

Dear Participants to the XXVI Hospitaller Conference in Budapest and dear friends!

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to address these words to you, thankful and joyful words. Last year I had the possibility to visit some of our works and would have liked to visit even more, and it fulfills my heart to see your commitment as volunteers and staff members of the Order. You are giving your best to help and support those in need and to relieve them from suffering. Always with a smile and always with a human touch. Let us not forget how important is our gesture is to express Christian Charity.

As His Holiness Pope Francis wrote in his message for the XXVI World Sick Day, and you will notice that our International Hospitaller Conference is also the XXVI:

“The Church knows that she requires a special grace to live up to her evangelical task of serving the sick. May our prayers to the Mother of God see us united in an incessant plea that every member of the Church may live with love the vocation to serve life and health.”

This couldn't better describe the mission of our beloved and respected Order, and I bring you as well the words that His Holiness Pope Francis told me in one of the Audiences he granted to me: *“I follow you, I pray for you, proceed along this path”*.

Forgive me to not be able to attend this meeting and to hear all the achievements you have reached this year, but I assure you all, you are always in my thoughts.

With all my best wishes for a successful meeting, I'll pray for you, please pray for me.

And as H.E. the Lieutenant himself would say: *Io prego per Voi, e vi prego, pregate per me.*

Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto