

OPENING REMARKS

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The World Convention of the Ancient and Mystical Order of the Rose Cross has numerous things to offer: Reflections, mystical moments, experiences. Before exploring these, I ask you to pause for a few moments and think: what really brought you here? What stimulus, what impulsion made you want to participate in this activity? What image did you have in mind when you decided that you wanted to be present here and now?

Allow me a personal memory: I remember, when I was a young member, going to the Order's convention in Brazil. We used to prepare everything long beforehand. The Master of the Chapter I belonged to had t-shirts made with the name of our Affiliated Body, which we wore during the convention. The night before was the eve of a big festivity, of a celebration. And the next day everything became enchanted, spellbound. Meeting several hundred members coming from all regions, even from foreign countries, made it even more magical. The city of Curitiba was overcome by the members of our fraternity. One could meet them everywhere; they were recognizable by a t-shirt, a bag, or simply by the symbol of the Order pinned on their shirt. It was a

peaceful, joyful conquest. That was the spirit of fraternity which animated all of our activities.

Right now as I welcome you, I want to recall that same spirit, I want it to manifest itself here and now, I want you to feel the bliss of our togetherness with which we'll celebrate the values of fraternity, of fraternal friendship. Of that spirit that produces joy which, as Baruch Spinoza said, is a condition of greater power of the mind.

If there is a reason why we meet here, as well as in the Affiliated Bodies and in all the activities of the Order, it is precisely to celebrate fraternity and to produce joyfulness. We are, all of us, responsible for this. It is up to us to edify those moments that we long to see realized, since they will not descend from above like a blessing. It is up to us, all together, to edify them so that our traditional greeting at the end of each activity be full of meaning and emotion. The very greeting we have been repeating for centuries and with which I will now leave you to our activities: "Peace Profound, frater, Peace Profound, soror."

Happy World Convention to you all!