

«CRONACHE COSTANTINIANE»
(“Constantinian Chronicles”)

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF
THE SACRED MILITARY CONSTANTINIAN ORDER OF ST. GEORGE**

JULY 2001 — NUMBER 15



**THOUGHTS FROM THE HOMILY GIVEN ON 30 MAY 2001
IN THE BASILICA OF ST. GEORGE *AL VELABRO*
FOR THE FEAST OF ST. FERDINAND THE KING
BY HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MARIO FRANCESCO POMPEDDA
GRAND PRIOR OF
THE SACRED MILITARY CONSTANTINIAN ORDER OF ST. GEORGE**

1. Today we celebrate this liturgy rite in the Roman Basilica of St. George *al Velabro*, an especially appropriate place because of the richness of its historical memories, which tell us not only of greatness, but of that civilization which the “*civitas Urbis*” knew how to spread to the entire world, uniting the most diverse peoples with its law and its “*humanitas*”. These memories are perpetuated and given new life in their splendor by the superimposition over the centuries of the Christian message, the witness of which is given life by the blood of the martyrs which was spilled so abundantly in this very area.

That witness is necessarily before us in this basilica dedicated to that officer of the army, St. George of Cappadocia. For him, the acceptance of the Christian faith meant, first of all, the divestment of all his goods, which were distributed to the poor. However, it also meant that he was called to openly and courageously proclaim that faith before the Court. He did not fear that his refusal to sacrifice to idols might lead — as, in fact, it did lead — to his martyrdom.

2. It is not only the place which inspires us in our thoughts this evening, but also the feast of St. Ferdinand, whose royal majesty was characterized above all by his being a architect of unity: and unity meant concord, prosperity, and peace. He was also that most Christian monarch who was able to free peoples from slavery, restoring the Catholic religion in many places.

The great movements of our time — which often resemble Biblical transmigrations — occur before our eyes. It will not be the task of arms and struggle to preserve our Christian civilization, but it must be that of our faith, the witness of which has an undeniable and vital value for humanity today. It will be the courage of living that faith coherently and proclaiming it with assurance.

St. Ferdinand, in addition to his virtues and his actions worthy of a king, united the capacity of being a model ruler of his people with a wide articulation of his humanity, together with a most pious devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He was a true monarch and a saint.

3. Our reflection today will be deeper if we take in mind the Biblical readings of the Eucharistic liturgy which we celebrate, continuing with what we have thus far considered.

The passage from the Book of Wisdom (10:10-14) invites us to affirm that the wisdom of the just has as its center, its inspiration, its ultimate criterion, God alone. Only the absolute can be the foundation of a true wisdom:

any other foundation is vacuous, leading to fragility and the annihilation of our being and our living.

Wisdom become prudence — and thus the virtue of right conduct — when, according to the meaning of the Gospel (Luke 19:12-26), the Christian makes the effort to conduct himself in a manner so as to use the gifts he has received: all of his gifts, whether of an intellectual nature or of a spiritual nature. Thus, once again, we have the principle that faith without works is dead.

4. In this spiritual and religious setting — the place where we find ourselves, the feast which we celebrate today, the sacred Liturgy of the Word — we have and, I would add, we can characterize the admission of new Knights and Dames of the Constantinian Order of St. George.

This rite cannot but have a precise significance — in fact, its very reason for being. In the investiture and in the conferral of these honors, I would see and affirm something which goes beyond the externals: the meaningful symbol of an ideal freely and knowingly accepted and pursued. The ideal of reaffirming the values historically lived by the Fathers, the concrete expression of the very identity of the Christian. Only here do we find the foundation of belonging to the Order, whose origins are only thus understood and justified.

But consciousness of Christian identity cannot help but cause us to spread our faith in the society in which we live. Faith is not only the adhesion to a creed, but needs to develop into the spreading of the fundamental commandment of love. This is expressed and concretized in solidarity with each and every man. Thus a constant social commitment to humanity, today more than ever hungry, not only for material bread, but also and above all for the values which give meaning to the existence of each individual.

5. I would like to conclude our joyous assembly of prayer, and particularly this rite, by expressing a renewed commitment for the future of the Order and of those who are honored to be a part of it. Let us make of the Order a sodality which above all nourishes itself and is nourished by a sane culture, rediscovering the true and great values of an authentic humanism, rooted in the inestimable dignity of Man. May the Order always find its ideal and its inspiration and characterization in the Christian faith which is properly Catholic. May the Order be inspired to always participate in society, civil and ecclesial, affirming and making real the great values — human and Christian — which the past has handed to us.

Amen.



4 January

A special representation of the American Delegation took part in the entrance procession and participated in the Holy Mass for the canonical installation of **H.E. the Most Reverend Theodore McCarrick**, Archbishop of Washington, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Among the concelebrants at the solemn rite was **H.E. the Most Reverend Edward Egan**, Archbishop of New York.

19 January

General Gianfranco Ottogalli, Deputy Chief of the Defense Staff, received from the Grand Prefect the insignia of Commander of Merit with Star in the Order during a brief ceremony with speeches and the exchange of gifts which took place at the Armed Forces Circle in the *Palazzo Barberini* in Rome.

25 January

At the Military School of Nunziatella, **General Carlo Ciacci** received the diploma and insignia of the Order during the handing-over ceremony of his office as Inspector-General of Italian Military Schools.

In the afternoon, **Colonel Vincenzo Papaccio** and the Delegation of Campania organized a Holy Requiem Mass for the thirty days' remembrance of **H.R.H. the Prince Giovanni of Bourbon-Two Sicilies**. The Mass was celebrated in the Church of Nunziatella in the presence of the entire Neapolitan Delegation of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George and the local aristocracy. During the celebration, the goodness of the deceased

were recalled as well as the deep sentiments which united him to the city of Naples.

