



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS OF MALTA
FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES

Magisterial House

CONSTITUTIONAL DECREE 01 / 2019

**To all Dames and Knights, Brethren of
Our Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem
Knights of Malta
Federation of Autonomous Priories,
let it be known by the present letters that**

We, Jose, by the Grace of God Hereditary Regent and Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus, Hereditary Prior Procurator General of the Grand Priory of the Most Holy Trinity of Villedieu and by the Will of Our fellow Knights Grand Master and Head of State of the Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also said of the Knights of Malta, in virtue of the Constitutional powers bestowed upon Us,

considering that the Constitutional Letter of Our Sovereign Order and of Our State, given by Us, must at all times reflect Our State's real requirements and operational structure, and for this purpose it has to be updated and amended whenever deemed necessary to serve the purposes and objectives both of our Sovereign Order and of our State,

also considering that the amendments implemented and enshrined by the present Constitutional Decree correspond to the reality and the practice of many years in our Sovereign Order and State,

in accordance with the article 1st, of the Chapter XXVIII of Our existing Constitutional Letter and after having consulted the relevant governmental bodies,

We come to decree and We do decree:

ARTICLE 1. The text of our Constitutional Letter is by the present Decree updated and amended and from now on it will have the following wording and composition



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS OF MALTA
FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES

Magisterial House

where, for an easier identification, the said updates and amendments are inserted in Red color:

Chapter X - ADMISSION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FEDERATION

Article 2nd. - Regardless of the Grand Priory, Priory or National Bailiwick of origin, or even of hereditary rights, any new member must request admission within the Federation in writing by filing an official Application for Admission Questionnaire-Curricula with inclusion of three photographs and the *proposal* – endorsement - of one active Knight or Dame of the Federation in good standing.

⇒ Said written request and all additional documentation shall always be submitted to an Admission Board.

Since the Candidates have to be endorsed and proposed by an existing Knight or Dame in good standing, and in order to preserve the rights of no discrimination of any kind, having in mind that in many countries there are minorities of several kinds but also to avoid any sort of political, social, sexual, racial and religious discrimination, the local structures of the Order, such as Grand Priorities, Priorities and Bailiwicks, will only be consulted for a non-binding opinion if and when the Admission Board so deems convenient or appropriate.

This Admission Board will forward the Application for Admission with all respective documents together with its advice to the consideration of the Grand Master, who may approve or refuse such petition “ de Motu Proprio” or refuse the petition based on the advice expressed by the Admission Board.

⌋) *After the approval of the Application for Admission the Candidate must fulfill other stipulated administrative procedures in order to be considered as Postulant to Knighthood. These procedures include the payment of an Administrative Fee of Admission in an amount to be defined by Magisterial Decree intended to cover the costs of the procedures of Admission as well as the costs of the respective Knighthood Ceremony and related events, however the payment of the Administrative Fee of Admission will only be valid if paid by bank transfer or deposit exclusively in the State Accounts of the Federation, in the banks and accounts indicated by the services of the Magisterial House, and no other person, Knight or non Knight, or entity whoever, is authorized to receive any moneys or funds for this purpose or for any other purposes whatsoever, including donations, on behalf or in the name of our Sovereign Order or of our State. Moneys transferred, handed over, or given to third parties, to other persons or entities than the aforementioned State Accounts will be considered for all purposes and for all effects as non-received by the Federation and the persons or entities who received them can be considered as swindlers or scammers and incur in legal penalties.*



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS OF MALTA
FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES

Magisterial House

Article 4th. - Given the fact that in our Bailiwicks, Priories and Grand Priories there are foreigners to those countries living as residents, in case the admission of those is proposed by a local Knight or Dame, if the candidate so wishes and requests to the Grand Master he can integrate the structure of the country or of the langue where he resides. The same applies in case of change of country of residence of an existing Knight or Dame in good standing.

a) The exception to the natural rule of territoriality of the new Knights and Dames are the candidates proposed by the Knights or Dames of the federated Order of Cyprus Or of the federated Grand Priory of Villedieu due to their historical rights.

