



SOBERANA Y MILITAR ORDEN HOSPITALARIA
DE SAN JUAN DE JERUSALÉN DE RODAS Y DE MALTA

13 de julio de 2020.-

His Eminence
Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu
Special Delegate of the Holy Father to the Order of Malta
Prefect of the Congregation of the Causes of Saints
Palazzo delle Congregazioni
Piazza Pio XII, 10
I-00193 Roma

c.c. H.E. Juan Tomás O'Naghten y Chacón
Delegate for Central and South America

Subject: Recent letter to you from four Presidents of the Order from North America

Your Eminence:

The subscribers represent the National Associations Presidents of the Order of Malta in South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

We have received a copy of the letter addressed to Your Eminence from the Presidents of the four National Associations of the United States and Canada dated 6th July 2020.

We are very concerned by the purpose and the content of the above mentioned letter. Furthermore, the tone of the letter saddens us because it lays down undesired and unproductive obstacles in the long and complex process of the reform initiated by the Government of the Order, in consultation with His Eminence, the Special Delegate of the Holy Father to the Order of Malta, to strengthen the unity of the Order and reinvigorate its religious foundations based on the melitense spirit, as you precisely indicated all of us in the Fraternal Domus gathering.

We hope that the consultations with the Holy See could progress swiftly in order to facilitate the distribution of the existing draft of the revised Constitutional and Code reform to all National Associations.

We would like to be clear with our position:

- a. We wholeheartedly support the process of a comprehensive reform of our Order and not on a piece meal basis. We, the National Presidents, worked during long months away from home and in distant locations to reach consensus and finally materialize the submission of a draft proposals to the Sovereign Council at the Strategy Seminar in Rome.
- b. We do believe that a substantial reform in the First Class is essential to improve the spiritual light from all our Professed co-brothers. Moreover, encourage the inclusion of young men's willingness to strengthen the future our Order's charisma specially to help the poor and the sick.
- c. We renew our support for the Lieutenant *ad interim*, the Grand Chancellor and the Government of the Order.

We have a very demanding agenda in Latin America and would like to focus our main work under of our clear motto "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum" whilst -as we started- to progress with the required reforms our Order under a constructive spiritual and cordial climate.

Please accept, Your Eminence, the testimony of our highest esteem and consideration.

Yours fraternally in Christ,

María Podestá Herrera
Presidente de la Asociación de Argentina

Fernando Rojas
Presidente de la Asociación de Bolivia

Luiz Périssé Duarte
Presidente de la Asociación de San Pablo y sur de Brasil

Mario Correa Bascuñan
Presidente de la Asociación de Chile

José María Pérez
Presidente de la Asociación de Ecuador

Richard Kent
Presidente de la Asociación de Paraguay

Fernan Altuves-Febre
Presidente de la Asociación de Perú

Santiago Fonseca
Presidente de la Asociación de Uruguay