26 January

Together with the “*Insieme per la pace*” group of **Donna Mariapia Fanfani**, the Grand Magistry of the Order decided to donate a contribution to furnish prostheses for children and infants who have been gravely mutilated during the conflict which consumed **Eritrea** last year. The hospitaller structure which will oversee the operation is the **Halibet Hospital** which takes care of those injured in the war. It was decided to destine the contribution of the Order to these unfortunate victims and to this organization in particular because, in addition to offering help to those most seriously injured, it specialized in providing them with the medical attention they needed to guarantee their reintegration into the social fabric.

27 January

At the Apostolic Nunciature in Rome a ceremony was held during which **H.E. the Most Reverend Andrea Cordero di Montezemolo**, Apostolic Nuncio in Italy, received from the Grand Prefect the insignia of an Ecclesiastical Knight Grand Cross of Grace of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George.

Those present included: the **Prince Manfred Windisch-Graetz**, Delegate of Lazio; the **Prince Augusto Ruffo di Calabria**, Member of the Royal Deputation and Delegate of Lombardy; and **Attorney Pietro Cutellè**.

29 January

The Grand Prefect paid a courtesy visit to the offices of the daily newspaper “*Il Mattino*” at the invitation of **Dr. Paolo Gambescia**, stopping to discuss the activities carried out by and the projects undertaken by the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George in southern Italy.

Among those present were: the **Count Massimo Garzilli**, administrator of the daily newspaper; the **Prince Alessandrojacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**; **Attorney Marco Cecilia**; **Knight Eugenio Donadoni**; and **Professor Leonardo Saviano**. At this occasion there was discussed the possibility of the Order organizing a benefit evening at the Military Academy of Pozzuoli to assist a family home for children suffering from AIDS. The newspaper would support the initiative and be represented by **Mrs. Carmela Maietta**.

11 February

On the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the siege of Gaeta, in addition to the traditional throwing of flowers into the sea in memory of those who fell by the **Montagna Spaccata**, a commemorative stone plaque placed on the wall of the fortress by the bastion of the **Poterna Battery** by the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George was inaugurated. In the presence of the Mayor of the city, the plaque was blessed by **Father Elio Di Nunno**, military chaplain of the Nautical School of the Finance Guard.

Those present included: **H.E. Henri Fissore**, Ambassador to Italy of the Principality of Monaco; **H.E. the Ambassador Don Sforza Marescotti Ruspoli**; the **Prince Manfred Windisch-Graetz**, Delegate of Lazio; the **Prince Alessandrojacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**; **Attorney Seve Scafetta**; **Dr. Giuseppe Catenacci**, Chief of Staff of the President of the Campania Region; **Professor Leonardo Saviano**; **Lieutenant Colonel Mario Farnesi**, Commandant of the Nautical School of the Finance Guard; **Frigate Captain Franco Pescatori**, Commandant of the Port Authority; and **Colonel Tella**, Commandant of the Military Graphic Establishment.

A congratulatory message on the occasion of the significant occasion was sent by **H.E. the Air Force General Mario Arpino**, Knight Grand Cross of Merit.

21 February

In the tradition of the close rapport between the **Holy See**, our **Order**, and the **Royal Family**, and in accord with the Pontifical Ceremonial, the Grand Prefect, accompanied by a small delegation, attended the **Ordinary Public Concistory** celebrated at the Vatican for the creation of new Cardinals.

Having the occasion to meet the new Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, the Prince Carlo of Bourbon-Two Sicilies presented his personal congratulations to **His Eminence Cardinal Edward Michael Egan**, Archbishop of New York, and **His Eminence Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick**, Archbishop of Washington and Prior of the American Delegation, both Ecclesiastical Knights Grand Cross of Grace. He also received a special encouragement for the activities of the Order from **His Eminence Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda**, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.

3 March

H.R.H. the Duke of Calabria — accompanied by **H.E. Professor Ettore Gallo**, President of the Royal Magistral Juridical Council; the **Prince Alessandro Jacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**; and **Attorney Marco Cecilia**, Member of the Royal Magistral Juridical Council — paid an official visit to the President of the Constitutional Court, **H.E. Cesare Ruperto**, at the Court's offices in the *Palazzo della Consulta* on the *Piazza del Quirinale*. The occasion was auspicious not only to renew the institutional bonds with the Court, but because the president of the Court is an illustrious Calabrian, son of the land which is indissolubly linked to the destinies of the Royal Family.

21 March

The *Festa della Primavera* (“Spring Festival”) of Milan, organized by the **Delegation of Lombardy** of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George and its Delegate, the **Prince Augusto Ruffo di Calabria**, was a great success with 1,200 elderly participating and provoking not only enthusiasm among the participants, but also wide notice in the media.

The event takes place every year and is a moment of respite and joy for many people in their “third age” who are beneficiaries of initiatives of the “Points of Contact” of the Order and the institutions it supports in Pavia, Como, Cremona, Mantua, Novara, and Viadana.

27 March

The Grand Prefect, on an official visit to the **Military Academy of Modena**, was received by the Commandant, the **General Giuseppe Valotta**, and reviewed an honor guard lined up in the atrium of the historic Ducal Palace. The Grand Prefect was accompanied by the **Count Paolo Forni** and **Professor Leonardo Saviano**, Assistant of His Royal Highness.

After saluting the standard of the Academy and signing the honorary guest book, the central moment of the visit occurred in which the Duke of Calabria presented the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order to the **General Giuseppe Valotto**. This was followed by an exchange of gifts in the presence of the **Brigadier General Vincenzo Castelloni**, Vice-Commandant; the **Colonel Santo Chiechi**, Chief of Staff; **Colonel Rinaldo Rinaldin**, Commandant of the Regiment of Cadets; and the **Colonel Antonio Tebaldi**, Personal Assistant of the Commandant Valotto. Also present were ten cadets of the first class and ten of the second class, all in historical uniforms.

28 March

At the invitation of the Commandant, the **General Giulio Mainini**, the Grand Prefect of the Constantinian Order participated, in the presence of the **President of the Italian Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi**, at the swearing-in of the cadets of the Military Aeronautical Academy.

