



**The Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem  
Knights Hospitaller  
Constitution**

## REVISED CONSTITUTION- October 31st 1998 (2002) (Oct. 4 2013)

### Article I. The Foundation

**Section 1.** The Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller exists under a Royal Charter, issued 19 March 1964, and confirmed and extended 19 March 1965, as an Order of Chivalry under the Royal Protection and Sovereignty of the reigning King of Yugoslavia.

**Section 2.** This Royal Charter conferred Chivalric status on this organization which has existed and functioned in North America since 1881 as the "Grand Magistracy of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Knights of Malta," the "Royal Yugoslavian Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem," the "Knights of St John and Malta," the "Sovereign Order of St John and Malta" and the "Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller," deriving from that organization established in 1743 in Paris whose members claimed descent from elements of the ancient Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, founded in the Holy Land in A.D.1059.

**Section 3.** The purposes and objects of the Order are:

A. To encourage and promote the highest ideals of Christian chivalry and of all that makes for the moral and spiritual strengthening of mankind in accordance with the first great principle of the Order, embodied in the motto "Pro Fide."

B. To encourage and promote all works of humanity and charity for the relief of persons in sickness, distress, suffering and danger, without distinction as to race, colour, creed or national origin in accordance with the second great principle of the Order embodied in the motto "Pro Utilitate Hominum."

C. To render aid to the sick and injured and to promote such organizations as may be available in times of emergency or strife.

D. To award medals, badges or certificates of honour and merit for special acts or services in the cause of humanity, especially for protecting or saving life or property at imminent personal risk.

E. To maintain the Mission of St John.

F. To develop and maintain educational institutions, the purposes of which are:

i. the instruction of persons in the Christian ethic, in the study of man and generally in those things for the rescue and relief of the suffering and injured throughout the world, irrespective of race, class or creed and

ii. the instruction of persons for the purpose of effectively combining and utilizing individual efforts in the service of mankind.

G. To form associations or organizations in furtherance of the general objects and purposes of the Order.

H. To receive and accept donations, endowments, gifts and bequests of money, lands, hereditaments, stocks, funds, shares, securities and other assets whatsoever and to borrow or raise money with or without security and either subject or not subject to any special trusts or conditions, for any of the objects and purposes of the Order.

I. To establish a Library and Museum, and to collect volumes, works of art and objects of historical interest relating to the Order.

## **Article II. Judicial Personality.**

The Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller asserts its international and ecumenical character and, in its capacity as an International and Ecumenical Order of Chivalry, it staunchly advocates and defends the ideal of a free world and the rights of man.

## **Article III. Location.**

The headquarters of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller shall be as determined from time to time by the Sovereign Council of the Order.

## **Article IV. Government.**

The immediate government of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, in accordance with the Articles set forth herein, is vested with the Sovereign Council of the Order.

## **Article V. The Grand Master.**

**Section 1.** The Grand Master, who must be a Knight of the category of Justice, shall act in a manner consistent with the ancient customs of the Order and with this Constitution. He shall be nominated by the Sovereign Council for election by the Chapter General of the Order. His tenure is for four years, subject to the provisions of **Section 4** of this Article.

**Section 2.** The Grand Master shall act as Chairman of the Sovereign Council and shall preside at all meetings thereof. Where by law a Corporate President is required, the Grand Master shall possess the same powers as the President of a Corporation. Upon approval of the Sovereign Council he shall sign all certificates, contracts and other instruments of the Corporation. Should the Grand Master be unable to attend a given meeting of the Sovereign Council, then in the absence of the Lieutenant Grand Master, the Sovereign Council may appoint one of its members to act as Chairman for that meeting, subject to a quorum being present.

**Section 3.** All official acts of the Grand Master are subject to the sanctions of the Sovereign Council of the Order

**Section 4.** Upon the death, abdication or incapacity which renders him, as determined by the Sovereign Council, unable to satisfactorily perform his duties, or upon the expiration of his term of office, a new Grand Master shall be nominated by the Sovereign Council for election by the Chapter General of the Order to complete the unexpired term or serve a new term, as appropriate. The Grand Master may be re-elected. The office of Grand Master is entirely elective and not subject to transmission by inheritance.