Article 5th. - Any Knight or Dame of the Federation wishing to have a beloved departed family member included in the "Officium Defunctorum" of the Chaplains and Spiritual Guides of the Federation and in the religious services offered for the commemoration and on behalf of the souls of the faithful departed Knights and Dames of the Federation, shall present a formal petition to the Magisterial House, requesting the inscription in charity of his beloved departed in the Cartulary of Knights and Dames of the Federation. Such petition shall include full name, date and place of birth, date and place of death, and Grade to be recorded.

Chapter XI – STRUCTURAL BODIES OF THE FEDERATION

Article 2nd. - The Federation has the following advisory bodies to assist the Grand Master whenever required:

- U)* The Board of Religious Counselors and Interfaith Pluralism.
- f)* The Magisterial State Council.
- J)* The General Chapter of Knights.
- A)* The Magisterial Board of Admissions.
- B)* The Magisterial Heraldic Council, headed by the King of Arms.

Chapter XVIII - THE MAGISTERIAL STATE COUNCIL

Article 1st. - All the members of this Council have the title of State Counsellors.



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS OF MALTA
FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES

Magisterial House

a) *The duties of the State Counselors are to assist and to counsel the Grand Master, both as Head of the State and Head of the Order, as well as the Lieutenant General and Prime Minister, in all matters presented to them in regard to affairs either of the Government of the State or of the Order.*

Article 2nd. - *The State Counselors, by virtue of the highly sensitive nature of their duties, are bound by office with secrecy on all matters pertaining the State Council and the subjects in appreciation.*

a) *Due to their high responsibilities and to avoid any type or sort of conflict of interests the State Counsellors, will have no executive functions in the Government of the State or in the structure of the Order, and in case they perform duties or hold positions both in the Government or in the structure of the Order in the moment they are promoted to the position of State Counsellors, they will automatically cease their functions.*

b) *In the case the State Counsellors at the moment of their promotion and appointment to the State Council hold positions in the structure of the Order such as Grand Prior, Prior or Bailiff, they have the right to keep the title, but as Honorary.*

Article 3rd. - *For all effects the State Counselors will have a rank equivalent to the rank of Minister of the Government of the State and to them a preeminent position in all State functions and ceremonial acts on the left side of the Grand Master, with the members of the Ministerial Chamber, shall always be accorded by the State Protocol.*

Chapter XXIV – ON THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ALL THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF THE FEDERATION

All Knights, Dames, Squires and Damsels of the Federation are equal before the law, and have the same rights and obligations enshrined in this Constitutional Letter.

IV - ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF OUR KNIGHTS AND DAMES

Article 5th. - *The only economic obligation and commitment of all Knights and Dames, regardless of their rank, position in the structure or in the Government or of their assignment to specific missions, is the payment of an Annual Fee in an amount to be defined by Magisterial Decree whenever considered advisable to be revised.*



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS OF MALTA
FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES

Magisterial House

b) The payment of the Annual Fee will be done by bank transfer or deposit exclusively in the State Accounts of the Federation, in the banks and accounts indicated by the services of the Magisterial House, and no other person, Knight or non Knight, or entity whoever, is authorized to receive any moneys or funds for this purpose or for any other purposes whatsoever, including donations, on behalf or in the name of our Sovereign Order or of our State. Moneys transferred, handed over, or given to other persons or entities than the aforementioned State Accounts will be considered for all purposes and for all effects as non-received by the Federation and the persons or entities who received them can be considered as swindlers or scammers and incur in legal penalties

The present Constitutional Letter was originally given at Grand Magisterial See on the Twenty Fourth of the month of June, of the year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred Ninety Four, and signed by HMEH +Dom Lorenzo, O.S.B., Regent, H.E. Prof. Jose Cosmelli, Minister, and H.E. Dr. Martin Karon General Secretary-Chancellor and was later modified by the Magisterial Constitutional Decrees 01/2007 and 02/2007, 01/2008, 01/2009, 02/2009, 01/2010, 01/2017 and 01/2019.

ARTICLE 2. The present Magisterial Decree is effective from this day on.

This decree, was given in Five pages, at Our Grand Magisterial House on this 22nd day of the month of August of the year of our Lord 2019 and to it We have hereunto set Our hand and the seals in use at this House .

**His Most Eminent Highness José, Prince
GRAND MASTER and HEAD OF STATE KMFAP**