30-31 March-1 April

The principal French television network undertook a cultural project on the message of the Constantinian Order, contributing to the diffusion of its image and highlighting its ties to the religious reality of Naples.

The Grand Prefect, wishing to contribute to the knowledge in France of the spiritual traditions of the city of Naples and of the Constantinian Order, welcomed **Mr. Stéphan Bern** of TF1 and accompanied him to an audience with **His Eminence the Cardinal Michele Giordano**, Archbishop of the city, who spoke about the historic role of the Order in Naples. The journalist was also received by the Deputation of the Chapel of St. Januarius where he admired the artistic evidence of Bourbon piety. Afterward, he was welcomed in the Funerary Chapel of the Royal Family of Bourbon-Two Sicilies by the **Reverend Father Giuseppe Reale**, Rector of the Basilica of St. Clare, visiting as well the beautiful cloister and museum of St. Clare. He was able to tape a number of scenes which is scheduled to be broadcast on the principal French television channel on 13 July.

7-8 April

On an official visit to Calabria — accompanied by the **Prince Alessandro Jacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps** and **Attorney Marco Cecilia**, Member of the Royal Magistral Juridical Council — the Grand Prefect was welcomed by the President of the Region, **Giuseppe Chiaravallotti**. The Grand Prefect paid a visit to the local Ordinary, **H.E. the Most Reverend Vincenzo Remedio**, Bishop of Lamezia Terme. A highlight of the visit was the delivery of a

minibus to *Unitalsi*¹ for use in assisting the victims of recent flooding of **Soverato** in the **Le Giare** area. The vehicle was offered by the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George during the course of its celebration of the Constantinian Jubilee at St. Peter's Basilica last 7 October. The ceremony at Soverato took place in the presence of **Mayor Calabretta** who, for the occasion, erected a bust of **Ferdinand II** which was made in the ancient Bourbon industrial works of Mongiana. The delivery of the vehicle to **Maurizio Scelli**, Secretary General of *Unitalsi*, accompanied by its Regional President, **Giuseppe Mazzitelli**, and the President of the Catanzaro Section, **Vittoria Mazzuca**, took place at the **Salesian Institute of Soverato** in the presence of its Director, the **Reverend Father Giuseppe Cilione**, and the representative of the Region of Calabria, spokesman **Dr. Fausto Taverniti**.

At this occasion, the Grand Prefect met the Commandant of the *Carabinieri*² Station of Soverato, **Giuseppe Di Cello**, as well as **Mr. Nicola Galeano**, applauding their having saved dozens of people. The thanks of Soverato was expressed in the citation of a passage from Sacred Scripture: "He who sows in tears shall reap in joy".

The Prince Carlo — lodged at the Prefecture of Catanzaro by Prefect³ **Corrado Catenucci**, Commissioner of the national Government — participated in an evening dinner at the *San Giovanni* monumental complex to benefit the activities of the Order. Those present included: Mayor **Sergio Abramo**; the Minister for Regional Affairs, **Agnazio Loiero**; the [Regional] President, **Giuseppe Chiaravalloti**; the President of the Regional Council, **Giovanbattista Caligiuri**; the **General of the Carabinieri Roberto Borghini**; the Prefect of Crotona, **Francesco De Stefano**; the Prefecture Commissioner of Lamezia Terme, **Dino Mazzorana**; the honorable parliamentarians **D'Ippolito, Tassone, Galati, Bergamo, Colosimo, Fino**, and **Aloi**; the Regional Assessors **Zavettieri** and **Crea**; as well as prefects, mayors, magistrates, military authorities, entrepreneurs, councillors, and representatives of the Calabrian nobility such as **Selvaggia Sanseverino**, Princess of Marcellinara and **Orietta** and **Antonio Carnovale**.

The following morning, before the Mass of Passion Sunday, the Grand Prefect, leading a delegation of Constantinian Knights, participated in the solemn Procession of Palms which passed through the principal streets of the city lead by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Catanzaro, **H.E. the Most Reverend Antonio Cantisani**, assisted by the Vicar General of the Diocese of Catanzaro Squillace, **Monsignor Raffaele Racciolo**.

At the end of the important visit to Calabria, the Prince Carlo held a public press conference in the presence of the Mayor of Pizzo Calabro, **Antonio Stillitani**, during which he spoke about the activities of the Order as well as its future scope, both of which are widely connected as well to the development initiatives of Calabria.

10 April

H.R.H. the Duke of Castro, Grand Master, happy to be able to receive him into the Order, sent his beloved son, H.R.H. the Duke of Calabria, Grand Prefect, as his personal representative to visit **His Eminence the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda**, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.

During the course of the meeting at the *Palazzo della Cancelleria*, His Eminence, after receiving the notice of the conferral of the rank of Bailiff Knight Grand Cross of Justice, also accepted the nomination as Grand Prior of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George which His Royal Highness the Grand Master was pleased to propose to His Eminence. The Cardinal expressed his appreciation and asked his illustrious guest to assure his August Father of the commitment which was his in assuming the spiritual guidance of the Order. At this occasion, the Grand Prefect and His Eminence agreed on the arrangements for the solemn celebration of the canonical installation of the new Grand Prior in the presence of all the Knights, in the Basilica of St. George *al Velabro* on the liturgical feast of St. Ferdinand the King, protector of H.R.H. the Duke of Castro.

15 April

The **Delegation of Lombardy**, at the initiative of **Dame Marinella Di Capua**, on the occasion of the Solemnity of Easter, organized a distribution of gifts to elderly residents of the shelters of the city of Modena as well as to the children with leukemia of the Padiglione Onco-hematological Hospital. The gifts were accompanied by the good wishes of the Order. At the same time, it was announced that funds would soon be contributed to build new sterile rooms in that section of the hospital. Furthermore, the Delegation of Lombardy is interested in donating, through the Hospital of Modena, the necessary equipment to carry out computerized assialic tomography at the Hospital of

¹ *Editor's note:* an Italian domestic relief agency.

² *Editor's note:* Italian national militarized police force.