#### **Article VI. The Lieutenant Grand Master**

**Section 1.** The Lieutenant Grand Master, who must be a Knight but not necessarily of the category of Justice, shall, in the absence of the Grand Master, preside at all meetings of the Sovereign Council. In the absence of the Grand Master he shall, with the approval of the Sovereign Council, sign all certificates, contracts, and other instruments of the Corporation. He shall be nominated by the Sovereign Council for election by the Chapter General of the Order. His regular term of office shall be four years and coincide with the term of office of the other High Officers.

**Section 2.** All official acts of a Lieutenant Grand Master are subject to the sanction of the Sovereign Council of the Order.

**Section 3.** Upon the death, abdication or incapacity which renders him, as determined by the Sovereign Council, unable to satisfactorily perform his duties, or upon the expiration of his term of office, a new Lieutenant Grand Master shall be nominated by the Sovereign Council for election by the Chapter General of the Order to complete the unexpired term or serve a new term, as appropriate. The Lieutenant Grand Master may be re-elected. The office of Lieutenant Grand Master is entirely elective and not subject to transmission by inheritance.

#### **Article VII. The High Officers**

**Section 1.** In addition to the Grand Master and the Lieutenant Grand Master, there may be the following High Officers of the Order; viz. the Grand Commander of the Order, the Grand Chancellor of the Order, the Grand Marshal, the Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure, the Grand Advocate, an ad hoc Grand Prelate, the Grand Priors and up to six Grand Councillors, with all of the foregoing serving terms of four years. The High Officers with the exception of the Grand Councillors shall be nominated and confirmed by the Sovereign Council. They may be nominated and confirmed by the Sovereign Council for a second term of four years.

**Section 2.** The Grand Commander shall act as the personal deputy of the Grand Master and the Lieutenant Grand Master. He oversees the Hospitaller, Charitable and Educational work of the Order. He performs other duties as assigned to him by the Sovereign Council. With the sanction of the Council he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of such assistants shall be as defined by the Sovereign Council and all such assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Sovereign Council.

**Section 3.** The Grand Chancellor of the Order shall serve as Executive Officer to the Grand Master and the Lieutenant Grand Master, responsible for the general administration of the Order in all areas except those delegated to other High Officers of the Order. He shall have specific responsibility for the following areas, either directly or through subordinates:

- (1) The procedures for admission, registration, promotion and removal of members.
- (2) Maintenance of the Order Register.
- (3) The issuing of Directives to the Order as required to promulgate Order policy.
- (4) Giving notice of Sovereign Council meetings, making arrangements for such meetings, providing agenda and recording minutes of such meetings.
- (5) Maintaining the records of the Order.

With the sanction of the Sovereign Council, he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of all such assistants shall be as defined by the Sovereign Council and all such assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Sovereign Council.

**Section 4.** The Grand Marshal, under the direction of the Sovereign Council, shall be responsible for all matters concerning regalia, insignia and ceremonies of the Order. With the sanction of the Sovereign Council, he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of all such assistants shall be as defined by the Sovereign Council and all such assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Sovereign Council.

**Section 5.** The Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure shall receive and deposit all monies of the Order and shall keep regular books of account. Upon the sanction of the Sovereign Council, he shall disburse the funds of the Order in payment of any just demands as may be provided by the budget or ordered by the Sovereign Council, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the Sovereign Council at each meeting of the Sovereign Council or more regularly if required by the Sovereign Council, an account of all his transactions and of the financial condition of the Order.

With the sanction of the Sovereign Council, he may appoint such assistants as he may deem essential. The respective positions and duties of such assistants shall be as defined by the Sovereign Council and all such assistants shall hold office during the pleasure of the Sovereign Council.

**Section 6.** Each Grand Prioral Council and the Commanders of the Commanderies within that Grand Priory may elect up to two Grand Councillors to represent that Grand Priory on the Sovereign Council. Should the Grand Priory maintain a membership of over four hundred members for two consecutive years, that Grand Priory may elect a third Grand Councillor to the Sovereign Council. However, no Grand Priory may be represented by more than three Grand Councillors on the Sovereign Council. In this respect, a 'member' is defined as a person whose Oblations are fully paid or a person who for reasons so stipulated in the Statutes has been properly forgiven Oblations.

