



XUNTA DE GALICIA

Presidente

XO21

Alberto Núñez Feijóo

Santiago de Compostela, June 30, 2020

Associations of Friends of the Camino de Santiago

Dear friends,

I am writing to congratulate you on the Castelao Medal that you were recently awarded. As you know, this is one of the most important recognitions that the Galician Government grants to those people and organisations that stand out for the exceptional work they have done benefiting our region.

The Associations of Friends of the Camino de Santiago that exist around the world undoubtedly deserve this recognition as they are repositories of the ancient tradition of Jacobean hospitality. For this reason, it is fair to recognise their contribution to keeping the spirit of the various routes alive, the routes on which hundreds of thousands of people from over 180 countries make pilgrimages on each year.

In addition, you receive the Castelao Medal at a moment of particular importance. Firstly, we are nearly at the next Holy Year. The great celebration of the Caminos de Santiago will be a fundamental tool to recover normality, both in terms of the Jacobean route itself and in terms of our country.

Moreover, secondly, the values of the Camino have become fundamental in the midst of the exceptional circumstances we are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The world needs hospitality, generosity, harmony, a culture of hard work, the capacity to sacrifice, these are the hallmarks of the Camino de Santiago that you are the greatest and best advocates for.

As a result, I want to reiterate my congratulations. I am also obliged to ask that you continue with your commitment to promoting the Camino and advocating its identity and values. Its work is more important today than ever.

With all the gratitude and affection of the people of Galicia, best wishes.

Con mi consideración