ninth Centenary of the Royal Recognition of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

THE Brotherhood of Saint Lazarus was formed in the early 12th century, and first recognized by a document of donation of King Louis VI of France in 1112, and shortly after by similar documents of King Henry II of England before 1121, and King Fulk of Jerusalem in 1142.

IN 1255, the Order was canonically recognized by the Bull *Cum a Nobis Petitur* of Pope Alexander IV as a Hospitaller and Military Order of Chivalry under the Rule of Saint Augustine.

IN 1262, Pope Urban IV in the bull *Circa Prelatarum Jerosolymitanorum* placed the Order of Saint Lazarus in Acre, the last city still held by Crusaders in the Holy Land, under the protection and authority of the Patriarch of Jerusalem to the exclusion of all other episcopal control.

IN 1607 and 1608, the Bulls *Romanus Pontifex* and *Militantium Ordinum* of Pope Paul V established the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a lay order, which King Henry IV of France immediately merged with the knights and possessions of the French Order of Saint Lazarus. The King of France was given the right to nominate the Grand Master of the Order.

CARDINAL Legate de Vendôme confirmed in the Bull *Ludovicus Sanctae Mariae* of 1668, under Papal authority of Clement IX, the union of the Orders of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and affirmed that the United Orders had the authority that each order had previously enjoyed, singly and jointly, under apostolic authority, and specifically the

rights and privileges enumerated under the Bulls of Popes Pius IV, Pius V and Paul V.

IN those Bulls, Pius IV in *Inter Assiduas Dominici* in 1565 reconfirmed the privileges granted to the Order by previous Popes, confirmed the Order's mandate for service to lepers and the defense of the Church, and gave the Grand Master, as elected by a council of knights and with the election confirmed by the Protector, full power and authority over the Order. He also provided that the Order possessed the same honours, privileges, exemptions and jurisdictions as the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Pius V in *Sicut Bonus Agricola* reconfirmed these privileges.

ON 12 March 1825, the Minister of King Charles X of France indicated that the United Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem and Our Lady of Mount Carmel was to be left to become extinct, which under canon law would occur one hundred years after the death of the last member if the Order was not canonically re-organized. The last legitimately admitted member died in 1856, leaving a window for valid canonical reorganization open until 1956.

SUBSEQUENT to this declaration and the relinquishment of all protection and control of the United Orders of Saint Lazarus and Our Lady of Mount Carmel by the French monarchy, the Protection of the Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch of Antioch, of all the East, of Alexandria and of Jerusalem (in full communion with the Apostolic See) was sought and obtained for such a reorganization of the Order, and the legitimate admission of members, under his authority. Spiritual Protection of this same Order of Saint Lazarus was granted by Patriarch Maximos III (Mazloum) in 1841 and continued by his successors, and through His Beatitude Gregorios III, Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria and of Jerusalem, with authority vested in the Grand Master, Grand Magistral Council and Chapter-General in accordance with the constitution of the Order.

GIVEN at Kevelaer, Germany, this 27th day of May 2012, the Feast of Pentecost.

The Marquis of Almazan

HIS EXCELLENCY DON CARLOS GEREDA DE BOURBON, MARQUIS OF ALMAZAN AND GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER OF ST LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM.

KEVELAER DECLARATION

ON the occasion of this pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Kevelaer, we want to confirm, once more, the Spiritual Protection of the Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, of Alexandria and of Jerusalem, which was granted in 1841 by our venerated predecessor Patriarch Maximos III (Mazloum) to the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, was continued by his successors, and especially confirmed by Patriarch Maximos IV (Sayegh), of blessed memory, on February 11, 1965.

EARLIER, on June 3, 1911, Patriarch Cyril VIII (Géha) had blessed the modern re-organization of the Order.

ACCORDINGLY, we commend and encourage the continuation and expansion of the Order's traditional charitable and hospitaller work in its ecumenical dimension, under the authority and governance of the Grand Master, presently His Excellency Don Carlos Gereda de Bourbon, Marquis of Almazan, and of the

Grand Magistral Council, in accordance with its constitution and statutes.

WE wish that the good relations between the Order and the Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarchate will continue and grow, especially for an efficient support of the charitable and hospitaller projects of the Patriarch and the Patriarchate.

ON this special occasion, we bestow our Apostolic blessing to all the members of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.

GIVEN at Kevelaer in Germany this 27th day of May 2012, the Feast of Pentecost.

✠ GREGORIOS III, PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST, OF ALEXANDRIA AND OF JERUSALEM.

The Marquis d'Alcantara

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