**Section 7.** The Grand Advocate shall assist the Sovereign Council in the consideration of the legal issues attendant to Order matters. Upon the sanction of the Sovereign Council, he shall interface with legal advisors retained by the Order. He may consult with and advise the Attorneys General and Attorneys Major. He need not be a practicing member of the Bar. His relationship to the Order and any of its members shall not be that of attorney-client.

**Section 8.** When a Sovereign Council meeting is held in the jurisdiction of a particular Grand Priory, then the Grand Prelate of that particular Grand Priory would be an ad hoc Sovereign Council member, except in the case of a Grand Priory which, for geographical reasons, has two Grand Prelates. Then the Grand Prior of such Grand Priory will appoint one or other of the Grand Prelates to be the ad hoc Sovereign Council member. The duties of the Grand Prelate acting as an ad hoc Sovereign Council member would be to offer prayers at the commencement and conclusion of the Sovereign Council meeting, to assist in the preparation of the particular ceremonies which may be held and to give the Sovereign Council advice on ecclesiastical matters. The ad hoc Sovereign Council member exercises no vote.

## **Article VIII. The Sovereign Council**

**Section 1.** The Sovereign Council implements the Constitution adopted by the Chapter General. Where by law a corporate board of directors is required, the Sovereign Council shall possess the powers of the same. The Sovereign Council alone shall, within the limitations of this Constitution, have the powers to enact, amend or repeal the Statutes and Regulations of the Order.

The Sovereign Council is the *fons honorum* of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller. This *fons honorum* has its origin in antiquity and is confirmed, further augmented by and derived from the Royal (High) Protectorship set forth in the Constitution of 1968.

The Sovereign Council shall be required to meet at least once every two years, but more often if so decided by the Sovereign Council.

It is the legal custodian of all the property, both real and personal, of the Order.

**Section 2.** The High Officers of the Order constitute the membership of the Sovereign Council of the Order.

**Section 3.** A quorum shall consist of at least one half of its members. The Grand Advocate shall not be included in determining a quorum.

**Section 4.** Each member of the Sovereign Council, with the exception of the Grand Master, the Lieutenant Grand Master and the Grand Advocate, shall have one vote only, even if they hold more than one office on the Council. The Grand Master or in his stead the Lieutenant Grand Master may only exercise a vote to resolve a tie. The Grand Advocate shall not have a vote. Voting may be held electronically.

**Section 5.** A vacancy in the High Officers of the Order may, with the exception of the Grand Councillors, be filled by a Dame or Knight of the Order on the nomination of and confirmation by the remaining members of the Sovereign Council. A vacancy in the office of Grand Councillor shall be filled in accordance with Article VII, Section 6.

**Section 6.** Upon the death, resignation or incapacity which renders a High Officer, other than a Grand Councillor, as determined by the Sovereign Council, unable to satisfactorily perform his duties, or expiration of his term of office, a new High Officer shall be nominated and confirmed to fill his position by the Sovereign Council. If the High Officer unable to satisfactorily perform his duties is a Grand Councillor, his successor shall be selected in accordance with Article VII, Section 6.

**Section 7.** A current member of the Sovereign Council or a former member who has served for a minimum of three years shall hold the grade of Bailiff Grand Cross.

#### **Article IX. The General Officers of the Order**

**Section 1.** The General Officers of the Order shall be appointed by the Sovereign Council. The General Officers may include:

- A. Blanche Croix Juge d 'Armes
- B. Director General of Insignia
- C. Secretary General
- D. Archivist General
- E. Pilgrimmaster General

**Section 2.** The General Officers serve during the pleasure of the Sovereign Council for a period of three years and they may be re-appointed. Whilst holding office they enjoy the rank of Knight Commander.

**Article X.** The Chapter General of the Order

**Section 1.** The Chapter General of the Order is the Constitutional Assembly of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller. It is a sacred body in that, as the representative general assembly of the universal Order, it has the cardinal and inviolable purpose of promoting and protecting the interests and integrity of the entire membership of the Order.

**Section 2.** The Chapter General is presided over by the Grand Master or in his absence by the Lieutenant Grand Master, or in the absence of both by a Chairman selected by the Sovereign Council. It is either called to order or consulted by mail (email) to consider and approve amendments to the Constitution or to elect a new Grand Master and Lieutenant Grand Master.

