

SPEECH OF THE GRAND MASTER TO THE POSTULANTS

26 November 2022

Dear Postulants,

A very important Summit has just finished, a Summit that touches the life of us all: the COP 27 in Egypt.

During the previous COP Summit, 193 countries have promised to comply with the climate objectives agreed by all, but only 24 have fulfilled their promises and slowly our planet is dying, so I'd like to quote Mahatma Gandhi when he said that *"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed"*

In a few minutes, you will become Knights and Dames of St John, also called of Malta, and probably you ask yourselves what do we expect from you?

As you know the Knights and Dames of St John, also known as Knights of Malta, or Hospitaller Knights, historically are fighters, because we have for centuries been fighting for our main principles and for our main objectives, which are to relief Poverty - not by giving alms to poor but by helping development of their countries, by bringing better Health Care, better Education, efficient Professional Training, better and more modern Technology, and good and fruitful investments under the umbrella of our network of Embassies.

This is what we do.

However we can not ignore that Poverty and Misery are seriously aggravated by the climate changes that bring either destructive floods or deadly droughts and only a few days ago we were shocked to see in an African country thousands of animals, including elephants, dead by thirst, while in other countries heavy rains killed people and destroyed properties, so, as Our Sovereign Order and State is not immobile and motionless in time, but we are a 21st Century modern Chivalry Order and also a Sovereign State, the preservation of our Planet has become one of our important and urgent tasks and objectives.

Carl Sagan once said about Earth: *"Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."*

Indeed, the key to save our planet is not only in the hands of the governments whose most of the politicians are always more worried in winning the next elections than in saving the Planet. No, the key is in the hands of the people of the World and we expect our Knights and Dames to be in the front line of this battle, a battle that can not be lost, or there will be no winners to celebrate the Victory.