



ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

Handbook for Chaplains of The Order of Malta

Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem
of Rhodes and of Malta Australian Association
PO Box 79 Caringbah NSW 1495 Australia
E: info@orderofmalta.org.au | W: www.orderofmalta.org.au

First edition May 2021

Editor: Daniel Kwok KMG (Ob)
Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta
Australian Association
PO Box 79 Caringbah NSW 1495 Australia
Email: info@orderofmalta.org.au
Website: www.orderofmalta.org.au

Prayer of The Order of Malta

Lord Jesus, Thou hast seen fit to enlist me for Thy service among
the Knights and Dames of St John of Jerusalem.

I humbly entreat Thee through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin of Philermos,
of St John the Baptist, of Blessed Gerard and all the Saints and Blessed of the Order,
to keep me faithful to the traditions of our Order.

Be it mine to practise and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman faith
against the enemies of religion;
be it mine to practise charity towards my neighbours, especially the poor and the sick.

Give me the strength I need to carry out this my resolve, forgetful of myself,
learning ever from Thy holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion,
striving ever to promote God's glory, the world's peace,
and all that may benefit the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

Amen.

Charism of The Order of Malta

Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum

Prayer of Consecration

O, Sacred Heart of Jesus,
O, Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Superabundant source of the living waters of the Holy Spirit and of the charity of God,

We consecrate to you, in complete submission and love,
the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.
We offer to you our spirits and our bodies, our souls and our hearts, our interior
and our exterior goods, everything that we are and everything that we have.

We entrust to you all those to whose service we are sent, our Lords, the Sick and the Poor.
We ask you to let us always recognise in them the face of Christ, the Lord.
We entrust to you also all those who assist them.
We implore you to surround us all with your holy protection, especially in times of trial.

We beg you to make of each one of us, Religious, Obedients, Knights and Dames, Chaplains, Voluntary Workers,
Young People, humble and superabundant Instruments of Your Charity
and loving servants of our brothers and sisters in need.

Make of us true servants of the graces received by our family throughout
the length of its history, through the intercession of our Patron Saint, St John the Baptist,
of our Founder, Blessed Gerard, respecting our traditions, being firmly resolved to be of service
to the most deprived of our brothers and sisters, and in unshakable fidelity
to the Holy Church and to her Supreme Pastor, the Successor of Peter.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in You!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, intercede for us!

*The Consecration of the Order of Malta to the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary has been made at
the behest of the late H.M.E.H. the Prince and Grand Master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio
Sanguinetto, who accomplished the solemn act of consecration on 4th April 2020 in the Magistral
Chapel of the Grand Magistracy in Rome.*

The Magistral Palace



The government seat of the Sovereign Order of Malta

Situated in the heart of Rome's historical centre, on Via dei Condotti, the Magistral Palace has been the residence of the Grand Master and seat of the Sovereign Order of Malta's government since 1834.

The beating heart of a global institution, the Order's diplomatic, religious, humanitarian and administrative undertakings are overseen at this central hub, which is granted extraterritorial rights by the Italian Republic. The Magistral Palace was left to the Order of Malta in 1629 by its representative in Rome, Fra' Antonio Bosio, a scholar widely considered to be the founder of Christian archaeology. At first, the Palace served as the seat of the Order of Malta's ambassador to the Papal States. Two centuries later it became the Grand Master's residence and government seat, when the Order arrived in Rome in 1834.

Two flags of the Order of Malta fly at the entrance of Via dei Condotti. One is the flag of St John – the State flag – and the other is the flag of the Order's hospitaller works. The personal flag of the Grand Master is raised when he is in residence. Heads of state, ambassadors and senior members of the Order's worldwide entities are received at the Palace, where its governing bodies also meet. Every morning Mass is said at the chapel, which is dedicated to the Order's patron St John the Baptist.

The Magistral Library and Archives is the cultural point of reference on the Order of Malta and is housed in the Palace. Following the tradition of the Order to establish a hospital wherever it settled, a day-care centre operates on the ground floor. The Magistral Mint and Post Office is also located here: correspondence bearing the Order of Malta's stamps can be sent to any of the 57 countries with which postal agreements have been signed. A newly opened Visitors Centre provides curious passers-by with an opportunity to learn more about the Order of Malta. The Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Hospitaller, Finance and Communications departments of the Order's government are based in the Palace.

The Magistral Villa



The heart of the Order of Malta's heritage

The Magistral Villa has been in the possession of the Order of Malta since the 14th century and, together with the Magistral Palace, is one of its two institutional seats.

The Villa has been host to some of the most significant events in the Order's institutional life in recent times: the elections of the last six Grand Masters were held in its splendid Chapter Room and the Feast of St John the Baptist – the Order's patron – has been celebrated annually in the gardens on 24th June for centuries.

Of great importance in the history of the Order of Malta, the Magistral Villa also boasts an artistic treasure: its church, Santa Maria in Aventino, is the only architectural example by the famed artist and engraver Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720-1778). In 1764 Piranesi created the square, Piazza dei Cavalieri di Malta, and the Church with highly decorative motifs relating the history and traditions of the Order. A monument to the artist stands in the church in a niche containing his ashes.

The Magistral Villa attracts visitors from far and wide who scale the Aventine Hill to peer through its celebrated 'Buco della Serratura'; a keyhole framing the dome of St Peter's Basilica.

The Grand Master receives heads of state and representatives of governments at the Villa, as well as the ambassadors accredited to the Order who come together in January each year for the Diplomatic Corps audience. The Villa enjoys rights of extraterritoriality and serves as the seat of the Grand Priory of Rome, one of the oldest institutions of the members of the Order of Malta. It also houses the Sovereign Order's Embassy to the Italian Republic.

Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE PRELATE	08
COMMENDATIONS	
Principal Chaplain of the Australian Association	09
President of the Australian Association	10
PART ONE: BEING A CHAPLAIN	
Introducing the Prelate of the Order	14
What our Prelate says to Chaplains	15
What resources will help you get to know the Order?	16
What is the context for chaplaincy in the Order?	17
How are Chaplains appointed?	18
What is expected of you as a Chaplain?	20
What do Chaplains do at our Lourdes pilgrimage?	21
PART TWO: ABOUT THE ORDER OF MALTA	
Our purpose	24
Our members' commitment	24
Our founder, Blessed Gerard	25
Our history	26
Our structure	29
Our Order in Australia & New Zealand	31
Our patron saints	33
Our works	35
APPENDIX	
What is in the Journal of Spirituality?	42

Message from The Prelate

Dear Brothers Chaplains,

I am really pleased that an invaluable tool such as this Handbook, published by the Australian Association of the Order, has been made available for you. Among you, there are priests who have already been serving as Chaplains for several years, and whom I know well; others are preparing for this new service: I am certain that this instrument will be greeted with joy by all of you.

Being a Chaplain is not an honorary decoration, or a reward for services rendered to the Order: first and foremost, it is a call from God and a personal commitment. The Lord's call as well as the commitment to serve Him in the person of our Lords the Poor and the Sick, imply above all a sincere disposition of the heart.

You know well the two terms, "*Tuitio Fidei*" and "*Obsequium Pauperum*": they only make sense if the two realities they designate are deeply rooted in our priestly heart. They are not slogans, they are two sides of the same commitment: what would be the meaning of a concerned faith, if it were not accompanied by a concern for the person we want to care for? And conversely, an action aimed at helping the underprivileged would not be a true "*obsequium*" if it were not carried out in inner union with the Lord Jesus Christ who, precisely, has identified himself with the least of his brothers and sisters.

I believe that a Chaplain is invited to continuously re-examine the rectitude of his actions. He is helped in this by prayer, by meditating the word of God, by the reflection on the founding texts of the spirituality of our Order – some of which are conveniently quoted in this Handbook; and finally, by the humble and fraternal collaboration with those who have the task of governing the Order both at a local and an international level. In fact, a close bond of friendship and trust, based on constant exchanges, exists today between the Australian Association and the Grand Magistracy in Rome.

To all of you, present and future Chaplains of our Order: may your service fill you with joy and help your priestly heart to unite ever more deeply with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for your friendship and for your prayer, so that I, as Prelate of the Order, can better help you and serve you.

May the Lord bless you abundantly!

With my faithful friendship,

H.E. Mons Jean Laffitte
Prelate of Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order
of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

Commendation from The Principal Chaplain

The history of the Order of Malta is long, but the mission at its heart is timeless: *tuitio fidei* and *obsequium pauperum*. These old words are not always easy to translate in fresh and comprehensible ways. The translation I mean is not just linguistic, because the words also need to be translated into action. This is the call to the Order in every generation, in every place and culture.

To speak of *tuitio fidei* and *obsequium pauperum* is to go to the heart of the Gospel, and to do so at the heart of the Church. That is why the ministry of Chaplains is important to the life of the Order. The ordained have to preach the word and celebrate the sacraments for the members; but they also have to ensure, with the ecclesial eye of the pastor, that the Order remains faithful to its mission for the glory of God and the good of the Church.

Chaplains are expected to know the Order well, its members, its history, its mission. But they are also expected to have that deep sense of the Church which includes a sound understanding of the faith and a genuine love of the poor, whoever they may be. If Chaplains are properly equipped and generous in their service, they will certainly help the Order to be what God wants it to be; and they themselves will be greatly enriched by the gifts God has given the Order and its individual members.

I thank those who have worked hard to compile this Handbook which will help to equip the Chaplains for their ministry. I commend it not only to the Chaplains but also to the members of the Order and to all who may wish to know more of its mission of service to the world.

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

Archbishop of Brisbane

Conventual Chaplain Ad Honorem and Principal Chaplain of the Australian Association

Commendation from The President

The Order of Malta is a lay religious Order of the Church. Our purpose is the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of our members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to our neighbours, in accordance with our ancient traditions; see Article 2 par 1 of our Constitutional Charter. All of our members are, therefore, called to holiness. You, our chaplain members, are indispensable in assisting all of us to fulfil that call.

Article 3 of the Regulations for the Order's chaplains provides that the fundamental requirements for chaplains of all classes are:

- An upright priestly life;
- A general cultural education and adequate formation in theology and canon law;
- Aptitude for helping the sick, the suffering, those in need and the elderly;
- Full awareness of the special characteristics of the Order and the ability for ministering spiritually to its particular circumstances and milieu;
- For non-professed chaplains, such time to spend on spiritual assistance for the brethren and for the works of the Order as is compatible with their other commitments.

This handbook is designed to assist you by providing information about the Order and collecting the thoughts of experienced chaplains including the Prelate of the Order, HE Mons Jean Laffitte, on the nature of our role as members and what chaplains can do to assist us. This may involve the saying of masses, the delivery of retreats and talks on topics of religious or spiritual interest down to individual guidance and advice to members in their pursuit of initial and ongoing formation. Our Journal of Spirituality includes 18 volumes since 2002 of discussion of the spirituality of the Order.

The Order also engages in pilgrimages to Lourdes annually and sometimes to the Holy Land as well as sponsoring annual conferences in the Asia Pacific region. Assistance from our chaplains is needed in those activities and other liturgical ceremonies.

The role is challenging but rewarding in the opportunities it provides for interacting with the lay members of the Order in seeking to serve the crucified Jesus in His deprived brothers and sisters. That is the point made by one of our chaplains, the Very Rev Prof Gerald O'Collins SJ in his reflection on our patron, St John the Baptist, reproduced in this handbook.

I commend the whole document to you and thank those who brought it together for the benefit of all of us.

The Hon James Douglas KHD
President of the Australian Association



Principal Chaplain + Archbishop Mark Coleridge with Chaplains and Members of the Order of Malta.



Part One: Being a Chaplain

- Introducing the Prelate of the Order
- What our Prelate says to Chaplains
- What resources will help you get to know the Order?
- What is the context for chaplaincy in the Order?
- How are Chaplains appointed?
- What is expected of you as a Chaplain?
- What do Chaplains do at our Lourdes pilgrimage?

Introducing The Prelate

The prelate, appointed by the Holy Father who chooses him from a terna of names put forward by His most Eminent Highness the Prince and the Grand Master following the deliberative vote of the Sovereign Council, is the ecclesiastical superior of the priests of the Order in matters concerning their activities.

He ensures that the Chaplains' religious and priestly life and their apostolate are in accordance with the discipline and spirit of the Order, as laid down in the Constitutional Charter and the Code of the Order (Constitutional Charter, article 19, paragraphs 1 and 2; Code of the Order, article 160).



The Prelate of the Order of Malta, H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte speaking in Victoria at our 9th Asia Pacific Conference in 2019

Every Grand Priory, Subpriory, or Association has a Principal Chaplain, who is appointed by the Prelate, in full accord with the supervisors of said entities. The Principal Chaplain remains in office for five years and his mandate can be renewed.

Born in France, at Oloron-Sainte-Marie in 1952, Monsignor Laffitte graduated in Political Science at the University of Toulouse in 1973. He subsequently read philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and moral theology at the John Paul II Pontifical Institute.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Autun, France, in 1989. He is Titular Bishop of Entrevaux (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence). He was Vice-President of the Pontifical Academy for Life from 2006 to 2009. He was secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family from 2009 to 2016. He is the author of numerous publications.

Monsignor Laffitte has been the Prelate of the Order of Malta since 4th July 2015.

What our Prelate says to Chaplains

The quotes below are from *The Essential Elements of the Spirituality of the Order of Malta*, a talk presented at the American Association's Chaplain's Convocation in April 2016 by the Prelate of the Order of Malta, H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte.

'You have noticed that when people who do not belong to the Order speak of its activities, they immediately mention its countless works of service to the poor and the sick and this often generates their admiration. Today, I propose you to turn your attention to the religious nature of the Order and its goals. In the Constitutional Charter, we read, "The purpose of the Order is the promotion of the Glory of God, the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to one's neighbour, in accordance with its ancient traditions." (Article 2.)'

'So, the Order of Malta is the exact opposite of an NGO, a Nongovernment Organisation, because of this priority of God's Glory and personal sanctification. Every member is called to holiness. All their work, all our works are inspired by this love which binds them to Christ the Lord. The activities do not in the first place give some moral or spiritual merit. On the contrary, it is the spiritual bond with the Lord and with the church which inspires and makes really fruitful our activities. It's exactly the contrary of moralism, voluntarism or Pelagianism, to use a technical word.'

'..... On one side, we help other members to live better their engagement, their commitment. On the other, we are supported by the example of many of them to live better our priesthood. The way many of them experience a broader prayer life, attendance to the word of God, sacramental life, especially the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, their personal and family behaviour, their humble attachment to the person or the successor of Peter, all these things can encourage us in our efforts toward sanctification.'

'.... I have been able to assess everywhere the immense, the huge expectation from our members on these matters. It's extraordinary, the expectation and the hope. The members of the Order expect much from their chaplains - not only spiritual guidance, of course, but also a teaching guidance and attention, availability, a disposition to explain, to transmit with mercy but with clearness and clarity, the teachings of the Church.'

'The Order encourages its members, in addition, to participate in spiritual retreats, to work toward permanent formation. That's an important point and it's important for members to deepen their knowledge of the moral teaching of the Church by mean of sessions of formation or conversations or discussions. It's exactly what is done in the meeting of the chaplain with other members. We must be careful in the way we help our members concerning these issues. When obsequium pauperum is mentioned, we need to help our members with an explanation of the meaning and relationship of tuitio fidei. "Nurturing, protecting, witnessing and defending the Christian faith" is how it is stated according to the brief definition of the glossary which closes the document, Regulations and Commentary.'

What resources will help you get to know The Order?

For items with hyperlinks in the PDF version of the handbook, please click on the hyperlink to download an item.

Official Documents of the Order of Malta

[Regulations and Commentary \(2011\)](#)

[Constitutional Charter and Code of the Sovereign Order of Malta \(1997\)](#)

[Regulations for Conventual Chaplains Ad Honorem and Magistral Chaplains \(2011\)](#)

Publications of the Order of Malta

[Journal of Spirituality](#) – Director of the series: Prelate of the Order of Malta H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte. There are 18 volumes from 2002 – 2020. The tables of content from all volumes are provided at the end of this handbook.

[Handbook for the Year of Preparation](#) – this supports candidates in their preparation for admission to the Order
[Promise of Obedience - Framework for Year of Probation](#) - this provides the framework for members preparing to take the Promise of Obedience

[The Sovereign Order of Malta at a Glance](#)

[The Order of Malta - Its sovereignty diplomacy and government](#)

[Sovereign Order of Malta's Activity Reports](#) - Published every two years

[Knights of Malta \(short history of the Order from Italian Association\)](#) – Marcello Marrocco Trischitta

Papers and Speeches

[The Religious Nature of the Order of Malta](#), Fra' Richard J Wolff

[The Essential Elements of the Spirituality of the Order Malta](#), H.E. Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte, the Prelate of the Order of Malta

Public Video Documentaries

[A Bastion of Christianity](#) – (Deutsche Welle)

[The Order of Malta – History and Modern Day](#) (EWTN Vaticano)

What is the context for Chaplaincy in The Order?

The following information includes text from the English translation of “Regulations for Conventual Chaplains Ad Honorem and Magistral Chaplains” (Rome 2011). The Regulations were approved by the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Council at a meeting held on 20 June 2003. These rules come from the Code of Canon Law and the Constitutional Charter and Code of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

The Order of Malta is a sovereign organisation and as such a subject of international law (Constitutional Charter, article 3, part 1), but it is principally a lay religious Order (Constitutional Charter, article 1, part 1), governed in this respect by the Code of Canon Law of the Latin Church, *Codex Iuris Canonici* (Canon 588 §3). The Code of Canon Law, together with the Constitutional Charter of the Order and the Code of the Order, are the sources for the present Regulations.

The general aims of the Order are those which are essential to any religious institute: that is to say, the glory of God and the sanctification of its members by contributing to the eternal salvation of their neighbour. In the Order of Malta, the means for attaining these ends are determined by the specific aims and activities which the Order has chosen, i.e., *Tuitio Fidei* and *Obsequium Pauperum*. *Tuitio Fidei* (guarding the faith) means a constant deepening of our understanding of revealed truth with a view to giving an informed witness, by means of prayer and active involvement, in spreading the Kingdom of God. *Obsequium Pauperum* (service of the poor) means helping one's neighbour, especially the sick and poor, in a spirit of love and respect for those who show forth the suffering of Christ in the world.

In furtherance of these aims, the Order undertakes suitable projects, which all the members, in accordance with the commitment they have undertaken, should support according to the circumstances and situation of each (Constitutional Charter, article 9, paragraph 3; Code of the Order, article 116).

The Chaplains of every grade serve God in the Church and in the Order and it is also their duty to take part in the spiritual formation of all the members of the Order. They should support its work for a more Christian society and sustain its apostolate, even at the cost of personal sacrifice. They should provide the priestly ministry which the Order needs for its work in accordance with the degree of obligation which links them to the Order.

The Chaplains should help members to deepen and put into practice the charisma which is proper to the Order of Malta and to harmonise its traditions with the demands of the times and places in which it works (CIC Canons 576, 587 §4), so that it may always give a service which is valuable to the Church of God for the salvation of souls.

Fundamental requirements for Chaplains include an aptitude for helping the sick, the suffering, those in need and the elderly; a full awareness of the special characteristics of the Order; and the ability for ministering spiritually to its particular circumstances and milieu.

How are Chaplains Appointed?

Some Chaplains approach the Order to indicate an interest to become a chaplain. Others are approached by the Order. After positive exploratory conversations with the priest and an indication of support gathered from his ordinary or religious superior, the priest is invited to participate in the local activities of the Order for a minimum period of a year. This is to give both the priest and the Order an opportunity to recognise how well he fits with a chaplain's role in the context of the Order's charism and traditions. With certainty determined on both sides, the formal application process may then commence.



Fr Malcolm Fyfe, Fr Aris Sison, H.E. Mons Jean Laffitte, Fr Gerard McMorrow, Fr Brian Boyle at the 9th Asia Pacific Conference in Victoria.

The putting forward of the candidate must come from the President of an Association, enclosing:

- certificate of priestly ordination
- brief curriculum vitae
- nihil obstat, together with a letter of recommendation and the opinion of the ordinary of the diocese in which the candidate is incardinated, or of his religious superior, and, where appropriate, of the head of the ecclesiastical office where he is working.

The President, having briefed the applicant priest on the duties of his future state, and having consulted the Principal Chaplain and, if appropriate, other Chaplains, submits the proposed admission of the candidate to the Association's Executive Council. If it is approved, a request, together with the required documents, is then forwarded to His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand Master, together with the opinion of the Prelate.

When the formalities listed above are complete, the Grand Master, with the deliberative vote of the Sovereign Council, decides whether to receive the request and notifies the decision to the President.

Chaplains in Australia and New Zealand

The Australian Association and the New Zealand Delegation have within their Clergy, two types of Chaplains – Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem* and Magistral Chaplain. The Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem* is often a bishop. Clergy below the level of bishop typically would be appointed as Magistral Chaplains. The Principal Chaplain of the Australian Association is a Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*. Chaplains come under the direction of the Principal Chaplain of the Association.

Chaplains of the Order of Malta are members of the Third Class with all the rights and privileges except they are precluded from holding any leadership position in the Association. They are appointed to the region where they reside.

The Australian Association is led by an Executive Council consisting of the President, Vice-president, Chancellor, Treasurer, National Hospitaller and Regional Hospitallers. The Council is supported by a Delegate and Vice Delegate of Communications and National Coordinators for Formation and Safeguarding. Members are grouped in regions:

- Northern Central Region (NT)
- North Eastern Region (QLD)
- Central Eastern Region (NSW/ACT)
- South Eastern Region (VIC/TAS)
- Southern Central Region (SA/WA)
- New Zealand (Delegation of the Australian Association)

What is expected of Chaplains in The Order of Malta?

Chaplains are essential to the liturgical life of the Order and the spiritual growth of its members. We are thankful that you have discerned and have responded to our Lord's call to provide the Order and its members with your gifts, your time, and your experience.

The duties asked of Chaplains are found in [Regulations for Conventual Chaplains Ad Honorem and Magistral Chaplains \(2011\)](#). See Articles 5, Parts 1 and 2 and Article 6. They are numerous, competing with other roles you are committed to. We are aware that the entire list may not be fully discharged each year by any one Chaplain. Our hope is that shared with other Chaplains, and over time, they would be.

The hospitaller in your region will collaboratively plan with you each year the activities and dates for your work with the Order. When doing that, it is important to bear in mind the purpose of the Order and the spiritual needs of our members.

“The purpose of the Order is the promotion of the Glory of God, the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to one's neighbour, in accordance with its ancient traditions.”

The formation of members begins when they undergo their year of preparation as candidates. This process is described in the [Handbook for the Year of Preparation](#). After admission to the Order, ongoing formation continues.

After five years of membership, some members may decide to raise their commitment by preparing to take the Promise of Obedience. Around 10% of the Order become members in obedience. This requires undergoing a year of probation. See what that entails in this link: [Promise of Obedience - Framework for Year of Probation](#)

A few may from there may go on to profess the three evangelical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. This would require a more intense and longer period of preparation. There are 42 professed members in the Order today.

The activities you lead build the spiritual environment of the Order. This environment in turn inspires and nourishes the spiritual development of members and aids their sanctification. These activities include:

- Celebrate Masses (monthly, feast days of the saints and blessed of the Order, remembrance)
- Participate in the liturgical ceremonies of the Order (eg: investiture of new members)
- Assist candidates in their preparation for membership
- Assist members as spiritual directors in their ongoing formation
- Conduct religious education courses
- Join our meetings and pilgrimages (eg: our annual Lourdes pilgrimage)
- Lead retreats and days of recollection, especially in Lent and Advent
- Write short reflections on the spirituality of the Order
- Support / participate in the works of the Order
- Keep in touch with the Principal Chaplain, informing him of your activities in the Order
- Deepen your knowledge about the Order's spirituality, history, traditions, customs and laws in order to assist and enlighten its members.

We are grateful to you, our Chaplains and we are happy to assist you in your needs as well. Collectively, members are blessed with a wide range of resources, skills and capabilities and will always be enthusiastic to be asked to support our clergy.

What do Chaplains do at Our Lourdes Pilgrimage?



The Order's Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes dates back to 1958 and is held over four days around the first weekend of May. In recent years, this pilgrimage has been attended by 7,000 members and 1,500 malades.

Members are obliged to attend this pilgrimage with the Order at least once. Many make several pilgrimages during their life of active service in the Order. It is the largest hospitaller event of the Order and pilgrims draw in not only the spirituality of Lourdes but also the globality of our Order. On average, there will be two chaplains accompanying our members to Lourdes each year. They would meet chaplains from more than 40 countries and concelebrate the international Masses led by our Prelate, the Papal Delegate to the Order, and attending Cardinals of the Order from other countries.

Our chaplains have a role not only in celebrating daily Mass for our pilgrims, leading the Stations of the Cross, and guiding prayers at the Grotto, but also in providing reflective sessions each day for our members and their malades about Lourdes, Marian spirituality, and the special relationship that sickness can have in drawing people closer to Our Lady and Her Son, Jesus Christ. Pilgrimages to Lourdes provide a special opportunity for members and chaplains to get to know one another. We are very grateful when our chaplains are willing to make yet another pilgrimage with us to Lourdes as this is such an important annual event in the life of members of the Order.

Learn more about the Order's Lourdes Pilgrimage: [*Lourdes Pilgrimage - Australia and Asia Pacific Delegation*](#)



Part Two: About The Order of Malta

- Our purpose
- Our members' commitment
- Our founder, Blessed Gerard
- Our history
- Our structure
- Our Order in Australia & New Zealand
- Our patron saints
- Our works

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Order is the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to one's neighbour, in accordance with its ancient traditions.

True to the divine precepts and to the admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ, guided by the teachings of the Church, the Order affirms and propagates the Christian virtues of charity and brotherhood. The Order carries out his character his charitable works for the sick, the needy and refugees without distinction of religion, race, origin and age.

The Order fulfils its institutional tasks especially by carrying out hospitaller works, including social and health assistance, as well as aiding victims of exceptional disasters and of war, attending also to their spiritual well-being and the strengthening of their faith in God.

Constitutional Charter and Code Article 2, Par. 1 and 2

Our Members' Commitment

A candidate at his or her investiture makes this pledge:

'We promise, in the name of God, in chivalrous fidelity, always to bear witness to the Catholic Faith, to defend the Church, and to lead our lives in accordance with the teaching of the Holy, Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church.

We declare ourselves as ready, as members of Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, to care for our Lords, the Sick and the Poor, with all our strength and ability.

We also declare ourselves ready to obey the Constitution, the Statutes, and the Rule of The Order, and so to fulfill with fidelity and diligence whatever The Order, and our superiors impose on us.

To all this, so help us God, Our Lady of Philermos, St John the Baptist our glorious Patron, Blessed Fra' Gerard, our founder, and all the Saints of our Order.

You here present, we also call to witness our commitment.'

Our Founder Blessed Gerard

Fra' James-Michael von Stroebel, Federal Association

Founder and First Grand Master of the Order of St John of Jerusalem

Towards the end of the eleventh century, Gerard went to Jerusalem. There, next to the Church of St John, he established a hospice, a resting place, for pilgrims and the sick. To maintain his work, he founded a religious fraternity.

During the Crusader siege of Jerusalem in 1099, he was in the city. All the inhabitants of the city including the Christians were forced to assist in the defence of the walls, but instead of stones, Gerard threw small loaves of bread to the hungry besiegers. Having been so observed by the Muslim guards, he was accused of treachery, but when ordered to open his cloak, instead of loaves of bread, stones fell out.

After the conquest of the city, Gerard served the multitude of wounded, sick and dying. Many of the crusading knights put aside the sword to join Gerard in this work and the brotherhood expanded rapidly.

On 15 February 1113, Pope Paschal II solemnly approved the Order with the Papal bull, *Pie postulatio voluntatis*, addressed to 'Gerard, Founder and Warden of the hospice at Jerusalem and to his lawful successors'.

Gerard conceived the principle that the sick and the poor were the 'Lords' of the members of his Order and the members were their 'serfs', under the feudal obligation to render the same devotion and reverence that secular lords would receive from their liegemen.

He died at Jerusalem on 3 September 1120. His feast is celebrated on 13 October.



Our History

1048 – Jerusalem

The birth of the Order of St John dates back to around 1048. Merchants from the ancient Marine Republic of Amalfi obtained from the Caliph of Egypt the authorisation to build a church, convent and hospital in Jerusalem, to care for pilgrims of any religious faith or race.

The Order of St John of Jerusalem, the monastic community which ran the hospital, became independent under the guidance of its founder, Blessed Gerard. Pope Paschal II approved the foundation of the Hospital with the Bull of 15 February 1113, and placed it under the aegis of the Church, granting it the right to freely elect its superiors without interference from other lay or religious authorities. By virtue of the Papal Bull, the Hospital became a lay religious Order. All the knights were religious, bound by the monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The constitution of the Kingdom of Jerusalem obliged the Order to take on the military defence of the sick and the pilgrims, as well as guarding its medical centres and main roads. The Order thus added the task of defending the faith to that of its hospitaller mission. As time went on, the Order adopted the white eight-pointed cross that is still its symbol today.

1291 – Cyprus

After the fall of St John of Acre and the loss of the Holy Land in 1291, the Hospitaller Order of St John transferred its seat and hospital to Limassol on the island of Cyprus, where it had been present since 1210 thanks to the concession of important properties, privileges and commercial rights.

It continued to build new hospitals faithful to its hospitaller mission and benefitted from the strategic position of the island to constitute a naval fleet to protect pilgrims on the sea route to the Holy Land. The number of members coming from all over Europe continued to grow and contributed to the strengthening of the Order's structure, acquiring new possessions on the shores of the Mediterranean.

Among these were the important port of Famagusta, the city of Nicosia and numerous commanderies.

Due to increasing instability in Cyprus, which restricted their expansion on the island, the Hospitallers sought to consider a more suitable base for the seat of the Order of St John on the Island of Rhodes. Nevertheless, Magistral lieutenants remained present in Cyprus to govern the priories and commanderies (said to have been over 60 by 1374) for another century until the middle of the fifteenth century, when the Knights were recalled to the conventual seat in Rhodes.

1310 – Rhodes

Under the leadership of Grand Master Fra' Foulques de Villaret, in 1307, the Knights of the Order of St John landed with their fleet in Rhodes, completing the acquisition of the island by 1310 when it transferred its seat there. Besides offering natural ports for its fleets, the island was a strategic location that linked the eastern and western worlds. From then, the defence of the Christian world required the organisation of a naval force. Thus, the Order built a powerful fleet and sailed the eastern Mediterranean, engaging in many famous battles.

The Order's independence from other nations granted by pontifical deed, and its universally recognised right to maintain and deploy armed forces and to appoint ambassadors, has constituted the grounds for its international sovereignty.

In the early 14th century, the institutions of the Order and the Knights who came to Rhodes from every corner of Europe were grouped according to the languages they spoke. There were initially seven groups of Langues (Tongues): Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Aragon (Navarre), England (with Scotland and Ireland) and Germany, and later on an eighth: Castille and Portugal. Each Langue included priories or grand priories, bailiwicks and commanderies.

The Order was governed by its Grand Master (Prince of Rhodes) together with the Council. It minted its own money and maintained diplomatic relations with other states. The senior positions of the Order were given to representatives of different Langues. The seat of the Order, the Convent, comprised of religious members of various nationalities.

After six months of siege and fierce combat against the fleet and army of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, the Knights were forced to surrender in 1523 and left Rhodes with military honours.

1530 – Malta

The Order remained without a territory of its own until 1530, when Grand Master Fra' Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle Adam took possession of Malta, granted to the Order by Emperor Charles V with the approval of Pope Clement VII. It was decided that the Order should remain neutral in any war between Christian nations.

In 1565 the Knights, led by Grand Master Fra' Jean de la Vallette defended the island for more than three months during the Great Siege of the Ottomans.

Following this victory, the city and port of La Valletta was built and named after the Grand Master, its founder. The Knights transformed Malta, undertaking urban construction projects: palaces and churches were built, as well as formidable new defence bastions and gardens. Architecture flourished as did artistic patronage. The island was given a large new hospital, considered to be one of the best organised and most effective in the world. A school of anatomy was also founded, and the faculty of medicine followed. In particular, the Order contributed to the development of studies in ophthalmology and pharmacology.

As well as these activities, for centuries the Order of Malta's fleet took part in the most important manoeuvres in the Mediterranean against the Ottoman fleet and against North African pirates.

1571 – The Battle of Lepanto

In 1571 the fleet of the Order of Malta took part in the Battle of Lepanto, contributing to the victory of the Christian fleet against the Ottoman Empire's expansion into Europe.

From 1798 – Difficult years

Two hundred years later, during his Egyptian campaign in 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte occupied Malta for its strategic value. Because of the Order's code prohibiting them from raising weapons against other Christians, the Knights were forced to leave their island. The Treaty of Amiens, signed in 1802, which established the sovereign rights of the Order over the island of Malta, was never applied.

1834 – Rome

After temporarily residing in Messina, Catania and Ferrara, in 1834 the Order settled in Rome, where it owns, with extraterritorial status, the Magistral Palace and the Magistral Villa on the Aventine Hill.

The 20th and 21st Centuries

In the second part of the 19th century, the original hospitaller mission became once again the main focus of the Order, growing ever stronger during the last century, most especially because of the contribution of the activities carried out by its grand priories and national associations in many countries around the world. Large-scale hospitaller and charitable activities were carried out during World War I, and World War II under Grand Master Fra' Ludovico Chigi Albani della Rovere (1931–1951).

Under the Grand Masters Fra' Angelo de Mojana di Cologna (1962–1988) and Fra' Andrew Bertie (1988–2008), the projects expanded until they reached the furthestmost regions of the world.

Our Structure

The Order of Malta is a lay religious Order of the Catholic Church. Faithful to its centuries-old mission of service to the vulnerable and the sick, it runs medical, social and humanitarian projects in 120 countries with 250 entities including 48 national associations. It has 13,500 members, 80,000 volunteers, 42,000 employees (most of them doctors and paramedics).

Its mission is summed up in its motto, *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*: nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith and serving the poor and the sick.

As a sovereign entity, the Order of Malta today has diplomatic relations with over a hundred countries, has a permanent observer mission to the United Nations, and maintains representations to numerous international humanitarian organisations.

The Order is headed by the Prince and Grand Master who is elected for life by a council convened solely to elect the Grand Master when a vacancy occurs.

The Grand Master must be a Professed Knight (taking vows of poverty, chastity and obedience). According to the Constitution, as the religious superior and sovereign, he must fully dedicate himself to the development of the works of the Order and set an example of living by Christian principles, to all the members of the Order. He is vested with supreme authorities. Together with the Sovereign Council, the Grand Master issues the legislative measures not covered by the Constitution, promulgates government acts, manages Common Treasure assets, and ratifies international agreements and the summoning of the Chapter General.

In his position as head of a religious Order, he reports to the Pope, and the Roman Catholic Church confers him the protocol rank of cardinal, although in most circumstances his rank of head of state prevails. He does not have a vote in the Consistory when a new pope is elected.

The Sovereign Council, elected every five years by the Chapter General, includes the high offices of Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller, and Receiver of the Common Treasure (Treasurer), and six other members. The Sovereign Council assists the Grand Master in the government of the Order. The Grand Master presides over the Sovereign Council.

The Grand Commander is responsible for religious and spiritual matters. He assists the Grand Master in fulfilling the charism of the Order and in the diffusion and protection of the faith, in the supervision of the grand priories and subpriories, and in the supervision of the members of the First and Second Class.

The Grand Chancellor is the Minister of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the foreign policy and the diplomatic missions of the Order of Malta. He is also the Minister of Internal Affairs, in charge of the 48 National Associations of the Order in the world. Under the authority of the Grand Master he is responsible for the representation of the Order to third parties, the carrying out of policy and the internal administration, as well as the coordination of the activities of the government of the Order of Malta.

The Grand Hospitaller's responsibilities include the offices of Minister of Health and of Social Affairs, Minister for Humanitarian Action and Minister for International Cooperation. The Grand Hospitaller also coordinates and supervises the initiatives of the grand priories, national associations and other Order institutions world-wide.

The Receiver of the Common Treasure – the Minister of Finance – directs the administration of the finances and the property of the Order in coordination with the Grand Chancellor, under the authority of the Grand Master and the surveillance of the Board of Auditors.

Our Order in Australia and New Zealand

At its core, the Order of Malta is a lay religious Order devoted to deepening its members' personal sanctification through service to the sick and the poor. Joining the Order of Malta is a lifetime commitment to a way of life deeply rooted in a Christ-like focus on the least in our midst.

The full title – Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta – is usually referred to by the shorter Order of Malta, but the longer version provides a better understanding of our identity, the additional words shedding light upon the various rich aspects of who we are, where we came from, and what our purpose is.

Because of the chivalric background of the Order, there is a focus on both honourable behaviour and the arcane geographic places in our full name. The knights were initially called the Knights Hospitaller (or Hospitallers) to describe their mission. But they were also called the Knights of St John of Jerusalem because of the Order's patron, St John the Baptist, and because of their presence in the Holy Land. After conquering the island of Rhodes in 1310, they became the Knights of Rhodes. In 1530 the Emperor Charles V ceded the island of Malta to the Knights. Since then the Order's members are commonly referred to as the Knights of Malta.

Service is a principal element of the charism of the Order of Malta. It would be a grave misunderstanding to think that membership is an honour you are invited to share without thinking of the primary duty you will assume of service to the sick and the poor.

Witness to the Gospel is the other principal element of the Order's charism. We serve the sick and the poor, but we also commit to defend the Catholic faith by nurturing, witnessing and protecting it — the two go together. Our hospitaller activities demonstrate our defence of our faith.

The sanctity of human life and the sanctity of marriage are no longer commonly accepted by many communities, nor protected by our respective nations' laws. We rely on the traditions of the Order to remain faithful to the Gospel. As individuals, our adherence to the Catholic faith should be manifested by our moral conduct, our ongoing learning and sharing of this faith, and our service.

