



# ORDER OF MALTA

# SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

THE ORDER OF MALTA

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## MISSION



### Upholding human dignity and caring for people in need

The Sovereign Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilisation. A **lay religious order of the Catholic Church** since 1113 and a subject of international law, the Sovereign Order of Malta has diplomatic relations with over 100 states and the European Union, and permanent observer status at the United Nations. It is **neutral, impartial** and **apolitical**.

Today, the Order of Malta is active in **120 countries** caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian works. Day-to-day, its broad spectrum of social projects provides a constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society. It is especially involved in helping people living in the midst of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing medical assistance, caring for refugees, and distributing medicines and basic equipment for survival. Across the world, the Order of Malta is dedicated to the **preservation of human dignity** and the care of all those in need, regardless of their origin or religion.

Founded in **Jerusalem** in the 11th century, the Order of Malta has a long history of **service to the vulnerable and the sick**. This 900-year history is reflected in its full name: Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Since 1834 the Order of Malta's government seat has been in Rome, where it is guaranteed extraterritorial rights.

The Order of Malta operates through **11 Priors, 48 national Associations, 133 diplomatic missions, 1 worldwide relief agency** and **33 national volunteer corps**, as well as numerous hospitals, medical centres and specialist foundations. It does not pursue any economic or political goal and does not depend on any other state or government.

## HOSPITALLER MISSION



### Humanitarian, medical & social assistance

## HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY



### Linking diplomacy with aid

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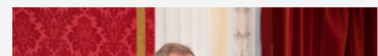
## KNIGHTS OF MALTA



### Knights & Dames with a mission of care

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## ALL NEWS





31/12/2022

**Message of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master to the Holy Father on the passing of His Holiness Benedict XVI**

Most Blessed Father, Gravely affected by the news of the death of your venerable predecessor and brother, His Holiness Benedict XVI, please accept my deepest sympathy and that of all...

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PHOTO & VIDEO GALLERIES



The Order of Malta's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem: a birthplace of hope



The Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Senegal presents his letters of credence



The President of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law at the Magistral Palace



The Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Chile presents his letters of credence



The Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Hungary presents his letters of credence



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For information on the activities of the Order of Malta in individual countries and how to participate:  
[Europe](#) | [Africa](#) | [America](#) | [Asia](#) | [Oceania](#)

For information on history and bibliography pertaining to the Order of Malta: Magistral Archives and Library  
[info.biblio@orderofmalta.int](mailto:info.biblio@orderofmalta.int)

For information on visiting times and to make a reservation for the Magistral Villa:  
[visitorscentre@orderofmalta.int](mailto:visitorscentre@orderofmalta.int)

