



Marbella, April 21st 2025

Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with profound sorrow and deep reverence that we, the members of this Ecumenical Order, extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. As Grand Master of this Order—founded upon the principles of Christian unity, fraternity, and compassion—I join the entire Christian world in mourning the departure of a shepherd who truly embodied the Gospel in word and deed.

Pope Francis was not only a spiritual father to Catholics worldwide but also a revulsive force within the Vatican—challenging structures and customs that no longer served the message of Christ, and reminding us all of the Church's mission to serve the poor, the marginalized, and the forgotten. His humility, his unwavering commitment to the dignity of every person, and his generous spirit were not only the hallmarks of his pontificate but a living testimony of Christ among us.

We were blessed to witness him one final time during his Urbi et Orbi blessing—his last gesture of grace and peace to the world. Now, having completed his earthly journey, he has returned to the Father's House, where he will be received with the love and mercy he so generously preached.

In this time of mourning and uncertainty, we place our trust in the Holy Spirit to guide the College of Cardinals in the solemn task of electing a new Successor to Saint Peter. May the next Pontiff continue the legacy of Pope Francis with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the Gospel.

Let us unite in prayer—for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, for the Catholic Church, and for all people of goodwill who mourn this extraordinary man of faith.

In Christ's Peace and Unity,

Don Francisco de Borbón Graf von Hardenberg. 50th Grand Master