

INVESTITURE OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE CAPTAINS REGENT

1 April 2026

SPEECH BY THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

Your Excellencies the newly-elected Captains Regent,
Alice Mina and Vladimiro Selva,
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
Distinguished Authorities,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great joy, and full awareness of the solemnity of this moment, that I take the floor on this important occasion to speak on behalf of the entire diplomatic corps accredited to the Republic of San Marino, and to wish you, the newly-elected Captains Regent, every success in the term of office you are beginning today.

The presence of the diplomatic corps, on such a significant occasion for you, expresses better than I could ever put into words the regard, friendship, esteem and respect that the international community has for the Most Serene Republic of San Marino.

The century-old history of a people who has managed to maintain its independence and freedom, and who has built a society based on participation and democracy, deserves this regard and friendship.

We hold this small yet remarkable country in high esteem and respect; it serves as a reminder that, despite its complexity, our world must always be able to look beyond major interests, beyond the concentration of power and distant institutions, which are often perceived as unrelated to the daily lives of citizens.

To build peace and foster dialogue among peoples, the recognition of the communities and historical identities that shape humanity must guide and underpin the activities of the international community.

The art of building bridges, of fostering dialogue, of engaging in the development of peaceful coexistence through a balance of interests and the fundamental recognition of the dignity of all human beings and all social communities, depends on the involvement of entities that may seem of little “significance” in the grand scheme of history, but which remind us that the ultimate goal, the core, the yardstick for our societies and our political organisations is, and must remain, the human person in their freedom and independence, in their social nature, in the perspective of their own history and tradition and, ultimately, in their infinite dignity.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all concerned by the news of the more than fifty ongoing conflicts.

The constantly renewed acknowledgement of the profound and widespread solidarity of humanity as a whole – from an economic, social, communication and technical perspective – could rightly inspire hope for a method of conflict resolution in which weapons would no longer have the final say.

But once again we have been disappointed and we are concerned about the fact that situations, which are undoubtedly highly complex, have not been resolved except through armed conflict.

The economic consequences of this have been felt in all their severity. But even more than that, the psychological and cultural consequences of conflicts threaten to poison hearts and minds for generations, replacing reason with resentment; and replacing the creative drive to build a peaceful coexistence that reflects the greatness of the human heart and mind with the contemplation of the wrongs and sufferings endured.

As subjects of international law and members of those bodies established by the international community to avert the scourge of war, we all hope, and we wish the same for you, newly-elected Captains Regent, that you will be able to take action to bring about the swift termination of all conflicts, in order to build a just, lasting and sustainable peace in all the war zones spreading across almost every continent.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please forgive me if, on this occasion where I'm speaking as Dean and representative of the diplomatic corps, I add a few brief personal greetings to all of you. As you already know, the Holy Father Leo XIV has decided to assign me to a different post. Therefore, today marks my final visit to the Most Serene Republic of San Marino in my capacity as Apostolic Nuncio. Allow me to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and to the Captains Regent that have served over the past two years for your excellent cooperation, which is a reflection of the historic and strong ties between San Marino and the Holy See. I would also like to thank the Diplomatic Corps, on whose behalf I have spoken on these occasions, for the kindness they have always extended to me.

To you, the newly-elected Captains Regent, I extend my heartfelt best wishes for an enlightened and wise mandate, focused on maintaining the friendship and internal cohesion of the Republic, and on promoting on the international stage those values of peace and freedom that have always characterised it.

Thank you.