

Subject: A Message from President Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM

Dear Fellow Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and Chaplains,

Over the past couple of years, there has been a surge in rumors and articles about the leadership of our Order and the reform process.

Recently, a contentious article appeared in the online magazine, One Peter Five, and has been circulating among our members. Many of the facts cited in this article are true; but, between the lines, there is an unmistakable desire to divide and to instill a spirit of disobedience.

These articles often contain arguments that seem to be persuasive; but, it is important for us to remember to look at their fruit: whatever leads to division and dissension comes from Satan and needs to be rejected by the faithful.

Our Order is a beacon of hope and Christian discipleship in a confused and irreligious world. There are forces that are trying to take down an ancient Order that has served as the backbone of the Body of Christ over the centuries.

It is important for us to focus on our vocation to serve the sick and the poor and to be living witnesses of the Faith of the church. We also need to remember the Frás, who are the heart of our Order, and pray for them.

The Holy Father asked us to consider a reform of the First Class, not to destroy it, but to make it better and this reform should be led by the First Class.

The Holy Father also asked the Order to change the rule on nobiliary qualifications for office. Centuries ago, such rules had their place but no longer. The vast majority of the men and women joining the Order are not recognized as nobles by blood, but they are noble by virtue of their rich personal gifts, educational attainments, material success, and bottomless generosity in treasure and in service to the poor and the sick.

When you question whether our Order will survive the reform, please remember the words of the Founder of the Order, Blessed Gerard:

"Our fraternity will last forever, because the soil in which it is rooted is the misery of the world, and -if it should please God- there will always be those who will labor to reduce suffering and make the misery of the world more endurable."

God bless you and all you do,



Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM
President

