FULL FORM OPENING

Preparatory to the ceremony he Guard Room and Chapel should be arranged (if two rooms are used) as directed. (Ref: Paraphernalia Chapter)

The officers, guards of the banners, and the eight Knights who are to be seated at the table in the West, all being clothes in ceremonial costume as described in the Paraphernalia Chap., will assemble in a room adjoining the Chapel, and form in procession in the following order:

OPENING PROCESSION

Captain General, as Master of Ceremonies

Captain of the Outposts

Banner of St. John

Banner of Malta

Marshall (In charge of the eight Knights who are to be seated at the table in the West.)

Five guards, marching singly, bearing the 5 ceremonial banners

Chaplain with Bible on a black cushion.

Prior, with Lieutenant Commander on his right.

Where it can be done, the approach of the procession should be announced by a flourish of trumpets, in unison.

*The procession enters the Chapel to appropriate music. The front of the column halts in the East, and the whole line fronts; the Prior and the Lieutenant Commander pass in front of the line to their positions. All pass to, and stand in, their places. The music ceases, and the opening ceremony begins.*

{ No loud military commands should be heard either in the opening or closing or during any part of the ceremony.}

Prior: Captain General ( S), what is the first and most essential care of Knights of Malta when about to open a Priory?

CG: To see that the brethren in arms are secure from interruption from the opposers of the Gospel of the Savior of fallen man ( S).

Prior: Captain General, see that the assembly is properly guarded, and inform the Captain of the Out-posts that I am about to open this Priory ( S).

CG: Captain of the Outposts (), the Prior is about to open a Priory. You will station guards and direct them accordingly ().

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

CO: Captain General (), the guards are stationed-we are in security ().

CG: () Eminent Prior (S), the guards are stationed-we are in security ( S).

Prior: Captain General, what is your next duty?

CG: To see that every Christian warrior present proves himself a legitimate soldier of the Cross and Brother of this Order .

Prior: Captain General, you will make the inspection.

*The CG, standing in the West, will give the Grand Hailing Sign (Trumpet) and Grand Word of a Knight of Malta, as follows:*

*CG: [Giving Sign.]* Do you come in peace?

*Knights: [All giving sign together.]* We come in peace.

*CG:* Then come in peace.

CG: () Eminent Prior (S), I am satisfied that all present are legitimate soldiers of the Cross, and

Brothers of our Order ( S).

Prior: Brothers, let is lay our arms at the foot of the Cross, and implore a blessing on our present

meeting.

*Cast: Each Knight draws his sword & lays it on the floor, the point towards the E. Those at the table deposit their swords on the tables in the usual way. All stand or kneel in their places, uncover with LH, arms crossed, left over right, upon their breasts. Those on sidelines, rise*.

Chap.: Let us pray. O thou Great Emmanuel, the God of infinite goodness, look down upon this Priory with an eye of tender compassion, and incline our hearts to Thy Holy will in all our actions, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prior: Brothers, resume your arms.

*The Knights take their swords & return them to their scabbards, except those at the tables, who allow theirs to remain thereon.*

Prior: Together, Brothers.

*The Prior & the 4 officers at the table in the East give the Grand Hailing Sign (Trumpet) and Grand Word of a Knight of Malta.*

*Pri. & 4Officers : [Giving Sign.]* Do you come in peace?

*Knights: [All giving sign together.]* We come in peace.

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

Prior: To the glory of the 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 duly opened. Captain General (XX), inform the Guard (XX).

CG: Captain of the Outposts (), inform the Guard that this Priory of Knights of Malta is now open().

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

Prior: Brothers, be seated.