

SPEECH OF THE GRAND MASTER TO THE POSTULANTS
MALTA
7TH OCTOBER 2023

DEAR POSTULANTS,

FIRST OF ALL I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ALL BECAUSE YOU HAVE APPLIED TO JOIN OUR SOVEREIGN ORDER AND STATE AND YOUR APPLICATION WAS APPROVED BY OUR MAGISTERIAL BOARD OF ADMISSIONS DUE TO YOUR PERSONAL QUALITIES AND YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

AS S. MATHEUS SAID IN HIS GOSPEL “VOS ESTIS SAL TERRAE”. THIS MEANS IN ENGLISH THAT “**YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH**” AND IN FACT THE SALT HAS MANY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE ARE SURE TO FIND IN YOU:

- LIFE, AS WE KNOW IT, IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SALT, AS THIS WORLD WITHOUT HONEST AND KINDLY HEARTED PEOPLE - LIKE YOU -, WOULD BE AN IMPOSSIBLE PLACE TO LIVE.
- THE FOOD WITHOUT SALT IS TASTELESS AS OUR WORLD WITHOUT PEOPLE WITH SOUND PRINCIPLES AND SOLID VALUES, LIKE YOU, IS SENSELESS
- THE SALT PRESERVES THE FOOD AND THE FOOD REPRESENTS THE FIRST BASIC NEED OF THE PEOPLE, AS WE EXPECT YOU, AT ALL TIMES IN YOUR LIFE, TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR THE POOR PEOPLE TO EAT.
- THE SALT PREVENTS THE ROTTENNESS AND CORRUPTION AND IT IS YOUR OBLIGATION AS KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF SAINT JOHN TO PREVENT MORAL ROTTENNESS AND TO PREVENT AND AVOID CORRUPTION.
- THE SALT HAS ANTISEPTIC, HEALING AND REGENERATIVE POWERS SINCE THE SODIUM ELIMINATES TOXINS FROM THE BODY, AS OUR KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF SAINT JOHN, ALSO KNOWN AS THE KNIGHTS OF THE HOSPITAL, HAVE THE MISSION - AND THE DUTY - TO HELP THE SICK AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE ILL IN BODY OR IN SOUL TO CURE AND HEAL THEIR WOUNDS.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE : THE BAD ONES WHO HAVE NO PRINCIPLES, NO MORAL AND NO ETHICS AND THE GOOD ONES WHO ARE LIKE THE SALT.

TODAY, HERE IN FRONT OF ME, I HAVE THE GOOD MEN AND WOMEN, HONEST AND WITH PRINCIPLES. TODAY HERE I HAVE IN YOU, POSTULANTS, THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

BAD MEN ARE LIKE THE FISH OR THE ANIMALS IN THE JUNGLE: THE BIG ONES EAT THE SMALLER AND WEAKER ONES, SO, NOT EVEN 100 SMALL ARE SUFFICIENT TO FEED A BIG ONE AND IS PRECISELY HERE THAT OUR KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF MALTA ARE DIFFERENT, BECAUSE, INSTEAD OF FEEDING ON THE LITTLE AND VULNERABLE ONES, THEY FEED, DEFEND AND PROTECT THEM.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS THAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR KNIGHTS AND DAMES ARE PRECISELY THE TOLERANCE, THE ACCEPTANCE, THE NO DISCRIMINATION WHATSOEVER AND THE RESPECT FOR PEOPLE AND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. TOLERANCE AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM US, WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY, WHO HAVE A DIFFERENT SKIN COLOUR OR WHO BELIEVE IN A DIFFERENT GOD THAN WE DO.

NO DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE IN REALITY MEN ARE LIKE TREES: EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS AND IF YOU LOOK FOR AN EQUALITARIAN FORREST YOU WILL ONLY FIND A DESERT... THE DIVERSITY ENRICHES THE NATIONS, AND IN OUR SOVEREIGN ORDER AND STATE ALL OF OUR KNIGHTS AND DAMES ARE DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER BUT THEY ALL HAVE THE SAME STATUTE, THE SAME RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AND ARE UNITED BY THE SAME PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER, HONESTY AND HUMANITARIAN WORK.

WE ARE UNITED TO SERVE AND WE ARE UNITED BECAUSE WE SERVE.

OF COURSE WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY OF YOU TO BE PERFECT BECAUSE NOBODY IS PERFECT, SO WE ACCEPT YOU ALL AS THE NEW KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF ST JOHN, KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF MALTA, WITH YOUR QUALITIES AND YOUR IMPERFECTIONS, BUT WE COUNT ON YOU TO JOIN US IN OUR HUMANITARIAN WORK, TO JOIN US IN HELPING THE WEAK, THE NEEDY AND THE ILL AND, AS IT SAID IN THE HOLY KORAN: **SURELY, GOOD DEEDS ERASE BAD DEEDS**

BE WELCOME !