

February 1, 2010 - Spain – A Salesian awarded the Civilian Order of Alfonso X the Wise



(ANS – Madrid) – The council of ministers (cabinet) has awarded Fr. Manuel de Castro, SDB, a place in the Civilian Order of Alfonso X the Wise.

The former general secretary of Catholic Schools will receive the highest award in the field of education, with an illuminated address and a plaque on February 18 in the Great Hall of the council of state for education in a ceremony at which the minister for education, Angel Gabilondo, will preside.

This is the second time that the government has given this award to a representative of the Catholic Church. On a previous occasion it was given to the secretary of the ecclesiastical province of Madrid and member of the council of state for education, Maria Rosa de la Cierva.

In an interview by telephone with *Religión Digital*, Fr. de Castro expressed his pleasure at a personal level: "It is a recognition that we have done our work well." For Fr. de Castro, the award "recognizes the position taken by Catholic schools for dialogue and independence from any sort of political pressure, and taking a stand in the defense of Catholic schools in the present and in the future."

"We have done well even in difficult situations," said the Salesian priest, whose place has been taken by Juan Antonio Ojeda, a De La Salle Christian Brother, "and I want to include in this award the whole of the Spanish Federation of Religious and Teachers (FERE), and the Confederation of Educational Management Centers (EyG). "We feel pleased for a mission accomplished."