MALTA CLOSING

Prior: Brother Knights, Attention!

*Cast draws swords, and comes to a carry. The Knights at the tables,at the time the other Knights draw swords, take theirs from the tables, and also come to a carry.*

Prior: Lieutenant Commander (), what is the last duty of a Priory of Knights of Malta?

LC: To close the Priory in peace and goodwill with all brethren in arms, and in Christian charity with all mankind.

Prior: How can we best effect that noble and christian purpose?

LC: By proving to friends and foes alike, our belief in the birth, life, death, resurrection, and

ascension of out Blessed Saviour.

Prior: What are we taught by His birth?

LC: That the great Captain of our Salvation was born to redeem fallen man.

Prior: What are we taught by His life?

LC: All that is requisite for us to follow; He being the way, the truth, and the life.

Prior: What are we taught by His death?

LC: That the debt of nature must be paid and the rigor of the law satisfied.

Prior: What are we taught by His resurrection?

LC: That He, being the day-star of mercy, has risen to conduct our feet in the paths of truth and

peace ().

Prior: Thus, Brothers in Arms, by the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Blessed Lord and

Saviour, we are taught to live and die as Christians; remembering that in Him who made His glorious ascension into Heaven, we have a sure and steadfast mediator with the Father, for He hath said, “In my father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there ye may be also.”Brothers, I am about to close this Priory; you will assist me in the ceremony. Let us again lay our sword sat the foot of the Cross, and invoke a blessing before separating.

*All deposit their swords and stand-or kneel-in their places as in the opening, with arms crossed upon their breasts. Uncovered.*

Chap.: (b N) Merciful Redeemer of perishing mankind, who hast promised that thou wouldst be in the midst of those who assemble in Thy Holy Name,look upon us with an eye of tender compassion, and so direct us that all our labors may be begun, continued and ended in love to Thee, affection to our brethren, and obedience to the principles of our Order. Amen.

Prior: Brothers, resume your arms, return them to their scabbards, and let peace reign among us.

Together, Brothers.

*The Prior and Officers at the table in the East give the Grand Hailing (Trumpet) Sign.*

*Pri. & 4 Officers: [Give sign.]* You came in peace?

*Knights: [All giving Sign.]* We came in peace.

*Pri. & 4 Officers:* Then depart in peace.

Prior: To the glory of our Blessed Saviour, in the name of St. John the Baptist, and by virtue of the power in me vested, I declare this Priory of Knights of Malta closed. Captain General (), you will dismiss the Guard ().

CG: Captain of the Outposts (), you will dismiss the Guard; this Priory of Knights of Malta is

closed ().

*CO retires, informs G, returns and reports.*

*The procession may then be formed in the same order as at the opening,and retire to appropriate music, or this may be omitted, at the pleasure of the Prior.*

*If these is no retiring or closing procession the Prior will say, after the CO has returned:*

Prior: Brothers, you are dismissed--go in peace.

END, FULL CEREMONIAL