

Brief of Pope Clement XI — 24 October 1706

(Approval of the Order's statutes and confirmation of the succession to the Grand Mastership).

Latin (key clauses)

“...Nos motu proprio ac certa scientia, auctoritate apostolica tenore praesentium, approbamus, confirmamus, et perpetuo valere volumus Statuta Ordinis Militaris S. Georgii sub titulo Constantini Magni, per Illustrissimum ac Excellentissimum Principem Franciscum Farnesium, Parmensem ac Placentinum Ducem, recognita et reformata...”

“...et declaramus dictam Magisterii dignitatem hereditaria esse in domo Farnesia, et ad legitimum primogenitum masculum ex dicta familia, eiusque posteros masculos in infinitum descendere debere...”

English Translation

“... We, moved by our own will and certain knowledge, by apostolic authority and by these presents, approve, confirm, and will that there shall perpetually remain in force the Statutes of the Military Order of Saint George under the title of Constantine the Great, reviewed and reformed by the Most Illustrious and Excellent Prince Francesco Farnese, Duke of Parma and Piacenza...”

“...and we declare that the dignity of the Grand Mastership is hereditary in the House of Farnese, and that it must descend to the legitimate male primogeniture of that family and to their male descendants forever...”

II. Bull *Militantis Ecclesiae* — Pope Clement XI, 27 May 1718

(final and definitive settlement of the Order's status)

Latin (key clauses)

“Militantis Ecclesiae triumphos, quos Deo duce sub vexillo sancti Georgii, Constantinianus Ordo, a Constantino Magno coeptus, per tot saecula retulit, laudabiliter continuare desiderantes, Nos... eundem Ordinem, sub regulis et statutis a nobis approbatis, perpetuo confirmamus et stabilimus.”

“...ac Magisterium illius in domo Farnesia stabilimus, et perpetuo manere decernimus, descendendumque per lineam masculinam legitime natorum, juxta tenorem statutorum ab eodem duce editum...”

“...nulli hominum liceat praesentes litteras infringere vel illis contraire; si quis autem hoc attentare praesumpserit, indignationem omnipotentis Dei ac beatorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli se noverit incursum.”

English Translation

“Desiring that the triumphs of the Church Militant, which under God's guidance the Constantinian Order—begun by Constantine the Great under the banner of Saint George—has for so many centuries nobly continued, may likewise be perpetuated, We... approve, confirm, and establish for all time that same Order under the rules and statutes approved by Us.”

“...and We establish the Grand Mastership thereof in the House of Farnese, decreeing that it shall remain there forever, to descend through the male line of lawful birth, according to the tenor of the statutes issued by that same Duke.”

“...Let no man dare to infringe or oppose these letters; and if anyone should presume to attempt it, let him know that he will incur the wrath of Almighty God and of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul.”