What does it mean to belong to a “lay religious Order?” These adjectives seem contradictory. How can something be both religious and lay at the same time?

Members of the Order are divided into three “classes”.

- **The Third Class** – to which most members belong and to which you will be invested – requires a *commitment to the rules and the mission of the Order of Malta*. They are “to conduct their lives in an exemplary manner with the teachings and precepts of the Church, and to devote themselves to the charitable activities of the Order according to the provisions of the Code” (Constitutional Charter, article 9, par. 3).
- **The Second Class** – these are members in Obedience, those who after a minimum of five years of membership, choose to *make the Promise of Obedience* and oblige themselves to “strive for the perfection of Christian life in conformity with the obligation of their state, in the spirit of the Order” (Constitutional Charter, article 9, par. 2). The members of the Second Class make a deeper commitment to the works of the Order through the Promise of Obedience. Members in Obedience currently comprise 5 per cent of the world membership, while it is 10% in the Australian Association.

- **The First Class** profess vows of the Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience but are not ordained. These professed members are a small minority but are essential to the life of the whole Order of Malta. It would not be an “Order” without them. “Religious” refers to the vows taken by the members of the First Class. Only men are admitted in this class. “Lay” refers to the fact that this Order is not primarily composed of priests and deacons.

The three classes of the Order of Malta do not reflect degrees of greater or lesser prestige but rather increasing degrees of self-sacrifice. Our patron St John the Baptist gives us the stirring reminder, “He must increase, I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). St Paul makes more explicit the meaning of the entire Christian life: “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20).

Service to the poor and witness to the faith are means to the end but not the end itself. Herein lies the great difference between the Order of Malta and other charities:

The purpose of our Order is the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members.

Far more than doing good works, the Order of Malta is our path to Heaven. In a way similar to those who become Benedictine Oblates or Third Order Franciscans or lay Carmelites, the members of the Second and Third Classes associate themselves with the vowed religious of the First Class in seeking holiness by praising God through the gift of their lives in the Order of Malta. There is a distinctive spirituality in the Order of Malta that should guide us.

We are first and foremost disciples of the Lord Jesus seeking to follow Him more closely by living according to the way revealed to our founder Blessed Gerard. The eight points of our white cross symbolise the Beatitudes taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt Ch 5). St John Paul II described the Beatitudes as the self-portrait of Jesus. As members of the Order of Malta, we are called in a special way to meditate upon and put into practice the Beatitudes. Blessed Gerard shows us how to live them using our service and witness, and thus shaping our lives to be ever more Christ-like.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the model for all those who seek to draw close to God. Under her title of Our Lady of Philermos, she and St John the Baptist are the patrons of the Order of Malta. More information about our patrons and intercessors follows next.

Our Patron Saints



Our Lady of Philermos

Fra' James-Michael von Stroebel, Federal Association

From the 4th to the 11th century, the island of Rhodes belonged to the Greek Byzantine Empire. In 1052 it was occupied by the Venetians. In 1306 they sold the island to the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem. On Mount Philermos in southwestern Rhodes, there were the remains of a Byzantine church. It had housed a “miraculous” pilgrimage icon of the Blessed Mother, which pious tradition accredited to having been painted by St Luke the Evangelist and having been brought from Jerusalem.

The Knights of St John built a basilica on the spot and reinstated the icon, which was venerated as “Our Lady of All Mercies” and became known as “Our Lady of Philermos”. Since then the Order has been devoted to Our Lady under that title as its protector and patroness. The island was invaded several times unsuccessfully. After the first great siege by the Ottoman Turks in 1480, Mount Philermos was considered insecure and in 1513 the icon was moved to St Mark’s church in the city of Rhodes.

During the second Ottoman siege, in 1522 under Suleiman, the church of St Mark was completely destroyed, but the icon was found intact. Running out of supplies, the Knights accepted Suleiman’s offer to depart with military honours. On 1 January 1523 they left Rhodes, taking the icon of Our Lady of Philermos with them.

In 1530 the Order moved to Malta. The icon was placed in the church of St Lawrence, which soon was badly damaged by fire, but once again the icon was not harmed. On 19 May 1565 Suleiman began the third and most famous of the Ottoman sieges of the Knights of St John, this time in Malta. Although greatly outnumbered, the Order withstood the attacks. On 8 September, celebrated by the Order as the Feast of Our Lady of Philermos, a relief army landed on Malta and the Turks fled.

After Bonaparte captured Malta in 1798, the Order was allowed to take away several important relics and the icon of Our Lady of Philermos. These objects ended their travels in St Petersburg under the protection of the Tsar, and came to be regarded as the personal property of the Russian imperial family. By the grace of God the relics were saved from the 1917 revolution, and in 1919 they were taken to Copenhagen. In 1931 they were transferred to Yugoslavia and placed under the protection of the king. When the Germans invaded in 1941, the icon was hidden in a monastery in Montenegro. It later was found by Tito and finally placed in a museum in Cetinje, the old capital of Montenegro, but was never displayed. Considered lost for some time, a few years ago the icon was rediscovered and now is on display.

St John the Baptist

*The Very Reverend Prof Gerald O'Collins,
Emeritus Principal Chaplain of the Subpriory of the
Immaculate Conception*

We have probably all seen pictures of John the Baptist wading out into the river Jordan to baptise Jesus, his cousin whose coming he has predicted and prepared for. Artists have also portrayed John as an emaciated ascetic on whom a long shirt made of camel hair hangs loosely. He carries not only a staff but also a scroll referring to Jesus, *Ecce Agnus Dei* (Behold the Lamb of God). At times he bears a book or a dish with a lamb on it.



In his famous painting of the crucifixion now held in the Colmar Museum (France), Matthias Grünewald (d. 1528) depicts John the Baptist pointing his long index finger towards Christ on the Cross, with the inscription: 'He must increase and I must decrease' (Jn 3:30). Nothing represents better the witness Christians are called to give through the witness of their worship and lives. They should point away from themselves to the crucified Jesus, whom they seek to serve in His deprived brothers and sisters (Mt 25:31–46).

Since the beginning of its existence, the Order of Malta has treasured and drawn inspiration from St John the Baptist. Its members wear on their robes a special cross of eight points. Like John, they want to point away from themselves towards the crucified Jesus. They seek always to maintain faith in Him (their ideal of *tuitio fidei* or defence of the faith) and to serve Him in the hungry, sick, homeless, and all His other suffering brothers and sisters (the ideal of *obsequium pauperum* or service of the poor).

Our Works - Around the Globe

The Order of Malta is today a global institution offering professional medical, social and humanitarian aid. It operates through six grand priories, six subpriories, 48 national associations, 133 diplomatic missions, one worldwide relief agency and 33 national relief corps. It does not pursue any economic or political goal and does not depend on any other state or government.

Its 13,500 members, 80,000 permanent volunteers and qualified staff of 42,000 professionals – most of whom are medical personnel and paramedics – form an efficient network that includes everything from hospital work, health care and emergency relief for the victims of war or famine, intervention in areas hit by natural disasters, general medical care and social services. Its programs – run independently or within a framework of partnerships with governments and international agencies – are now active in 120 countries around the world. The Order of Malta both supports and directly manages hundreds of medical centres, 20 hospitals, 30 ambulance teams and 110 homes for the elderly.

Malteser International

Malteser International is the worldwide relief agency of the Order of Malta for humanitarian aid. Its worldwide operations include emergency medical interventions, long term reconstruction and development programs. Malteser International has more than 60 years of experience in humanitarian operations. There are twenty-six Order of Malta Associations belonging to Malteser International. Malteser International has its headquarters in Cologne, Germany, and currently runs 100 projects in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

For more information, visit: www.malteser-international.org

CIOMAL (Campagne Internationale de l'Ordre de Malte contre la Lèpre)

CIOMAL provides assistance to people currently or previously affected by leprosy – who are often victims of exclusion – for their medical and socio-economic rehabilitation. The disease is still officially present in more than a hundred countries.



Since its creation, CIOMAL has funded and managed centres providing prevention, health care, social rehabilitation and medical staff training in agreement with the government of the country concerned. CIOMAL carries out its own projects but also coordinates the projects of the Order of Malta to fight leprosy and support its victims.

CIOMAL currently manages in Cambodia a major program to fight leprosy throughout the whole country. In this program priority is given to the early detection and rehabilitation of patients in Order to spare them as much as possible the irreversible consequences of the disease. CIOMAL is also dedicated to the rehabilitation of the patients at the Kien Khleang Centre in Phnom Penh, who receive personalised physiotherapy as well as customised prosthetic limbs or orthotics if necessary. CIOMAL assists patients in their efforts to reintegrate into their community. The social and economic dimensions, through basic vocational training and the development of economic micro-activities, are an integral part of the programs.

For more information, visit: www.ciomal.org

Holy Family Hospital

The Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, Palestine, is a joint project across the Order of Malta under the operational responsibilities of the French Association of the Order. The hospital provides the population of Bethlehem and its surrounding area with an indispensable service, offering the only possible place for women of the region to give birth under good medical conditions. Since 1990 80,000 babies have been born in the hospital. Its primary objective is to offer high-quality maternity care to all women,



regardless of race, religion, culture or social condition. Because of the continuing unstable political landscape and the very tight economic situation, the need for the hospital's services has increased. In recent years the hospital has added mobile units, enabling staff to travel in medical vans out into the countryside to serve a wider audience.

The hospital's operating costs are sustained by the Order of Malta. Patients pay what they can afford. For those unable to pay, charges are reduced or waived. The heavy financial burden is borne by the French Association, with help from the associations of Germany, USA, Ireland and Switzerland, and by the European Union.

For more information, visit: www.holyfamilyhospital-bethlehem.org

Global Fund for Forgotten People

The Global Fund for Forgotten People was founded by the government of the Order of Malta in 2011. The fund raises money for works of the Order of Malta, which reach out to those who would otherwise be forgotten. In partnership with the Order's national organisations and embassies, the Fund raises awareness of, and support for, particular issues which have fallen under the radar.

Forgotten people are those who, even in our modern world when the spotlight of attention seems to shine everywhere, are suffering beneath the surface.

The priority areas are:

- Forgotten diseases
- Maternal and neonatal health
- Children of prisoners
- The elderly
- Disabled children and adults
- The homeless
- Displaced people
- Marginalised communities

The Global Fund makes approximately 40 grants a year in support of the forgotten and builds the capacity of the Order of Malta to support forgotten people around the world.

For more information, visit: www.forgottenpeople.org

Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Lourdes pilgrimage is one of the most important works of the Order. It is so important that the Regulations and Commentary speak of attending the pilgrimage as an obligation to be completed in the first three years of membership, with the recommendation that candidates in their year of preparation attend the pilgrimage if possible. Although distance has been a barrier for members living in Australia and New Zealand, many members have overcome this barrier, and some have made numerous returns to Lourdes.

The Grand Master has designated the Lourdes pilgrimage as one of the key priorities of the Order. In addition to the important work of helping the sick, the pilgrimage provides a focus for the Knights and Dames of the Order that they do not find elsewhere. It is often said that once a member attends the Lourdes pilgrimage, they understand better what the Order is all about. The active participation in service to the Malades (the sick people who journey with the Association to Lourdes) is an eye-opener for many good people whose participation in hands-on work may have been limited. The Pilgrimage brings together everything the Order stands for – witness to the faith, service to the sick and the poor, a worldwide organisation serving in many countries, an institution of the Church with a long history and a strong tradition.

Around seven thousand members of the Order gather in the little village in the mountains of southern France each year over the first weekend in May. With them come thousands of sick people and their caregivers, medical teams, chaplains, and volunteers. Knights and Dames from all over the world meet in solidarity with each other through the bond created when they joined the Order of Malta.

In addition to Lourdes, members of the Order make pilgrimages to other Catholic shrines around the world, together with their sick and handicapped guests.

The spirit of pilgrimage dates from the Order's foundation in the 11th Century; in its hospital in Jerusalem ailing pilgrims were cared for, among all who needed help. For centuries the Order has run hostels and first-aid posts all over Europe to offer shelter and food to pilgrims. Allied to this is its mission to care for the poor and the sick. Pilgrimages always include accompanying the sick, in a sharing of love and care. This mission, which distinguishes every pilgrimage, is a life-giving experience.

Our Works - Australia, New Zealand and Timor-Leste

The Order Malta Clinic

The Order of Malta Clinic in Dili, capital of Timor-Leste opened in November 2017. It is a project of the Asia Pacific region.

It is focused on maternal and infant health care, particularly on nutrition. The under-five mortality rate in Timor-Leste is currently reported by UNICEF at 45.8 per 1,000 live births, which is a stark statistic if we compare it to only 3.7 per 1,000 for Australia.



The Order's primary mission is to do all we can to make any impact on this figure, with our Clinic located in the poorest part of Dili. All care is free to Timorese, and our service is supported purely by philanthropy. 70 to 100 patients are treated daily.

Creating Leaders

Creating Leaders is an Order of Malta scholarship program in Timor-Leste. The scholarships support underprivileged children to participate in formal continuing education.

Creating Leaders aims to assist children in the program develop to their full potential and prepare them for taking a fundamental role in the leadership of their country, so that they become positive agents of change and progress.

The Creating Leaders scholarship provides for school fees, meals in school, uniforms (including shoes) and transportation to and from school. Children no longer need to walk in 35-degree heat.

Asia Pacific Youth Camp

The Order of Malta's European tradition and thirty-year-old experience in running international and national summer camps for the disabled has now crossed the border into Asia. The first camp was held in Singapore in 2017 and is now an annual event.

Participating associations include Australia, Korea, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Each take turns in hosting the camp. The host association funds the accommodation, transport and food for the disabled delegates, their carers and volunteers.



Defence of Faith Panel

The Defence of Faith Panel comprises of members who are experts on issues where Catholic beliefs and practices are opposed. The panel provides members with information and updates regarding issues such as euthanasia and religious freedom. The advisories the panel develops “arm and inspire” members with recommendations for actions they can take as individuals to protect our faith.

Coats for the Homeless

This project started in 2009. The Order of Malta spent time with the homeless in Sydney to understand their needs. As a result, the Order designed a three-quarter length coat, quilted and warm; shower proof; comfortable and portable.

Each night, 20,000 Australians and New Zealanders sleep rough on the streets. Half of all the people who request accommodation from the homeless service system are turned away each day due to lack of beds. This leaves them extremely vulnerable to the cold weather.



The Order of Malta annually distributes 6,000 coats in Darwin, Alice Springs, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Ballina, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Queanbeyan, Cooma, Newcastle, Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

Palliative Care

The Order of Malta has been active in supporting the provision of quality palliative care in keeping with its mission “to practise charity towards my neighbours, especially the poor and the sick”.

Melbourne: In Melbourne, for many years the Order has supported St Vincent’s palliative care hospice Caritas Christi in Kew and is a partner, along with St Vincent’s and Outer Eastern Palliative Care Services in Eastern Palliative Care (EPC). Volunteers interview and write the biographies of those in palliative care. This activity provides dignity and is life-affirming for those close to the end of their lives.

Brisbane: At St Vincent’s Hospital, members on a regular basis sit with, console and listen to patients in their time of great need. They also support the ongoing restocking of the drinks cart, which is a favourite among many patients.

Adelaide: Members in Adelaide visit the sick and dying at Mary Potter Hospice; and administer the Eucharist in hospitals.

Breakfast Program

Since July 2019, the Order has been sponsoring a breakfast program at Gray Primary School in Palmerston, half an hour from Darwin. The program provides some students with breakfast, as well as recess and lunch to ensure all children have access to food.



Community Care Vans

– Sydney and Parramatta, NSW

Poor health amongst the homeless is common and much of it is preventable. Our Community Care Vans provide much needed support and protection to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of the community.

The vans are staffed by volunteer drivers who visit locations around Sydney and Parramatta to distribute seasonal items of use to those sleeping on the streets. A nurse travels with them to offer healthcare.

In summer our volunteers distribute water, sun hats and sunscreen. Coats are distributed during the colder months and, year-round, simple hygiene packs containing toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and sanitary items for women. These packs make a big impact on their daily life and longer-term physical health. Masks and sanitising lotion were added for protection against COVID 19.

Meals for the Homeless

Members in Adelaide serve meals in Hutt Street Centre and Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons.

BBQs in Sydney

Volunteers cook and serve meals to residents at Gorman House, an alcohol and drug unit, and Tierney House, a 12-bed residential unit, assisting the inner-city homeless population to access health care. Both are operated by St Vincent's Hospital.

Disaster Relief

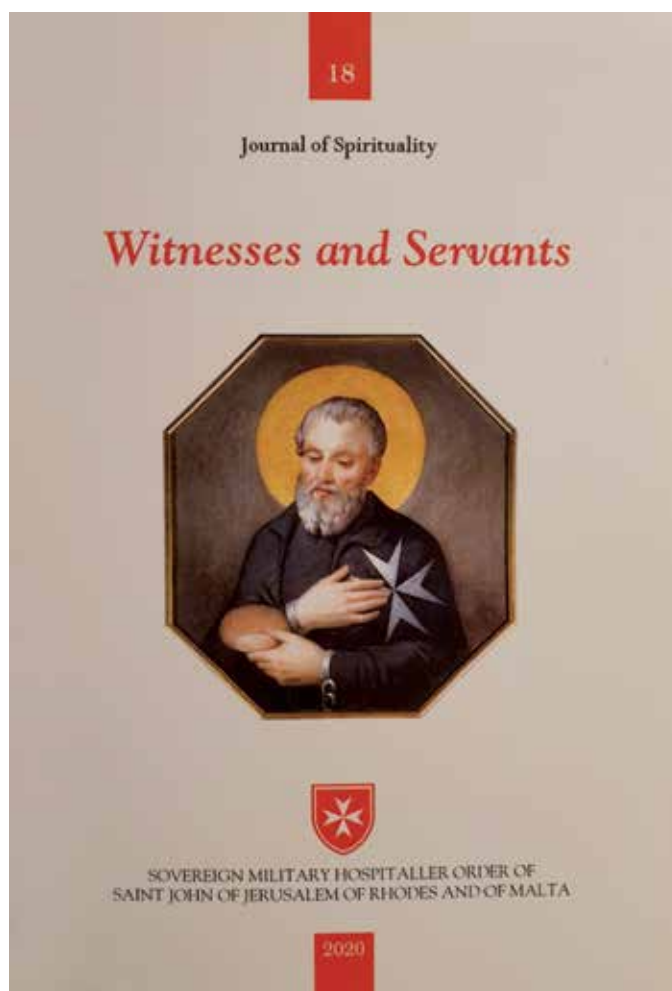
Immediately after the New Year's Eve bushfires south of Sydney, members of the Order responded with visits to parishes in afflicted areas, bringing much needed food and fuel vouchers. Subsequent visits focused on listening to those in pain and anxiety arising from the trauma of the fires which were followed by floods and then COVID 19! A story telling centre was set up in the town of Milton and supported by a trained team of local volunteers. Members hosted BBQs for men to provide support for each other sharing their experience.



What is in The Journal of Spirituality?

The Journal of Spirituality series is a publication of the Order directed by the Prelate of the Order. Every article reflects aspects of the spirituality of the Order and is written by members with considerable spiritual experience and knowledge. The hyperlink for the entire series of Journal of Spirituality may be opened in the PDF version of this booklet.

[*Journal of Spirituality series with index to content*](#)



The Journal of Spirituality

N.1 Rome 2002: A consideration on “Novo Millennio Ineunte” for the Order of Malta (A Reflection on key phrases of the Pontifical Document)		
Introduction	Cardinal Pio Laghi	5
A face to contemplate	Monsignor Angelo Acerbi	9
Starting afresh from Christ	Monsignor Angelo Acerbi	15
Testimony of love	Fra’ Ludwig Hoffman-Rumerstein	23
Stake everything on charity	Fra’ Franz von Lobstein	29

N.2 Rome 2002: Toward a Spirituality of Communion		
Introduction	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	5
“Charity” and “Communion”	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	7
Hospitaller spirituality in the middle ages	Prof. Jonathan Riley-Smith	19
The spirituality of communion	Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville	31
Charity in action	Count Neri Capponi	43
Charité et Communion	Bailli & Prince Guy de Polignac	53

The Journal of Spirituality

N.3 Rome 2003: “Tuitio Fidei” and “Obsequium Pauperum” today		
Introduction	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	5
Part One: “Tuitio Fidei”		
Faith formation	Pio Cardinal Laghi	9
Defence of faith and family	Guy Thomazeau, Archbishop Montpellier	19
Witnessing to the faith today	Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville	29
Part Two: “Obsequium Pauperum”		
Christological and ecclesial foundation	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	43
The new forms of charity	Albrecht Freiherr von Boeslager	53
The evangelical requirements of the “Obsequium Pauperum”	Gian Luca Chiavari	61
Caritatis Myrica	Fra’ Franz von Lobstein	65
Encounter in the North East of Brazil	Fra’ Roggerio Caccia Dominioni	75

N.4 Rome 2004: “The Pilgrimage” (This issue is not paginated)
Introduction
Pilgrimage in the Old Testament
Pilgrimages in the first centuries of the Order
Jerusalem: City of Gold
Spiritual Dimensions of the Order of Malta pilgrimage
Au Coeur de pelirinage la grotte de Lourdes
Pilgrimages with the sick and the disabled to Lourdes
Pilgrimage to Lourdes with disabled children
The Order of Malta and the pilgrims to Santiago
Pilgrimage and young people

N.5 Rome 2005: Order of Malta - Criteria of Identity and Life Commitments

Introduction	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	1
Exhortation 2005 Eucharistic Year	His Eminence Cardinal Pio Laghi	3
Professed Knight's spirituality	Fra' Giovanni Scarabelli	5
Religious Knights of the Order of Malta today	Fra' Matthew Festing	8
The Promise of Obedience in the Second Class	Fra' Constantino Giovanni Gilardi	12
The spiritual commitment of Knights and Dames in Obedience	Johannes Freiherr Heereman von Zuydtwick	21
The Third Class and its spiritual demands	+Abbe B. Martin	25
Practical aspects of being a member of the Third Class of the Order – Knights, Dames and Donat	Amb. John Bellingham	30
I due problemi emergenti dell'Ordine di Giovanni di Gerusalemmedetto di Rodi, detto di Malta	Conte Neri Capponi	35

N.6 Rome 2006: St John the Baptist – Guide and Witness

Introduction	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	5
St John the Baptist, Patron of the Order of Malta	Pio Cardinal Laghi	7
Vocation and formation	Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville	13
The preaching of John the Baptist, and the ideals of the Order	Bruno Martin	25
John, witness and friend of the Lord	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	41
“Oportet illum crescere, me autem minui”	Giuseppe Azelio Manzetti	49
The youth of the Order – “Amici Sponsi -Friends of the Bridegroom”	Fr George Lengerke	63
Imprisoned for truth and justice	Count Neri Capponi	75
The martyrdom	Fra' Franz Lobstein	79

The Journal of Spirituality

N.7 Rome 2007: Ecclesial dimension of the Order of Malta		
Introduction		5
The Church and the Order: reflections and historical references	Mons. Fra' Giovanni Sacrabell	7
The Order of Malta, religious Order governed by canonical regulations – The First Class	Mons. Antonio Lotti	17
Some guidelines for the Second and Third Class	Costantino Gilardi, O.P.	31
“Obsequium Pauperum” and the Encyclical “Deus Caritas Est”	Archbishop Mons. Angelo Acerbi	57
The annual international pilgrimage of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Lourdes: an experience in the practice of evangelical virtues in the mystery of the Church	Father Guy Tardivy, O.P.	69

N.8 Rome 2008: Human Virtues – Christian Virtues / Events / The Young		
I. Virtues – Christian Virtues		
Daily Virtues for a Knight and Dame of the Order of Malta	Karl Gosler	17
Chivalrous Virtues and according to the Rite of Profession	Constantino Giralardi, O.P.	43
Fidelity and detachment in the Order of Malta	Fra' John MacPherson	71
Humility and simplicity	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	79
To make oneself a loving neighbour of the poor and the sick	Albrecht von Boeslager	93
II. Events		
The visit of the Holy Father to the Hospital of St. John the Baptist at La Magliana (Rome)		
The Encyclical given to the Diocese of Rome		111
The Homily of the Holy Father		115
Address of the Grand Master		121
Pilgrims in the Holy Land	Cardinal Pio Laghi	123

Lourdes 1858 -2008	Guy Tardivy, O.P.	129
“The Church Mission among the Nations”	Philippe de Schoutheete de Tervarent	143
III. The Young		
Reflections on the messages of the Holy Father for the XXII and XXIII World Days of the Youth (Cologne and Sydney)	Don Diego Merry del Val	149
Youth groups in the delegations	Alessandro Repossi	157
In Memoriam of Archbishop M. Coive de Murville		165

N.9 Rome 2008: Order of Malta - Fundamental Directions for a Renewal

Foreword – Reflections of H.M.E.H. the Grand Master - Vocation	Cardinal Pio Laghi	7
The origins if the vocation to the Knights of St. John	Mons. Cosimo D. Fonseca	17
The vocation to Knight of Justice	Rev. Bruno Martin	27
Renewing and promoting the religious life of the Order	Rev. Andrew Wadsworth	37
The Class in Obedience: Realities and Perspectives in the USA	Fra’ John Dunlap	45
Wearing the armour of light	Fr. Constantino Gilardi, O.P.	63
The visibility of the faith in a secularised society	Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi	77
New challenges for the “Obsequium Pauperum”	Albrecht von Boeslager	89
Pope Benedict XVI’s Teaching for the Young	Mons. Ettore Balestrero	107
The Order of Malta: identity and Future	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	115
New Strategies: The International Seminary of 2009	Winfried Graf Henckel von Donnersmarck	125

The Journal of Spirituality

N.10 Roma 2009: Introduction to Prayer		
Foreword		5
Introductory remarks for the Journal of Spirituality N.10	Archbishop Paolo Sardi	7
Prayer in the Sacred Scripture	Mons. Davide Bernini	15
Lectio Divina	Fr. Henry O'Shea	24
The Eucharist, source and summit of the Order's life	Fr. Bruno Martin	33
The prayer of listening: Eucharistic Adoration	Rev. Fra' Georg Langerke	45
Ora et Labora	Fra' Thomas N. Mulligan	59
Meditation – A simple guide	Fr. Andrew Wadsworth	73
The Rosary	Fra' Constantino Gilardi, O.P.	83
Prayer for vocational discernment and formation	Fra' Duncan Gaille	101
Prayer and hospitaller activity	Dominique de la Rochefoucauld de Montbel	113
A proposal of prayer for the young	Michelangelo Ranuzzi de' Bianchi	125
Reflecting on the Pater Noster	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	137
In memoriam		153

N.11 Rome 2010: Formation and Service		
Introduction		5
Some current aspects in the Rule of Raymond du Puy	Rev. Bruno Martin	7
Service in the Rule of St. Benedict	Dom Henry O'Shea O.S.B.	19
Formation and service	Cardinal Paolo Sardi	29

Doctrinal preparation for service in the Order of Malta	H.E. Mons. Amédeée Grab	39
Consecration to God in the charism of the Order of Malta	Fra' John T. Dunlap	43
An exemplary testimony of faith and works in the Second Class	Winfried Graf Henckel von Donnersmarck	57

N.12 Rome 2012: Order of Malta and New Evangelisation

Message from H.M.E.H. Prince and Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing		5
Introduction		7
New Evangelisation	Archbishop Rino Fisichella	11
Evangelisation today	Cardinal Paolo Sardi	19
Scriptural and theological aspects of evangelisation	Rev. Prof. Maurizio Tagliaferri	27
Rereading the “Evangelii Nuntiandi” of Paul VI	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	45
From Gregorian reform to New Evangelisation	Rev. Bruno Martin	61
Obsequium Pauperum and the mission of New Evangelisation	Baron Albrecht von Boeslager	75
New Evangelisation and volunteers	Fr. Constantino Gilardi, O.P.	105
Promoting Christian culture in a secularized society	Mr. W. Shepherdson Abell	119
On the origination of YOUCAT	Countess Michaela Heereman von Zuydtwyck	131
The World Day of Youth (Madrid 2011)	Rev. Fernando Ignazio Altolaguirre Orbe	141

