



**STATE OF THE KNIGHTS
FEDERATION OF AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES
OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM
KNIGHTS OF MALTA**

Government of the State

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER AND HEAD OF THE STATE

NOTE OF CONDOLENCES

The Grand Master and Head of the State of KMFAP, in his own name, on behalf of the Government of the State of Knights, of the structures of the Federation and of all its Knights and Dames of all Religions, Creeds and Churches, comes by the present to express to the State of the Holy See, and to all the Catholics around the World the most sincere and heartfelt condolences of us all, on the occasion of the decease of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Indeed H.H. Pope Francis, due to his Simplicity, Humbleness, Compassion, Spirit of social and moral Justice and his incessant and relentless defence and search for Peace, became one of the best Popes that the Catholic Church has ever had in its long history.

Pope Francis, loved and respected by both Christians and non-Christians, who considered him as sweet grandfather, played an important role in the intra-religious dialogue and in the profound renewal and transformation of the Catholic Church into a more modern, synodal and democratic institution and state. This was very important, because if religions remain the same throughout the centuries, institutions, churches and states must evolve with the world.

His Papacy was sailed through a stormy ocean full of problems of all kinds: political, economic and social tensions; devastating wars; conflicts of all sorts; different forms of violence from child abuse to starvation and misery; crossed by a deadly pandemic. On every occasion, Pope Francis was a lake of serenity, was the hope to many and sailed steadily, firm at the helm, guided by his faith, his immutable principles and by love and care.

In an era of dictatorships and of moral and economic corruption, he became important not by being arrogant or by submitting others, but by being humble. He became strong not by leading armies, but by being sweet and caring to all. His voice was heard not by shouting out loud his qualities and ideas, but by whispering words of love, hope and forgiveness. He gained respect not by luxury and ostentation, but by modesty and frugality.

Loved by many, hated by those who could not share or understand his compassion, his respect for human rights and his humanity, as well as by those who are afraid of change. He was popular because he was simple and became a model of honesty, of courageous defence to victims of all kinds, and the voice of the poor, the ill, the minorities and the less fortunate who have no voice.

The world of our days has neither been able to understand nor deserve a Pope like Francis, yet many will miss him dearly.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE