OPTIONAL FULL CEREMONY

FOR CONFERRING THE

KNIGHT OF MALT A

The Prior, with the officers, seat themselves at the tables in the East and West, the Banner Guards and Banner Bearers take stations. The Marshall, with the Candidate costumed as in the preceding degree, makes an alarm of ### ### ### at the door.

CO: () Eminent Prior (S), there is an alarm at the entrance to our Chapel.

Prior: Captain of the Outpost, ascertain the cause of the alarm ( S).

*CO roes to the door, responds to the alarm in kind (9-#), opens the door & passes out.*

{Outside Priory.}

CO: Who comes here?

Mar.: A worthy Knight of the Mediterranean Pass humbly craves admission to this Priory.

CO: Has he the necessary qualifications?

Mar.: He has.

CO: Give me the Sign, pass-word, Grand Word of the Mediterranean Pass. (Done.) Let him wait until his request shall be transmitted to the Prior and Priory, now in council, and an answer returned.

*CO returns to Priory.*

{Inside Priory.}

CO: () Eminent Prior (S), the alarm was caused by a worthy Knight of the Mediterranean Pass who humbly craves admission to this Priory ( S).

Prior: Has he answered the necessary questions?

CO: He has and has given me the Sign, Pass-word and Grand Word of the Mediterranean Pass.

Prior: Admit him ( S).

*CO opens the door*.

CO: You have permission from the Prior to enter.

*Mar & C enter and approach the first (white) banner - BIRTH.*

G: Halt! Who comes there?

Mar.: A friend.

G: Advance and give the pass-word.

Mar.: “Birth.”

*Given in a low tone*.

G: You have permission to pass.

*Mar & C approach the second (red) banner – LIFE.*

G: Halt! Who comes there?

Mar.: A friend.

G: Advance and give the pass-word.

Mar.: “Life.”

*Given in a low tone.*

G: You have permission to pass-word.

*Marl & C approach the third (black) banner* *– DEATH.*

G: Halt! Who comes there?

Mar.: A friend.

G: Advance and give the pass-word.

Mar.: “Death.”

*Given in a low tone.*

G: You have permission to pass.

*Marl & C approach the fourth (purple) banner – RESURRECTION.*

G: Halt! Who comes there?

Mar.: A friend.

G: Advance and give the pass-word.

Mar.: “Resurrection.”

*Given in a low tone.*

G: You have permission to pass.

*Mar & C approach the fifth (yellow) banner* *– ASCENSION.*

G: Halt! Who comes there?

Mar.: A friend.

G: Advance and give the pass-word.

Mar.: “Ascension.”

*Given in a low tone.*

G: You have permission to pass.

*C is conducted W of Altar, facing Prior*.

If the ceremony is accompanied by music, the C should be seated W of the Altar after passing the fifth banner, while the “Kyrie Eleison” “Lord have mercy on me,” or some similar selection of sacred music is sung. At the conclusion of the music the Mar & C rise.

Prior: Brother Marshal, what strange Brother have you in charge?

Mar.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , a Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass, wishes to join our ranks and fight under our banner.

Prior: Stranger, what proof have you to show us that you are what you profess?

*C, prompted by the Mar, bows and points to the Cross on his mantle.*

C: I have this.

Prior: My brother, is it still your wish to join our Order, and fight against all opposers of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus?

C: It is.

Prior: My Brother, the request you make has been denied to many, because they were deemed

unworthy of this Order. But, confiding in your probity and worth, we will grant your request, hoping you will devote yourself with zeal and fortitude to those noble principles of our Order—Faith, Hope, and Charity. Have you any objections to conforming to our rules and regulations and to walking in strict accordance therewith?

C: I have none.

Prior: You will draw your sword, deposit it on the Altar, kneel on your right knee, your right hand resting on the New Testament, Cross and Sword, (Done.) Priory arise, uncover. You will say “I” pronounce your name, and repeat after me:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, do hereby and hereon solemnly promise and vow, that I will forever keep and conceal the secrets belonging to the Order of Malta; that I will not communicate them to anyone except to a true and lawful Knight of the Order; and not unto him until after due trial, strict examination, or lawful information, I shall have found him lawfully entitled to the same; or within the body of a regular and duly-constituted Priory of Knights of Malta. That I will conform to the Status, Rules and Regulations of the Order and live in strict accordance therewith, under the penalty of forfeiting my membership and of being despised and cast out from all who love honor and integrity. So help me God and keep me steadfast.

Priory, re-cover, be seated.

*Prior takes up the sword and with it gently strikes the C the blows on the right shoulder.*

Prior: Let this teach you to suffer patiently for Christ.

*Lays the sword on the Altar and with the palm of his open hand strikes c slightly on the left cheek.*

Awake! Be not asleep to you duty, but watchful in the faith of Jesus Christ, and be submissive to the greatest affront which may come to you in his cause, ever having the peace of the Lord with you. Let this blow, the only indignity you will have to undergo, remind you that when He was reviled, He reviled not again,and that when He was before Caiaphas, the High Priest, some of those who stood by smote Him with the palms if their hands.

Matthew 26:67 KJV.

By virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Grand Commandery of the State of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and in the name of St. John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Order, I make you, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Knight Hospitaler of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta. Be zealous and vigilant for the honor of Knighthood.

*Prior takes him by the RH.*

We admit you into our Order, and arise you by a new name. Arise Knight of Malta.

*Music appropriate, instrumental, with grand flourish when C is raised by new name.*

Prior: Take up your sword and wipe it carefully on your sleeve and return it to its scabbard. (Done.)

As you have wiped away the spots which might dim the luster of that blade, so let your future life be pure and undefiled. Its brightness is an emblem of faith; let it never be tarnished. Wield it virtuously. Fear not to encounter dangers and perils for the sake of Christ. Maintain justice, protect and relieve poor widows and friendless orphans, for this is the true faith and justification of the Christian Knight. His election, vocation and satisfaction is to offer his soul to God, and his body to perils and dangers in His service.

*The Chaplain approaches with a lighted wax candle which the C takes in his right hand.*

Prior: This burning taper is placed in your right hand, thereby symbolizing that you should always be zealous, and ever actuated by that charity which is the perfection of human life. It also symbolically admonishes you that henceforth you should be a shining light to others by your exemplary conduct.

*The taper is taken away and the C divested of his Red Cross mantle. The Chaplain brings forward the Knight of Malta mantle or cloak and hands it to the prior. The Prior, pointing to the cross on the mantle:*

My Brother, do you believe that the Saviour died on the Cross for the remission of sin?

C: I do.

Music: The “Credo,” “I believe in God the Father,” etc.-should be sung.

Prior: The Cross is also the sign of our Order. We command you to wear it upon your mantle to

designate you as a member thereof.

*The Prior places mantle on C, tying the mantle about his neck with the white cord, and says:*

By the cord I bind you in token of your vow and reception into the Order. Take this mantle with the Cross in the name of our Holy Religion, and St. John the Baptist, for the improvement of your faith, the defense of Christianity and the service of the poor. For this reason we put the Cross on your breast, that you may love it with *all* your heart, and that with your right hand you may be ever ready to defend it. I must admonish you, my Brother, should it ever happen, that in combating the enemies of our Order you should prove unfaithful to your vows, turn your back on your enemies and desert the standard of the Cross and fly, you will be deprived of that Holy Sign, according to the ancient statutes and customs of our Order, being false to the professions you have made, and you will be cast out from among us as an unworthy and corrupt member.

*The Chaplain presents the Cross of the Order, borne upon a black velvet cushion, to the Prior, who places it upon the breast of the C, saying:*

I now invest you with the Cross or Jewel, of the Order. It is the Maltese Cross. Its eight points

are symbolical of the eight languages into which the Order was formerly divided. It has, however, a higher and more important meaning than this, for it symbolizes and reminds you of the eight beatitudes recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

Music: “Sanctus”, “Holy, Holy,Holy,” etc.

Prior: Revered Chaplain (b N), you will read a lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

*Cast rises with the Chaplain, draws and presents swords.*

Chap.: Here beginneth the third verse of the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

*Reads verses 3-11 inclusive.*

Here endeth the first lesson.

*Cast returns swords and is seated.*

Prior: My Brother, these virtues you should cherish in your heart for the consolation and preservation of your soul. Therefore,that you may have this precious symbol always before your eyes, you will wear it on your breast near your heart, and never desert it or lay it aside. Revered Chaplain (b N), you will read another lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

*Cast arises with Chaplain, draws and presents swords.*

Chap.: Here beginneth the twenty-fourth verse of the Twentieth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

*Reads the verse 24-29 inclusive.*

Here endeth the second lesson.

*Cast returns swords and is seated.*

Prior: I will now invest you with the Sign, Grip, and Word of the Order.

*The Sign and Grip:* One says, “Reach hither thy finger and feel the print of the nails.” They join right hands and force the first finger into the center of the palm. Then he says, “Reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side.” Each extends his left hand, and presses his fingers into the left side of the other, still holding on by the grip; with arms thus crossed, they give the Word. One says, “M Lord;” the other responds, “And My God.” The name of the Sign and Grip is “Infidelitas”-unbelief. It teaches us that there is an unbelief which transcends a rational skepticism; that we should possess a power of Faith to receive Divine Truth, even though unaccomplished by physical evidence, and Divine Teacher, “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

I will now invest you with the Grand Hailing Sign and Grand Word of a Knight of Malta, also the Grand Token and Word of the Order.

*Grand Hailing Sign:* Place both hands to the mouth as if speaking through a trumpet, right hand in front of left.

*The Grand Word of a Knight of Malta:* (*Gives Grand Hailing Sign*.) One says, “Do you come in peace?”

The answer, “We come in peace.”

The response, “Them come in peace.”

*The Grand Token and Word:* Draw swords and come to carry. Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hand, moving arms backward and forward as if rowing a boat; the swords held upwards in the right hands, saying together the Grand Word: “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

The Pass-words of the Order are Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. These words are used tin commemoration of the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Savior.

Revered Chaplain (b N), you will read another lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

*Cast rises with the Chaplain, draws and presents swords.*

Chap.: Here beginneth the nineteenth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

*Reads 19th verse only.*

Here endeth the third lesson.

*Cast returns swords and is seated*.

Prior: The Sacred Word of the Order is “Inri.” It is formed of the initials the four Latin words which were set up over the head of our Blessed Saviour upon the Cross: “Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum”- Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

Music: The “Agnus Dei”-Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,” may be sung.

Prior: You will now give your attention to the Historical and Explanatory lecture connected with this Order, under the direction of the Marshal.

Prior: Knight Marshal ( S), you will instruct the newly made Knight of Malta ( S).

*Spoken to candidate.*