**Section 3.** Meetings of the Chapter General may be held in such a manner and at such a place as may be decided by the Sovereign Council.

**Section 4.** No meeting of the Chapter General shall be held without printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting, and the purpose for which the meeting is called. Such notice shall be delivered no less than thirty days before the date of the meeting. If mailed, such notices shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States or Canada Post mail, addressed to the member of the Chapter General at his address as it appears in the records of the Order and posted with first class or air mail postage, if applicable, affixed thereon.

**Section 5.** The Chapter General may adopt its own procedures. Such procedures may provide that in any election for Grand Master or Lieutenant Grand Master or any vote on amendments to the Constitution, the votes may be cast by mail ballot with a fixed date for the return of such ballots having been determined by the Sovereign Council. The ballots shall be distributed and collected by the Secretary General of the Order who will forward the results to the Grand Chancellor of the Order. The promulgations of the Chapter General have binding effect when agreed upon by a majority of its members.

**Section 6.** All members of the Order with the rank of Knight or Dame or above, in their own right, provided that their Annual Oblations have been paid or forgiven under Article XXIX, Section 2. for the current year that is by St John 's Day are members of the Chapter General.

**Section 7.** One half of the members of the Chapter General who cast a vote shall constitute a quorum, whether voting in person or by mail.

**Section 8.** The Chapter General alone shall have the power to enact, amend or repeal any article of the Constitution and to elect the Grand Master and the Lieutenant Grand Master of the Order.

## **Article XI. Grand Pories and Pories**

**Section 1.** The Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller may be divided into national or international Grand Pories or Pories which shall be subordinate to the government of the Order. The Grand Pories may be further divided into Bailiwicks and Commanderies as shall be provided for in the Statutes and Regulations of the Order.

**Section 2.** Individual members of the Order shall adhere to the Grand Priory of the Order within the boundaries of which they permanently reside and to no other jurisdiction unless granted relief from this restriction after written request to the Grand Priory concerned setting out the reasons for such relief.

## **Article XII. Grand Pories and Grand Prioral Council.**

A Grand Priory is governed by a Grand Prior and by a Grand Prioral Council of which the Grand Prior acts as President. The Grand Prior shall be nominated and confirmed by the Sovereign Council in accordance with **Article VII, Section 1 and Article VIII, Section 6**. Within twelve months of assuming office, he shall appoint a Lieutenant whose appointment must be confirmed by the Sovereign Council at a meeting or by mail vote. On the resignation, retirement, incapacity or death of the Grand Prior, the Lieutenant shall assume the office of Grand Prior and serve for a period of six years from the date of assuming the office of Grand Prior. Nonetheless, a Grand Prior may change the person so named as his Lieutenant at any time. The Grand Prioral Council is the legislative authority of each Grand Priory. The membership of the Grand Prioral Council shall be as established by Statute.

## **Article XIII. Grand Prioral Prelates**

A Grand Priory may be spiritually guided by a Grand Prioral Prelate, who must be an ecclesiastic of episcopal or equivalent rank. He is appointed by the Grand Prior of the Grand Priory and his duties are assigned to him by the Grand Prior.

## **Article XIV. Pories**

When, in the opinion of the Sovereign Council, sufficient numbers do not exist to warrant the establishment of a Grand Priory, the Sovereign Council may establish a Priory which will be governed by a Prior nominated and confirmed by the Sovereign Council and a Prioral Council appointed by the Prior. A Prior shall serve during the pleasure of the Sovereign Council for a period of three years. The Prioral Council is the legislative arm of such Priory and membership of this Prioral Council shall be as established by Statute.

**Article XV. Bailiwicks, Commanderies and Chapters.**

**Section 1.** In any place included within the jurisdiction of a Grand Priory and where the Sovereign Council deems it will best serve the objects and purposes of the Order to do so, a Bailiwick, Commandery or Chapter (Castellany) of the said Order may be established.

**Section 2.** Such a Bailiwick, Commandery or Chapter (Castellany) shall depend on the Grand Priory of its jurisdiction and may be raised by the Sovereign Council to a higher status, as appropriate.