The Journal of Spirituality

N.13 Rome 2012: The Order of Malta and The Year of Faith		
Foreword		5
Spreading the Gospel today	Cardinal Paolo Sardi	7
The Year of Faith and the New Evangelisation	Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella	23
The witness of the Church Fathers and the transmission of faith in today's world	Bishop Enrico dal Covola, S.D.B.	37
The members of the Order of Malta and the Year of Faith	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	57
“Regulations and Commentary” and the Year of Faith	Fr. Bruno Martin	67
Spirituality of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem	Abbot Gregor Henckel von Donnesmarck, O. Cist.	79
“Pie Postulatio Voluntatis” of Pope Paschal II in favour of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (1113)	Mons. Luigi Michele De Palma	97

N.14 Rome 2013: 900 Years of the Pie Postulatio Voluntatis: Stimulus for a Renewal		
Introduction (A.A.)		5
Address of the Holy Father Benedict XVI to the members of the SMOM (Vatican Basilica – February 9, 2013)		7
Message of H.M.E.H. the Prince and Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the Pie Postulatio Voluntatis (February 9, 2013)		15
From the speeches of His Holiness Pope Francis		21
Now, with momentum, towards the goal of the millennium!	Cardinal Paolo Sardi	29
Baptismal vocation and vocation in the Orde of Malta	Dom Henry O'Shea	35
The “Regulations and Commentary”: source of initial and continuing formation. Some fundamental guidelines	Fr. Constantino Gilardi, O.P.	53
The spirituality of the Knight of St. John: a ministry of consolation	Mons. Luigi Michele de Palma	69
Towards the solemn profession – aspirants, novices, simple vows: the journey of formation	Fra' Duncan Gallie	79

Origins and historical sources of the Order of Malta: Basic references for reflection on the Proprium Specificum and on the spirituality of the Order	Rev. Bruno Martin	101
The Institute of Spirituality	Winfried Graf Henckel von Donnersmarck	113
Approaching the spirituality of Obsequium Pauperum	Albrecht Freiherr von Boeslager	123
“Ide, sem medo, para server”!	Rev. Alessandro Repossì	137
In memoriam		149
Past issues of the “Journal of Spirituality”		155

N.15 Rome 2014: Introduction to the Spirituality of the Order of Malta

Press release of the Communications Office		5
Introduction	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	11
Obedience, fundamental Christian virtue	Cardinal Paolo Sardi	13
History of a spirituality	Fr. Bruno Martin	25
The spirituality of the Professed Knights	Mons. Luigi Michele de Palma	41
Knights and Dames in Obedience (1956-2011)	Fr. Constantino Gilardi, O.P.	63
Notes for the spirituality of the Order of Malta’s Chaplains	Mons. Natale Loda	83
The spiritual formation of volunteers	Rev. Fra’ Georg Lengerke	105
The spirituality of leadership in the Order of Malta: A spirituality of service	Fra’ Duncan Gallie	125
Spiritual formation in hospitaller activities	Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel	141
The spirituality of the Order of Malta in daily life	Dom Henry O’Shea	149
Spirituality in the font of service	Richard J Wolff KJ	163
The Order of Malta’s Institute of Spirituality	Archbishop Angelo Acerbi	179
Past issues of “Journal of Spirituality”		189

The Journal of Spirituality

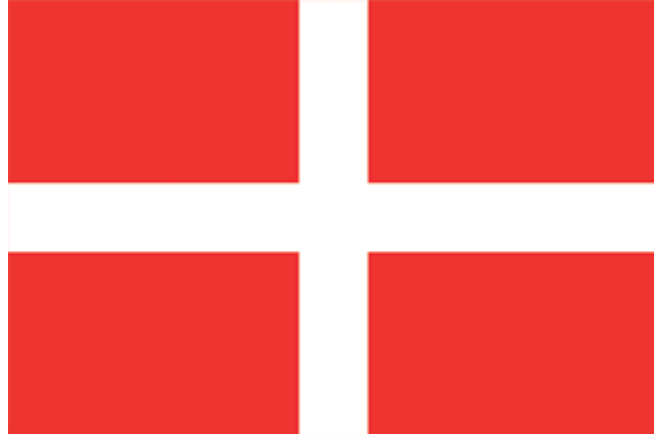
N.16 Rome 2017: Service to Neighbour as a Testimony of Faith		
Foreword	H.E. Fra' Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein	7
Introduction		11
The role of Chaplains in the Priors and Associations	H.E. Mons. Jean Laffitte	15
Tuitio Fidei in the Order of Malta	Mons. Natale Loda	31
The Spirituality of the Order of St John	Mons. Luigi Michele de Palma	59
Regulations and Commentary: Instruments of formation and path of spiritual progress	Fr. Bruno Martin	101
Chaplains and liturgical life of the Order	H. Em. Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke	129
The role of the Order Chaplains with young volunteers	Mons. John Armitage	187
The Christian sense of voluntary work	H.E. Mons. Jean Laffitte	205
Promoting vocations for Knights of Justice	H.E. Fra' Duncan Gallie	231
Obsequium Pauperum: The works of the Order	H.E. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel	247
Past issues of "Journal of Spirituality"		254

**N.17 Rome 2018: Towards a Spiritual Reform
The International Seminar of February 8 – 11, 2018**

Foreword of H.M.E.H. the Grand Master	7
Introduction	11
Greeting of H.E. the Lieutenant of Grand Master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto at the Opening Plenary (9 February 2018)	15
Exhortation by H.E. Archbishop Giovanni Angelo Becciu, Special Delegate of the Holy Father: The Expectations of the Holy See with regard to the Reform of the Order of Malta (9 February 2018)	27
Homily of H.E. the Prelate Bishop Jean Laffite for the Closing Mass of the International Seminar (11 February 2018)	45
Speech by H.E. the Lieutenant of Grand Master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto at the Plenary (11 February 2018)	51
Intervention by H.E. the Grand Chancellor Albrecht von Boeslager at the Plenary (11 February 2018)	55
Intervention of Fra' Georg Lengerke at the Plenary (11 February 2018)	59
Intervention by H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau at the Plenary (11 February 2018)	67
Homily of H.E. the Prelate Bishop Jean Laffite for the Closing Mass for the Closing Mass of the Council Complete of State (2 May 2018)	77
Homily of H.E. the Prelate Bishop Jean Laffite with the Chaplains at the LX ^o International Pilgrimage to Lourdes (6 May 2018)	85
Greeting of H.M.E.H. the Grand Master Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto to the Chaplains on the occasion of the LX ^o International Pilgrimage to Lourdes (6 May 2018)	97
Intervention by H.E. the Prelate Bishop Jean Laffite at the XXVI ^o International Conference of the Hospitallers: The Virtue of Hospitality (23 March 2018)	103

The Journal of Spirituality

N.18 Rome 2020: Witnesses and Servants		
Introduction		9
Closing Speech of the Ordinary Chapter General 2019	H.M.E.H. Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto	13
Homily of the Prelate for the Holy Mass for the Closing of the Ordinary Chapter General 2019	H.E. Mons. Jean Laffitte	21
Considerations on the Second Class of the Order of Malta	H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager	29
Some Remarks Concerning the Members in Obedience: Promise and Obedience	H.E. Mons. Jean Laffitte	43
The Promise of Obedience and Membership of a Subpriory	Prof. David Kissane	59
Beautiful Healer, Beautiful Grace	H.E. Dame Rose Lu	71
Homily for the Holy Mass on the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist	H.E. Mons. Jean Laffitte	85
Saint Teresa of Ávila, Master of Spiritual Life	Msgr. Guido Mazzotta	93
Transmitting the Faith: How to Live the Charism of Tuitio Fidei in Everyday Life	Fr. Stefano Salucci	171
Saint John Henry Newman, an Example of Tuitio Fidei	Fr. Bruno Martin	251
Growing in Friendship with Christ and the Poor	Fra' Georg von Lengerke	277
The 2019 Blessed Gerard Youth Retreat	Markus Ochsenfeld & Justus Eberl	295
Solidarity and Christian Charity	H.E. Mons. Jean Laffitte	301



The State Flag

The red rectangular flag with the white Latin cross is the State flag of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Called the flag of St. John, it has been used since ancient times. Giacomo Bosio's "History of the Order" (1594), records that in 1130 Pope Innocent II had decreed that "...Religion in war should bear a standard with a white cross on a red field". Following Pope Alexander IV's Bull of 1259 permitting the Knights in war to wear a red mantle bearing a white cross, the Order began to make systematic use of the Latin cross as its emblem. In 1291, the Order left the Holy Land for Cyprus where its sea faring vocation flourished and from that time onwards, the knightly standard was flown over their ships for the next six centuries. Today the State flag flies over the Order's Magistral Palace in Rome and accompanies the Grand Master and members of the Sovereign Council on official visits.



The Flag of the Order's works

The red flag with the eight-pointed white cross is the flag of the Order of Malta's works. The eight-pointed cross has been used in the Order as long as the Latin cross, and stems from the Order's ancient links with the Republic of Amalfi. Its present form dates back over 400 years; the first clear reference to an eight-pointed cross was its representation on the coins of Grand Master Fra' Foulques de Villaret (1305-1319). This is the flag flown by the Order's Grand Priorities and Subpriorities, its 48 National Associations and over 100 diplomatic missions around the world. It also flies over hospitals, medical centres and out-patients' departments, as well as wherever the Order of Malta's ambulance corps, foundations and specialised units operate.



*Our Brotherhood will be an everlasting one,
for the soil in which it is rooted is the misery of the world,
and God willing, there will always be people who seek to reduce
this misery and make distress easier to bear.*

Blessed Fra' Gerard
1113, Jerusalem

Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta
Australian Association
PO Box 79 Caringbah NSW 1495 Australia
Email: info@orderofmalta.org.au Website: www.orderofmalta.org.au