



**END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM
H.R. A VICTOR EMMANUEL
DUKE OF SAVOY
PRINCE OF NAPLES**

GENEVA – DECEMBER 31 2022

*Dear Italians,
Dear faithful friends,*

in keeping with a custom that has never been interrupted and which was particularly dear to me during my years of exile, I am writing these brief lines to express to you and your families my best wishes for the New Year, in the name of my entire House, in the hope that you may spend its first hours in happiness. Sadly, the year that is drawing to a close is ending while the disastrous conflict in Ukraine continues. Peace seems far away and we mourn the many lives lost in that tormented land.

The horizon of 2023, therefore, in addition to being tinged with the colours of mourning, seems to be tinged with the grey of resignation for those in our Fatherland who are suffering the economic, social and cultural consequences that every war inevitably brings with it. I hope that the recently elected government will be able to deal with the current juncture in a timely and pragmatic manner. In this regard, I renew my good wishes to Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, whose government, which has been given a clear mandate by voters, has taken up the dynamic legacy of Mario Draghi, displaying a pragmatic approach in its first steps.

In 2023, the House of Savoy, through its Dynastic Orders, will seek to respond to certain daily social emergencies that have taken the place of the health emergencies imposed by the pandemic, in line with its "zero-kilometre" approach (i.e. locally). It is a commitment that I am making to those most in need at this time. Through these small tokens of its presence, my House intends to demonstrate its great love for our Fatherland: the land of our Fathers, united not only by the sacrifice and valour of those who gave their lives for it, but also by those who serve it every day in honesty and uprightness through their work. The way of the world, unfortunately, seems to be leading us away from these noble sentiments but I, like the King my Father, have faith in the eternal values of Christian civilisation, of sacred family ties, in the love for freedom and for Italy. These are the virtues of our lineage that lie at the bottom of every decent heart, the irrepressible yearning of the majority of citizens and of a large part of the new generations that pursue the ideal of a better world based on solidarity.



My wish is that in 2023 we can be reunited around those principles that have made Italy "one in arms, language, altar, memories, blood and heart", to quote the words of our greatest writer, Alessandro Manzoni, of whom we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the death in a few months' time.

The continuation of this journey is entrusted to the young, and in this regard, I look with hope to my son Emanuele Filiberto, my daughter-in-law Clotilde, and my dear granddaughters Vittoria and Luisa, who will be with me at Hautecombe, on 18 March this year, to reaffirm the continuity with the historical and dynastic legacy of Umberto II as we mark the fortieth anniversary of his birth in Heaven. Finally, allow me on this occasion to pay special tribute to His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, whom I had the great privilege of meeting on several occasions. I am certain that, as His Successor, Pope Francis, has repeatedly emphasised, the profound humility and extraordinary faith with which he accompanied the life of the Church even in these last ten years of his "ascent to the mountain" will be part of a living and fruitful legacy for all humanity.

To all of you and to your loved ones, my best wishes for a 2023 bringing peace and prosperity.

Vittorio Emanuele