**Article XVI. Qualifications**

All members of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, must:

1. Be professing Christians
2. Comply with the requirements of the applicable Statutes and Regulations of the Order in effect from time to time.
3. Make the following declaration of adherence:

"I, (Name), do solemnly declare in the name of Jesus Christ that I will observe the Constitution, Statutes and Regulations of the Order and the praiseworthy customs and traditions of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, so far as consistent with my duty to God and my country; that I will do everything in my power to contribute to its glory, prosperity, solidarity and utility; that I will combat everything prejudicial to its well-being and unity; that I will never act contrary to its dignity and that I will conduct myself always as a Christian person of honour in accordance with the highest chivalric ideals, so help me God."

**Article XVII. Classes and Grades**

**Section 1.** Members and Affiliates of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, are divided into Classes, Ranks and Grades, as specified below, and with the post-nominals as specified below:

**A. Class I. Knights and Dames Grand Cross and Prelates.**

i. Grade 1A.	Bailiffs Grand Cross	KHorDH
	Bailiffs	KHorDH
	Prelates	PH
ii. Grade 1B	Knights	KH
	Dames	DH

**B. Class II. Knights, Dames and Chaplains**

i. Grade IIA.	Knights Commander	KH
	Dames Commander	DH
	Sub Prelates	SPH
ii. Grade IIB	Knights	KH
	Dames	DH
	Chaplains	ChH

**C. Class III. Companions and Assistant Chaplains**

i. Companions	CH
ii. Assistant Chaplains	A

**D. Class IV. Jurats and Deacons**

i. Jurats	JH
ii. Deacons	DeacH

**E. Class V. Members**

i. Member	MH
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**F. Class VI. Castellany or Chapter Members**

i. Serving Brother	SBH
ii. Serving Sister	SSH
iii. Sergeant	
iv. Page	
i. Damosel	

**Section 2.** Ecclesiastical members of the Order are ordained ministers of a Christian religion, persons in major holy Orders or those who have taken solemn vows and live within a Community or Order of the religious discipline of their denomination.

- A. Those of episcopal rank may be admitted to Class I and if so, they are termed 'Prelate.'
- B. Those who are admitted to, or promoted to Class II are termed 'Chaplain' unless they hold the ecclesiastical rank of Canon, Dean or the equivalent, in which case they may be, at the discretion of either the Grand Master or the Lieutenant Grand Master, be termed 'Sub Prelate.'
- C. Those who are admitted to Class III are termed 'Assistant Chaplain.'
- D. Those in minor Holy Orders may be admitted to Class V as 'Serving Brother or Sister'. A Serving Brother or Sister may also be a minor who has demonstrated accomplishments in community service, academics or religious activities, and who is willing to serve the Order.

**Section 3.** Class I, Grade IA, Bailiffs Grand Cross, Bailiffs and Prelates and Class II, Grade IIA, Knights Commander, Dames Commander and Sub-Prelates shall only become permanent for a member so promoted if said member serves in said Class and Grade for three consecutive years, provided that a member shall only use the highest permanent Class and Grade achieved. In the case of any of the above who is unable to satisfy the three year requirement due to extraordinary circumstances the Sovereign Council has the discretion to waive the three year requirement for Class I, grade IA, Bailiffs Grand Cross, Bailiffs and Prelates and a Grand Prior may similarly waive this requirement under similar extraordinary circumstances for Grade IIA, Knights Commander, Dames Commander and Sub-Prelates.

**Article XVIII. Affiliates of Merit**

**Section 1.** Persons who are not otherwise eligible to be members of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, may, if they have rendered conspicuous service or made valuable contributions to the Order, or if they have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of education or the welfare of humanity, be attached to the Order as "Affiliates."

**Section 2.** The following provisions apply to Affiliates.

A. They may be attached to any of the Classes specified below and with the post-nominals specified below:

**i. Class I.**

Grade IB	Knight Grand Cross of Merit	KHM
	Dame Grand Cross of Merit	DHM

**ii. Class II**

Grade IIA	Knight Commander of Merit	KHM
	Dame Commander of Merit	DHM
Grade IIB	Knight of Merit	KHM
	Dame of Merit	DHM

**iii. Class III**

Grade IIIA	Companion of Merit	CHM
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B. Affiliates of Merit shall be eligible for promotion to higher classes as specified above in recognition of further conspicuous acts or service to the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, or if their promotion is recommended to the Grand Master, or, in his absence, the Lieutenant Grand Master by the cognizant Grand Priory.

C. As they are not "Hospitallers" but "Affiliates," they are distinguished by the letter "M," placed after their post-nominals.

D. Affiliates of Merit shall not be able to participate in the government of or hold office in the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller.

**Article XIX. Categories**

**Section 1.** Members of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller in Class V or above as classified in Article XVII, in conformity with custom and tradition are assigned to Categories based on the following considerations provided however, that such categories are not applicable to ecclesiastical members or Affiliates.

**A. Category of Justice**

i. Bailiffs of the Order are by that fact in the category of "Justice"

ii. Knights or Dames of the Order belonging to Class I or II are in the category of "Justice" provided such member submits evidence to the satisfaction of the cognizant heraldic and genealogical authority of the said Order that such member is born of Nobiliary status to the extent of :

a. Descent from a paternal armigerous grandparent possessing noble arms plus descent from an armigerous parent possessing noble arms or,

b. Hereditary nobility in the paternal or maternal line or,

c. The possession of tokens of honour such as patents of coat armour of nobility granted in accordance with the usage of their land of origin or,

d. Legitimate and recognized members of Royal Houses, the latter as defined by the treaties of the Congress of Vienna and those thereafter.

## **B. Categories of Grace**

i. Knights Commander and Dames Commander of the Order are by that fact in the category of "Grace."

ii. Knights and Dames of the Order are in the category of "Grace" if such member submits evidence to the satisfaction of a reputed heraldic and genealogical authority of the said Order that such member is of nobiliary status, but not of such a degree as to qualify for the category of "Justice."

iii. Knights and Dames of the Order are in the category of "Grace" if they possess "esquire" rank which includes:

(1) Field or command officers of the uniformed services.

(2) Members of the bar.

(3) Holders of an earned doctoral degree.

(4) Those elected or appointed to a high public office.

## **C. Category of Honour**

Persons may be admitted to the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, who, when created Knight or Dame, would not qualify for either of the categories of "Justice" or "Grace" as set forth herein. They shall be in the category of "Honour."

## **D. Category of Merit**

All affiliates of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, irrespective of grade, shall be in the category of "Merit".

## **Article XX. Investitures**

**Section 1.** A person who has been promoted to the rank of Knight, Dame or Chaplain in the Order shall, before entry into such class, be formally received and invested by the Grand Master, or in his absence by the Lieutenant Grand Master, or in the absence of either of them then by a High Officer of the Order selected by the Sovereign Council to act in their stead. Under exceptional and extenuating circumstances, the Sovereign Council may appoint a Prior of the Order to officiate at such a reception and Investiture provided, however, it is witnessed by two

Knight Commanders.

**Section 2.** At any such Investiture, any person previously promoted to the rank of Knight or Dame (e.g. by Letters Patent issued by the Grand Master) who has not been dubbed chivalrously as such, may be given the accolade.

**Section 3.** Other Members or Affiliates of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, shall be received and invested in a manner appropriate to the grade to which they are being admitted or attached, as established by Statute.

## **Article XXI. Arms**

**Section 1.** The Arms of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller are:  
*"Gules a Cross Argent throughout, in the first Quarter a Representation of the uncrowned Badge of the Order of the White Eagle Proper."*

A. The Lesser Arms of the Order may be displayed: *"The Arms of the Order, surmounted by the Sovereign Crown of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Proper"*

B. The Lesser Arms of the Order may be more fully displayed: *"The Arms of the Order, supported by the Badge of the Order Argent, the whole surmounted by the Sovereign Crown of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Proper."*

C. The full Arms of the Order may be displayed: *"Gules a Cross Argent throughout, in the first Quarter a Representation of the uncrowned Badge of the Order of the White Eagle Proper, supported by the Badge of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Argent, in turn supported on the Breast of a double-headed Eagle Gules, langued and armed Or, the whole surmounted by the Sovereign Crown of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, Proper."*

**Section 2.** The Grand Priories, Priories, Bailiwicks, Commanderies and other Units of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, may be granted Arms by the Grand Master or Lieutenant Grand Master with the approval of the Sovereign Council.

**Section 3.** The Arms of the Officers of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller are as stated below.

A. The Arms of the Grand Master, Lieutenant Grand Master, the High Officers of the Order and the Grand Councillors and the Grand Priors as used within the Order shall be the personal Arms of those officials with the Arms of the Order in chief, the shield surmounted by the Coronet of a European count, unless such official bears a coronet or crown of higher rank.

B. The Arms of Bailiffs Grand Cross, of Knights and Dames Grand Cross, of Prelates, of Knights and Dames, of Chaplains and of other members of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, shall be as prescribed by Regulation.

## **Article XXII. Mottoes**

**Section 1.** The Mottoes of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, are: "Pro Fide" and "Pro Utilitate Hominum."

**Section 2.** A Grand Priory, with the sanction of the Sovereign Council, may adopt an additional motto unique to itself.

## **Article XXIII. Badge**

The Badge of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller is a white Cross of eight points, unfimbriated and unembellished in its interspaces.

## **Article XXIV. Diplomas and Brevets**

**Section 1.** Each member on being advanced shall receive an appropriate Diploma issued by the Sovereign Council, signed by the Grand Prior and a Bailiff of the Order. No Diploma for a Companion, Knight or Dame shall be valid unless it has been signed by the Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant Grand Master and the Grand Prior or Prior of jurisdiction.

**Section 2.** Each member of the Order when advanced in rank shall receive an appropriate Brevet with the Great Seal of the Order attached thereto and signed by the Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant Grand Master, the Grand Chancellor and the respective Grand Prior.

**Section 3.** The High Officers of the Order, the General Officers of the Order and the officers of a Grand Priory or Priory down to and including the Commanders shall receive an appropriate Letters Patent signed by the Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant Grand Master.

## **Article XXV. Insignia, Robes and Uniforms.**

The Insignia, Robes and Uniforms (Service and Dress) of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, shall be as provided for by the Statutes and Regulations of the Order and shall be worn as only therein prescribed.

## **Article XXVI. Non-Partisanship**

**Section 1.** The Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller and all its units are chivalric, religious, educational and humanitarian in their objects and purposes and shall not be concerned with any movement or manifestation of a politically partisan character.

**Section 2.** The Order, its units and members shall not be members of or actively participate in any way in the activities of spurious orders or institutions.

## **Article XXVII. Statutes**

**Section 1.** The Sovereign Council shall have the power by instrument under its hand and seal to

enact, rescind or amend Statutes for all the purposes contemplated in, and for giving effect to, this Constitution and otherwise as may be necessary for the conduct, control and management of the affairs of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller. However, such Statutes may not be repugnant to any provision of this Constitution.

**Section 2.** All Statutes so promulgated shall be, valid and binding upon all members and affiliates of the said Order, or personnel connected with the Order's affairs or works.

### **Article XXVIII. Regulations**

**Section 1.** The Sovereign Council shall have the power by instrument under its hand and seal to make, rescind, or amend Regulations for the purposes contemplated in, and giving effect to this Constitution, and otherwise as may be necessary for the conduct, control, and management of the affairs and activities of the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, but such Regulations shall not be repugnant to any provision of this Constitution or to any Statute of the Order.

### **Article XXIX. Annual Oblations, Passage Fees and Application Fees**

**Section 1.** The Sovereign Council shall establish and fix all fees including, but not limited to Annual Oblations, Passage fees and Application Fees.

**Section 2.** Candidates for admission contribute certain Application Fees.

**Section 3.** If in the judgment of the Grand Prior or Prior concerned or for other obvious reasons, a member cannot obligate himself or herself to the payment of annual Oblations, the Grand Prior or Prior may grant, or may establish a procedure to grant, an exemption to such member for a stated period.

**Section 4.** Annual Oblations shall be paid by all members of the Order who are under the age of seventy years, except Serving Brothers, Serving Sisters, Sergeants, Pages and Damosels.

**Section 5.** A certain proportion of the annual Oblations as determined by the Sovereign Council shall accrue to the Order and be paid to the Treasurer General of the Order.

**Section 6.** A certain proportion of the Application Fees and Passage fees as determined by the by the Sovereign Council shall accrue to the Order and be paid to the Grand Receiver.

### **Article XXX. Integration**

The Order shall not discriminate between male and female members. Usage herein of a single gender shall not convey exclusivity or preference.

### **Article XXXI. Adoption and Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Chapter General.