³ *Editor's note:* a "Prefect" is a high-ranking Italian government official who is the chief representative of the national government in a given province.

Asunción, Paraguay.

18 April

The Grand Master proceeded to name the **Prince Alessandro Jacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**, Knight of Justice, as the new Delegate of Lazio for the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George. The Grand Prefect expressed his gratitude to the **Prince Manfred Windesch-Graetz** for his work to date as head of the Delegation of Lazio.

23 April

The Grand Prefect participated at the celebration of the Holy Mass on the occasion of the Solemnity of St. George the Martyr organized in Milan by the Delegation of Lombardy. Many Constantinian Knights gathered around His Royal Highness the Prince Carlo in the Church of St. George, Protector of the Order. The Mass was followed by a large reception which, at the invitation of **Colonel Luciano Repetto**, Commandant of the Voloire Regiment, was held in the “*Santa Barbara*” Barracks. This was the occasion for a fraternal meeting of the Prince and the new Knights, including: **Professor Francesco Alberoni** and the **Air Force General Ennio Pampana**, Commandant of the First Aerial Region.

Numerous other Holy Masses commemorating the Solemnity of St. George the Martyr were celebrated by Delegations in Italy and abroad. In America, ceremonies were held in the cities of New York, Chicago, Houston, and in the federal capital of Washington, DC.

25-29 April

The visit of the Constantinian Grand Prefect to the **American Delegation** in the United States culminated 27 April with the Eucharistic Celebration at the main altar of the **Cathedral of St. Patrick** in New York, with the authorization of **His Eminence the Cardinal Edward Michael Egan**, Archbishop of New York, and officiated by **His Eminence the Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick**, Archbishop of Washington and Prior of the American Delegation, in the presence of **H.E. the Most Reverend Renato Martino**, Apostolic Nuncio⁴. New Knights were created at that occasion. The visit was characterized by various benefit celebrations. The **Twelfth Cardinals’ Dinner for the Catholic University of America** took place on 27 April with the participation of the American Delegation of the Order led by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Calabria. Among those present were **Their Eminences the Cardinals William Keeler**, Archbishop of Baltimore and new Constantinian Knight; **Bernard Law**, Archbishop of Boston; **Anthony Bevilacqua**, Archbishop of Philadelphia; **Roger Mahony**, Archbishop of Los Angeles; **Adam Maida**, Archbishop of Detroit; and **Francis George**, Archbishop of Chicago. The morning of 28 April, the solemn celebration of the Mass was preceded by an orientation meeting for the new members at the **University Club**, placed at the group’s disposition by **Richard Torrenzano**, during the course of which the **Very Reverend Father Regis Barwig**, Prior Emeritus, gave an inspired discourse on the significance of belonging to the Order and the daily applications of the militancy of the Order itself while the Delegate, **David Lacey Garrison**, presented the balance of the activities of the American Delegation during the course of the last biennium.

The entrance procession into the Cathedral was led by the **Reverend Father John Peter Pham**, Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies, and **Tim Pickles**, Lay Master of Ceremonies, assisted by **Bray Barnes**, Assistant Lay Master of Ceremonies.

After the homily of the Prior Emeritus and the reading of the decrees of investiture, the Prior blessed the insignia of the new Knights, who were presented to the Grand Prefect by the Delegate, assisted by **Bret Clesi** and the **Ambassador Thomas Patrick Melady**, who was also assisted by **John O’Malley**, standard-bearer of the American Delegation during the procession.

During the official reception which took place at seven o’clock p.m., preceding the benefit dinner organized by the Order, all the new Knights were able to pay homage to the Prince Carlo and the Princess Camilla. Those present included **H.R.I.H. the Prince Bertrand of Orléans-Bragança** and **H.E. the Ambassador Lindy Boggs**. After the dinner, **Delegate Garrison** spoke to thank all who participated and collaborated in the event. He was echoed by **Richard Torrenzano** who expressed his gratitude to all the confrères for their support. The Grand Prefect then

⁴ *Editor’s note:* Archbishop Martino holds the rank of Apostolic Nuncio and is Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York.

expressed his own congratulations to the entire American Delegation and to the Delegate in particular for the perfect conclusion and excellent organization of the visit. Finally, the **Prior** expressed his deep satisfaction and personal attachment to the Order, expressing the desire that the next Rite of Investiture would be celebrated in his own diocese of Washington with the hope of being able to welcome the Grand Master which he communicated through the Grand Prefect. The following day, 29 April, the Knights of the Constantinian Order, led by Delegate Garrison, had the privilege of participating in the procession, escorting the diocesan clergy into the Cathedral of St. Patrick.

5 May

H.R.H. the Duchess of Calabria was the **Patroness of the 212th Class “Mak Ć”** of the Military School of Nunziatella.

Accompanied by the Prince Carlo and welcomed by the Commandant, the **Colonel Vincenzo Papaccio**, the Princess Camilla attached the “banner” ornamented with her monogram with the Crown to the trumpet. She then presented the three top students with a prize consisting of a trip to the United States of America to complement their historical-cultural and international military formation of the cadets of the glorious School. As a further sign of the benevolence of the Royal House of Bourbon and of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George, in keeping with a renewed and living tradition, it was decided to establish a triple scholarship entitled “*Viaggio nel Regno di Napoli*” (“Voyage in the Kingdom of Naples”) to commemorate the deeds of the Bourbon army and to encourage historical and literary studies inherent to them.

After the lining-up of the cadets and the assumption of the command of the ranks by the Commandant of the Cadet Battalion, the *labarum* of the National Association of Nunziatella and the Banner of the Nunziatella Military School were placed before the ranks. Military honors were rendered to the **General Giuseppe Valotto**, Commandant of the Military Academy of Modena, on whom the Military School of Nunziatella depends.

The honors given to the *labarum* of the National Association of ex-students of the Nunziatella and to the Banner of the Military School were preceded and followed by the passage of standard from the 211th to the 212th Class, including the presentation of the banner by H.R.H. the Duchess of Calabria. During the change of the honor guard, the notes of the fanfare of the 10th Battalion of the *Carabinieri* accompanied the ceremony, saluted by all the military personnel present at attention.

The special delegation of the Order which accompanied Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Calabria was constituted by: **H.E. the Prince Paolo Boncompagni Ludovisi**, President of the Royal Deputation; **Don Giuseppe de Vargas Machuca**, Delegate of Campania; the **Commander Girolamo De Lucia**, Delegate of Terra di Lavoro; the **Noble Attorney Ugo Patroni Griffi di Faivano**, Delegate of Puglia; the **Count Ernesto Vitetti**; and the **Knight Eugenio Donadoni**.

Others present included: the Prefect of Naples, **Carlo Ferrigno**; the **Air Force Brigadier General Antonio Urbani**; the Quaestor, **Nicola Izzo**; the **Admiral Di Donato**; the President of the Court of Appeals, **Aldo Apone**; the President of the *Corte dei Conti*⁵, **Salvatore Staro**; **Dr. Giuseppe Catenacci**, Chief of Staff of the President of the Region of Campania; the President of the Military Tribunal, **Lucio Molinari**; the President of the National Association of the Nunziatella, **Antonio Concina**; and journalist **Carmela Maietta**.

In the afternoon, the Prince and Princess participated in the traditional **Miracle of St. Januarius**, welcomed by **His Eminence the Cardinal Michele Giordano**, Archbishop of Naples and Bailiff Knight Grand Cross of Justice, and by the Deputation of St. Januarius.

9 May

The Grand Prefect, together with H.R.H. the Duchess of Calabria, and a small representation of the Order, participated with **Mrs. Bernadette Chirac**, wife of the President of the French Republic, as well as with **H.R.H. the Prince Consort Henry of Denmark** in an evening organized by “**Europa Nostra**” (“Our Europe”) at the castle of Vincennes. They left a donation for the historical edifice.

11 May

At the invitation of **H.M. the King Simeon II of Bulgaria**, T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, accompanied by **H.E. the Ambassador Antonio Benedetto Spada**, Grand Treasurer, participated in an important evening of the “**Rosa Bulgara**” which was held in the salons of the Senate of the French Republic at Paris.

⁵ *Editor’s note*: a upper-level tax and fiscal court.

27 May

Received by **H.E. Henri Fissore**, Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco in Italia, a special delegation of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George took part this year in the traditional reception held at the Embassy of Monaco on the occasion of the 78th birthday of **H.S.H. the Prince Rainier III**, Sovereign Prince of Monaco. Among those present for the occasion were: **H.E. the Ambassador Marchese Aldo Pezzana Capranica del Grillo**, Grand Chancellor; **H.E. the Prince Paolo Boncompagni Ludovisi**, President of the Royal Deputation; the **Prince Alessandrojacobpo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**, Delegate of Lazio; **Dr. Giovanni Piero Sanna**, Delegate of Sardinia; **Attorney Marco Cecilia**, Member of the Royal Magistral Juridical Council; and **Professor Leonardo Saviano**, Assistant of H.R.H. the Duke of Calabria.

H.E. the Grand Chancellor of the Constantinian Order had that same day a fruitful conversation with **H.E. René Novella**, Secretary of State of H.S.H. the Sovereign Prince of Monaco, with a view to delineating the important benefit initiatives which the Monaco Association of Constantinian Knights intends to undertake in the Principality this coming fall.

30 May

The Royal Deputation of the Order met at the Chancery of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George in the presence of **His Eminence the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda**, Grand Prior, and **H.R.H. the Prince Carlo of Bourbon-Two Sicilies**, Duke of Calabria and Grand Prefect. Taking part in the meeting were: the Grand Inquisitor, **H.E. the Prince Don Carlo Cito Filomarino**, Prince of Rocca d'Aspro; the Grand Chancellor, **H.E. the Marchese Ambassador Aldo Pezzana Capranica del Grillo**; the Grand Treasurer, **H.E. the Ambassador Dr. Antonio Benedetto Spada**; the President of the Royal Deputation, **H.E. the Prince Paolo Boncompagni Ludovisi**; **H.E. the Prince Alessandro d'Aquino di Caramanico**; **H.E. Fra' Carlo Arditi dei Marchesi di Casteltevere**; **H.E. the Ambassador Don Carlo dei Principi Massimo Lancellotti**; **H.E. the Ambassador Don Sforza Ruspoli**, Prince of Cerveteri; the **Marchese Gaetano Sersale**; and the **Prince Augusto Ruffo di Calabria**.

In the afternoon, at 7:00 p.m., on the occasion of the liturgical feast of St. Ferdinand the King, patronal feast day of the Grand Master, in the Basilica of St. George *al Velabro*, a Holy Mass was celebrated, presided over by **His Eminence the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda**, who was presented to the Knights and Dames as the new Grand Prior of the Order by the Grand Prefect. The concelebrants included **His Excellency, the Most Reverend Andrea Cordero di Montezemolo**, Apostolic Nuncio in Italy and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Quirinal, and the **Very Reverend Monsignor Giuseppe Azelio Manzetti**, Chief Chaplain of the Association of Italian Knights of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Among those assisting in the sanctuary were: **His Eminence, the Cardinal Luigi Poggi**, Emeritus Librarian and Archivist of the Holy Roman Church; Prelates, Auditors, and Notaries, of the Apostolic Tribunals; and the Very Reverend *Monsignori* who are members of the Order. Present at the celebration and seated *in cornu Evangelii*⁶ were Their Royal Highnesses the **Prince Don Ferdinando Maria of Bourbon-Two Sicilies**, Grand Master; his August Consort, the Duchess of Castro; the members of the Royal Family; and the members of the Royal Deputation. Seated *in cornu Epistulae*⁷ were members of the *Melitense*⁸ Delegation led by **His Most Eminent Highness, Fra' Andrew Bertie**, Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta; **H.E. the Venerable Bailiff Fra' Ludwig Hoffman von Rumerstein**⁹; **H.E. the Venerable Bailiff Fra' Carl Paar**, Member of the Sovereign Council; **H.E. Fra' Carlo Arditi dei Marchesi di Casteltevere**, Member of the Sovereign Council; **H.E. the Venerable Bailiff Fra' Franz von Lobstein**, Grand Prior of Rome; **H.E. the Ambassador Alberto Leoncini Bartoli**, Ambassador to the Holy See; and **H.E. the Ambassador Baron Giulio di Lorenzo Badia**, Ambassador to Italy.

⁶ *Editor's note*: literally "in the Gospel corner", that is, to the left of the sanctuary as one faces it from the assembly's point of view.

⁷ *Editor's note*: literally "in the Epistle corner", that is, to the right of the sanctuary as one faces it from the assembly's point of view.

⁸ *Editor's note*: Latin adjective "Maltese" in reference to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes, and Malta, as opposed to the island or republic of Malta.

⁹ *Editor's note*: Grand Commander of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

At the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration, the Cardinal Grand Prior responded to the greetings of the Grand Prefect and then introduced the Penitential Rite. During the Liturgy of the Word, the celebrant kissed the Book of the Gospels in veneration and then blessed the assembly with it. He then gave the homily, during which he reflected upon the edifying figures of St. Ferdinand the King and St. George the Martyr, invoking divine blessings upon the many charitable works of the Order. During the Prayers of the Faithful, addressed in the spirit of Easter joy to God the Almighty Father, prayers were offered for the Holy Father, John Paul II, protector of all Christian militias; for the Cardinal Pompedda who has accepted to be the Grand Prior; for the Grand Master of Malta; for Constantinian Grand Master on the occasion of his name-day; for all the Knights and Dames dedicated to the Constantinian ideal; and for all the deceased Knights and Dames.

Those present, along with several hundred Knights, included: the Delegates of the Order in Italy and abroad; the **Count Don Alessandro Raimondo d'Aquino di Caramanico dei Principi di Caramanico**, President of the Italian National Association of Knights of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George; **Donna Edoarda Crociani**; **H.E. Giuseppe Balboni Acqua**, Chief of Ceremonies of the Italian Republic; **Doctor Del Giudice**, representing **H.E. Cesare Ruperto**, President of the Constitutional Court; **Doctor Tito Lucrezio Rizzo**, Vicar General of the Quirinal; and **Donna Mariapia Fanfani**. Also present were various members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Quirinal and to the Holy See, including: **H.E. Raniero Avogadro di Casalvolone**, Ambassador of Italy to the Holy See; Their Excellencies, the Ambassadors of H.S.H. the Sovereign Prince of Monaco to the Holy See, **Jean-Claude Michel**, and to the Quirinal, **Henri Fissore**; the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Holy See; **H.E. Marian Servatka**, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the Holy See; **H.E. Nina Covaľska**, Ambassador of the Republic of Ukraine to the Holy See; **H.E. Svetlozar Raev**, Ambassador of Bulgaria to the Holy See; **H.E. Rivera**, Ambassador of Bolivia to the Holy See; **H.E. Arturo Gangotena**, Ambassador of Venezuela to the Holy See; and **H.E. Julio Cesar Lubinacci**, Ambassador of Uruguay to the Holy See. Others present included: the President of the Calabria Region, **Giuseppe Chiaravalloti**; **H.E. the Prefect of Crotona, Francesco De Stefano**; **H.E. the General Umberto Cappuzzo**; the **General Paolo di Noia**, Vice Commandant of the *Carabinieri*; **H.E. the General Alessandro Vannucchi**; the **General of the Finance Guard Giuseppe Cincotti**; the **Brigadier General Maurizio Scoppa**, Chief of Staff of the Interregional Command of Naples; the **Colonel Baldassare Favara**, Provincial Commandant of the *Carabinieri* in Rome; **Their Serene Highnesses the Prince Raimondo and the Princess Kethevan Orsini d'Aragona**, Princess Royal of Georgia, and **the Prince Lelio Nicolò**; the **Marchese Don Piero Piromallo Capece Piscicelli di Montebello**, Duke of Capracotta; **Doctor Pierre Blanchard**; the **Count Attorney Antonio dei Marchesi Buccino Grimaldi**, Member of the Royal Magistral Juridical Council; **H.E. Professor Corrado Calabrò**, President of the Section of the Council of State; the **Reverend Father Giuseppe Reale**, Rector of the Basilica of *Santa Chiara* in Naples; and the **Hon. Vittorio Sgarbi**.

After the rites of Communion and the fulfillment by the Knights of the Easter Duty, His Eminence the Grand Prior blessed the insignia and diplomas of the new Knights and Dames with Holy Water and the Grand Master of the Constantinian Order invested the new confrères, including: the **Admiral Sergio Biraghi**, Military Counselor of the President of the Italian Republic; the **Countess Avogadro di Casalvolone**, consort of H.E. the Ambassador of Italy to the Holy See; the **Countess Elisabetta Marullo di Condojanni**, Princess of Casalnuovo, consort of H.E. the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta; and the **Count Ernesto Vitetti**. The **Prince Alessandrojacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**, Knight of Justice, Delegate for Lazio, retrieved the diploma of **Senator-for-Life President Giulio Andreotti**, who was already committed due to the opening of the Houses of Parliament, and the **Colonel Giovanni Teodoro Risino** retrieved that of the **General Nicolò Pollari**, Vice-Secretary of the CESIS.

A reception followed in the beautiful cloister of the Basilica which was prolonged into the evening, during which the illustrious guests, many Knights and Dames, and the newly decorated and promoted gathered around the Royal Family and the new Constantinian Grand Prior, expressing their congratulations and best wishes.

31 May

In Rome, T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Calabria participated in the farewell reception offered, in the salons of the Apostolic Nunciature, by H.E. the Most Reverend Andrea Cordero di Montezemolo, Apostolic Nuncio in Italy, at the termination of his mission.

In New York, a special representation of the American Delegation participated in the annual gala dinner of the "Pathways to Peace" Association presided over by **H.E. the Most Reverend Renato Raffaele Martino**, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer to the United Nations Organization. Present at the event was H.S.H. the Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein. At the end of the evening, the video *Pope John Paul II: Witness of the Invisible*, produced for the 80th birthday of the Holy Father, was presented.

1-3 June

The Grand Prefect, on his visit to the Delegation of Sardinia, was welcomed by the Representative of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order at Cagliari, **Doctor Giovanni Piero Sanna**.

Received by the President of the Regional Government, the **Honorable Mario Floris**, in the Palace of the Region, he then paid a courtesy visit to the Prefect of the city, **H.E. Efisio Orrù**, at the offices of the Prefecture, which are located in the Royal Palace, where he stopped for a moment of reflection before the plaque commemorating the birth, in 1812, of **H.R.H. the Princess Maria Cristina of Savoy**, future Queen of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and mother of H.M. the King Francesco II.

An official dinner, offered in honor of T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, by H.E. the Prefect of Cagliari, concluded the day.

The following day, in the paleo-Christian church dedicated to the patron of the city, St. Saturnius, and to Sts. Cosmas and Damian, the Grand Prefect was welcomed by H.E. the Metropolitan Archbishop of Cagliari, who blessed the diplomas of the new Sardinian Knights, who received these certificates of their nomination, beginning with the same **Archbishop Ottorino Pierro Alberti**. Others honored included: the Prefect **Efisio Orrù**; the President of the Region, **Mario Floris**; the **Lieutenant General Angelo Lunardo**, Military Commandant of Sardinia; the **Admiral Giancarlo Porchiazzo**, Commandant of the Naval Forces of Sardinia; the **Brigadier General of the Finance Guard Sergio Betti**, Commandant of the Zone; the **Lieutenant Colonel Stefano Ortolani**, Commandant of the 9th Battalion of the *Carabinieri* in Sardinia; the **Hon. Doctor Felice Contu**, Regional Councillor; **Doctor Ennio Dalmasso**; and **Doctor Elisa Prodi Vento**, Provincial Councillor of the CRI. The new Knights join **His Eminence the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda**, Grand Prior, and **H.E. the Senator-for-Life President Francesco Cossiga**¹⁰.

At the end of the investiture ceremony for the new Constantinian Knights, those present assisted at a commemoration of the Servant of God, the Queen Maria Cristina, who died in 1836 and whose beatification process is underway. **Doctor Luciano Regolo**, noted scholar and author of the study *La Reginella Santa* [*“The Saintly Little Queen”*], published by Simonelli in Milan, clearly presented the figured of the Servant of God.

An official luncheon, hosted by the President of the Sardinian Region, the **Hon. Mario Floris**, enabled the Grand Prefect to meet with all the Knights of the newly-erected Delegation of Sardinia, providing them with the occasion to outline the plans for the future activities of the Order on the island and to receive the personal encouragement of the Prince Carlo.

In the afternoon, T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Calabria were guests of honor at a sumptuous reception hosted at the Royal Palace of the Sardinian capital by the Prefect of Cagliari Orrù.

Sunday, 3 June, after reaching the island of Sant’Antioco, crossing the strait by a naval vessel, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria were official welcomed by the Mayor of Carloforte, **Franco Granara**, at the seat of the Communal Council. They then received the welcome of the Pastor, **Don Vitale Melis**, in the Church of *San Carlo*, dedicated to the Prince’s patron.

At his departure from the island the evening of Sunday the third, the Grand Prefect, as a sign of his pleasure on the success conclusion of the visit, announced to **Doctor Giovanni Piero Sanni** his nomination as Delegate for Sardinia by H.R.H. the Duke of Castro, Grand Master.

3 June

Five hundred elderly from Pavia, Novara, Como, and Mantua participated in a solemn pilgrimage, organized by the Lombard Delegation, to the Sanctuary of Sotto il Monte, hometown of the **Blessed Pope John XXIII**, to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the “pious transit” of the Good Pope by visiting the home where he was born. The Holy Mass was celebrated by **H.E. the Most Reverend Giovanni Volta**, Bishop of Pavia.

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was elevated to the pontifical dignity in 1958 and concluded his terrestrial existence and his Mission as Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church in 1963. The pilgrimage coincided with the solemn translation and exposition to the public of the body of the Pontiff in the Chapel of St. Jerome in St. Peter’s Basilica.

7 June

The benefit tournament ball organized by the Delegation of Naples at the Union Circle of Naples at the initiative and under the direction of Knight of Merit **Eugenio Donadoni** was a great success. More than three hundred guests took part in the evening. At the conclusion, H.R.H. the Duchess of Calabria was honored with a respectful salute by

¹⁰ *Editor’s note*: both Cardinal Pompedda and Francesco Cossiga, former President of the Italian Republic, hail from Sardinia.

the **Marchese Don Piero Piromallo Capece Piscicelli di Montebello**, Duke of Capracotta, President of the Union Circle.

19 June

The Delegation of Naples carried the greetings and applause of the Constantinian Order to the inaugural ceremony for the restored precious painting of St. Januarius by Luca Giordano. The canvas was replaced in the Church of the St. Anthony-outside-the-Capuan Gate, historical seat of the Grand Priory of the Constantinian Order.

20 June

H.R.H. the Duke of Calabria, at the invitation of its Commandant General, the **General Alberto Zignani**, and of its second-in-command, the **General Pietro Sgarlata**, participated at the ceremony celebrating the 227th anniversary of the foundation of the Finance Guard in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic.

The evening of the ceremony, a Delegation of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George participated in a reception at the Embassy of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to the Quirinal. The Delegation was led by H.R.H. the Duke of Calabria and included: **His Eminence the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda**, Grand Prior; **H.E. the Marchese Ambassador Aldo Pezzana Capranica del Grillo**, Grand Chancellor; **H.E. the Ambassador Doctor Antonio Benedetto Spada**, Grand Treasurer; and the **Prince Alessandrojacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps**, Delegate of Lazio.

29 June

H.E. Professor Ettore Gallo, President of the Royal Magistral Juridical Council, President Emeritus of the Constitutional Court, passed away.

The solemn funeral was celebrated in Rome on 2 July, in the presence of the President of the Italian Republic, with the participation of a special Constantinian delegation, in the Palace of the *Consulta* on the *Piazza del Quirinale*, where the visitation took place previously.

6-7 July

The visit to Sicily of the Grand Prefect, accompanied by **H.E. the Count Carlo Marullo di Condojanni**, Prince of Casalnuovo, Delegate in Western Sicily, took place.

The morning of the first day, the Duke of Calabria was received in audience at the Archiepiscopal Palace of Palermo by **His Eminence the Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi**, with whom he had a long and cordial conversation and who expressed his personal pleasure for the commitment of the Order of which the same prelate is a Bailiff Knight Grand Cross of Justice. The Cardinal listened with great interest to the exposition of the plans and activities of the Order on the island and in the capital of the region in particular.

His Royal Highness then went to the municipal residence of *Villa Niscemi*, where he was welcomed by **Professor Guglielmo Serio**, Special Commissioner for the Municipality of Palermo, and proceeded to the solemn ceremony of conferring the Gold *Benemeranza* Medal of the Constantinian Order to the *Gonfalone* ["Standardbearer"] of the Municipality of Palermo. The event evoked the ancient role played by Palermo as capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies whose history is intimately tied to that of the House of Bourbon.

His Royal Highness then decided to dedicate the afternoon to visiting the splendid artistic marvel of the *Duomo* of Monreale and of the Royal Church of *Carolina alla Guardagna*.

An important evening, organized in honor of the Prince Carlo and the Princess Camilla at the *Palazzo Aiutamicristo*, concluded the day with the opportunity for a better acquaintance between Their Highnesses and those gathered.

The benefit gala assisted initiatives of the Sisters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta at Kalsa. The event was very successful and was preceded by the conferral of the **"La Fenice"** ["*The Phoenix*"] **Prize** given to Sicilians who distinguish themselves in the arts, in letters, and in the sciences.

The following day, the Prince Carlo visited — at the invitation of the **Hon. Francesco Scoma**, President of the Quaestorial Deputies of the Regional Assembly of Sicily — the Royal Palace and the adjacent Palatine Chapel, both of which are very significant to the Royal Family. The Grand Prefect then presided at the solemn ceremony for the decoration of the *Gonfalone* of the Sicily Region with the Constantinian Gold *Benemeranza* Medal.

An official luncheon followed in the Royal Palace, during which the illustrious guest had the opportunity to meet all those present and was presented with the benefit programs of the Order.

The Grand Prefect also paid an official visit to the Interregional Commandant of the Finance Guard, the **General Pietro Cani** at the Interregional Command for Sicily and Calabria.

In the afternoon, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria visited the *Duomo* of Cefalù, where they were welcomed by the young **Mayor Simona Vicari**, who delicately offered them with the same symbolic bread, ornamented with the arms of the city, which was given on 3 March 1806 to the King Ferdinando IV of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. The Prince and Princess, after greeting **H.E. the Most Reverend Francesco Sgalambro**, Bishop of Cefalù, reached *Villa Maria Amalia di Sant'Agata di Militello* to take part in the large farewell reception offered in their honor by the masters of the house — the **Count Don Carlo** and the **Countess Donna Elisabetta Marullo di Condojanni**, Prince and Princess of Casalnuovo — which concluded the brief sojourn in Sicily of Their Highnesses.



SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2001

SEPTEMBER

Naples. Participation of a special Constantinian Delegation at the traditional miracle of St. Januarius.

Novara. Delivery of a medical vehicle donated by the Order to the “Novara Emergency Aid” at the initiative of the Delegation of Lombardy, followed by a benefit concert on the *Lago Maggiore*.

London. Holy Mass, official investiture of new Knights, and a benefit evening organized by the British Delegation.

OCTOBER

Principality of Monaco. Concert of 18th century Neapolitan music in the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Monaco to be performed by the Orchestra and Chorale of the “*San Pietro a Majella*” Conservatory in Naples, invited for the occasion by the Monegasch Association of Constantinian Knights.

Barletta. Holy Mass, solemn ceremony for new Knights, and a gala dinner at the *Castello Svevo* in the splendor of the De Nittis frescoes, organized by the Delegation of Puglia to support the activities of the Order in the Region. All members of the Order are invited.

Bari. Inauguration, in the seaside *Piazza del Ferrarese* of a plaque in memory of the Queen Maria Sofia of the Two Sicilies, married in 1859 to the future King Francesco II of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Rome. Benefit to support the oncological research in the department of Professor Marino Bizzarri at the University of Rome “*La Sapienza*” organized by the Delegation of Lazio in the *Villa Spada*, made available by the Finance Guard.

Lisbon. Holy Mass, investiture of new Knights, and benefit event sponsored by the Portuguese Delegation on the occasion of the inauguration of a new shelter.

NOVEMBER

Switzerland. Holy Mass, investiture ceremony, and benefit event with the participation of all the Knights of the Delegation of the Helvetic Confederation.

Novara. Benefit evening of “*Vienna on the Lake*” sponsored with the support of the Delegation of Lombardy.

DECEMBER

Varese. In collaboration with the Municipal Administration, a new annual winter rendezvous for elderly and from the “points of encounter” and other institutes assisted by the Order. The presence of some two thousand people is expected at this event organized by the Delegation of Lombardy and destined to be ongoing like its spring counterpart.

Lombardy. Traditional visits at the end of the year to the “points of encounter” and institutes for the elderly in Pavia, Novara, Como, and Varese, supported by the Delegation of Lombardy, with the delivery of gifts.

*Translated into English from the Italian original
and edited for the United States Delegation
by the Rev. Dr. John-Peter Pham.*