OPTIONAL FULL CEREMONY

FOR CONFERRING

THE MEDITERRANEAN PASS

The Candidate, who must be a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, is prepared by being dressed in dark clothing, over which shall be a mantle similar in shape to the Malta mantle, except of white material with the red cross of the Order on the left breast in red material initialed in green; mantle to be fastened with white cord and tassel. Candidate does not wear a headdress, and is girded with sword and belt. He is accompanied by the Marshal to the door of the Guard room, where he makes an alarm of ### ### ### at the door. The Captain of the Outposts, inside, responds in the same manner, opens the door and passes out.

CO: What do you desire?

Mar.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, humbly solicits to be admitted to the privileges of the Mediterranean Pass, to enable him in safety to undertake a pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre. He prays also, if found worthy, to be received and enrolled a member of the Ancient Order of St. John of Jerusalem, or Knight of Malta.

CO: Give me the sign, grip, and word of a Companion of the Illustrious Red Cross.

*The sign, grip & word of a Companion of the Red Cross are given.*

CO: You will wait until your request is made known to the Prior, and his answer returned.

*Closes door and reports:*

Eminent Prior, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, stands without, humbly soliciting the privileges of the Mediterranean Pass. He also prays, if found worthy, to be received and enrolled a member of the Ancient Order of St. John of Jerusalem, or Knight of Malta.

Prior: Captain of the Outposts, far be it from us to interpose any obstacle to the fulfillment of his pious purpose. Can you vouch that he is worthy, and in possession of the sign, grip, and word of a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross?

CO: I can, Eminent Prior.

Prior: Is it your pleasure, Brother Knights, that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, be admitted a member of our Order?

*Knights give assent by holding up the right hand.*

Prior: I declare \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, duly elected to receive the Mediterranean Pass, and to become a member of the Order of Malta. Captain of the Outposts, you will admit him.

CO: You have permission to enter.

*The Candidate, accompanied by the Marshal, enters and stands west of the Altar.*

Prior: Brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we have consented to your admission into our Order, but before we can place you in possession of our secrets, are you willing to pledge yourself to keep inviolate the secrets and mysteries of this Order?

C: I am.

Prior: My Brother, do you, on your honor as a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, solemnly promise that you will never improperly reveal the secrets which we are now about to impart to you?

C: I solemnly promise.

Prior: The incidents upon which the Degree of the Mediterranean Pass and its modes of recognition are founded, are recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Reverend Chaplain (b N), you will read a lesson for our instruction

*Cast rises with the Chaplain and uncovers.*

*{The reading of the lesson by the Chaplain is obligatory and cannot be omitted. The instruction here given applies to all the other Scripture lessons which follow. The reading shall be done as laid down in the full ceremony.}*

Chap.: Here beginneth the first verse of the twenty-eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

*Reads verses 1-6.*

Here endeth the first lesson.

*Cast recovers and is seated.*

Prior: I will now invest you with the Sign of this degree. It is made by holding both hands forward, palms down, as if warming them at a fire. Then grasp the lower or fleshy part of your left hand between the forefinger and thumb of your right hand; raise them with a quick motion, and throw off the right hand with a jerk, as if plucking something offensive from your left hand. This refers to the incident of St. Paul plucking the viper from his hand and casting it into the fire, and is the sign of “Melita.” Reverend Chaplain (b N).You will read another lesson from the Holy Scriptures.

*Cast rises with the Chaplain and uncovers*

Chap.: Here beginneth the twenty-second verse of the twenty-seventh chapter of the Acts of the

Apostles.

*Reads verses 22-25.*

Here endteth the second lesson.

*Cast recovers and is seated*.

Prior: The Pass-word of this degree is “Fear not, Paul.” The Grand Word of this degree is “Melita,” the ancient name for the Island of Malta. Brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it is customary for the knightly soldiers of the Crusades, previous to their departure for the Holy Land, to prepare themselves by a general confession and reception of the Holy Eucharist, receiving the benediction of the Church. In allusion to this custom, but to avoid the semblance of irreverence to the Sacred Mystery, we substitute water for wine and commemorate it to remind us of the extreme perils, suffering and destitution encountered by our Pilgrim brothers of old when on their way to the Holy City, for then they could procure the bare necessaries of life only at the sword's point.

*A salver is here presented by the Chaplain, upon which are a cup of water and some small pieces of bread.*

Prior: You will now receive bread from the point of the sword and water from the blade.

The Prior takes the sword from the Altar, placing on its point a piece of bread, and presents it to the Candidate, who receives and eats it.

The Prior then takes the cup in his left hand, and supporting the bottom of it with the blade of the sword, presents it to the Candidate, who takes it in his right hand and drinks from it. The cup is then replaced on the salver.

Chap: May you be kept steadfast in all your solemn professions, and blessed in all praiseworthy

occupations and undertakings.

Prior: This ceremony constitutes you a Knight of St. Paul, or the Mediterranean Pass. It is the Pass- degree to the Order of Malta.

Retire, my Brother, with the Marshal, until preparations are made for your reception into the Order of Malta.

*The Marshal and the Candidate retire to the anteroom.*