



THE PRINCE AND GRAND MASTER
SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

17 May 2018

Excellencies, dear Confreres and Consoeurs,

On May 2nd the Council Complete of State elected me as your Grand Master. I have accepted this high responsibility with a humble heart and trust in the help of God. After my election, I was blessed with the grace to entrust my service as Grand Master to our Lady of Lourdes. Our 60th international pilgrimage has been a very rewarding spiritual experience, thanks to the participation and commitment of so many of you.

Many tasks and challenges lay ahead of us. So many people around the world are longing for help. We must be thankful that our possibilities to alleviate their suffering have increased over the recent years. In many parts of the world our eight-pointed white cross has become a sign of hope. Our efforts to expand our assistance must not cease. I am deeply grateful to all of you, who are so devotedly engaged to help our “Lords the Sick”.

Our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes is a shining example of how the *tuitio fidei* is intimately linked with the *obsequium pauperum*. Consequently, our efforts to strengthen our faith and to deepen our spirituality must not cease either. The members of our Order should always be ready to stand for and witness the truth and love of Christ.

The Reform Process of our Order, which started a year ago, has to be understood in this context. Faithful to our millenary mission and tradition we have to make every effort to better prepare our institution for the future while we reaffirm our religious identity in our service to the Church. I commit myself to conduct the Reform in this direction. You will soon receive more information regarding the way forward.

It is of the utmost importance that we all remain united during this process. I will do whatever is in my capacity to foster this unity. There are different opinions on how to go about the Reform. All voices must be respected but it is of the essence to express our own views in a transparent and honest way.

.../...

Unfounded allegations raised anonymously against members and officers of the Order to discredit them - either verbally or via modern means of communication - must stop. These actions are contrary to the virtues of a knight and are a sinful behaviour.

If we open our hearts and are united as a family, I am confident that we will find the right way forward according to the will of God and with the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

At this time, I ask for the intercession of Our Lady of Philermos, our Patron Saint St. John the Baptist and of our founder Blessed Fra' Gerard and all the Saints and Blessed of our Order to help us all accomplish what has been and will continue to be our Order's mission.

Confraternally yours,

Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto
Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto