Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass

And

The Order of Malta

[Revised Short Form]

For

The State of Nevada

10 June 2014
Table of Contents

1. Players: .............................................................................................................................. 3
2. Paraphernalia: ....................................................................................................................... 3
3. Work: .................................................................................................................................... 4
4. Candidate Vow: ..................................................................................................................... 4
5. Order of St. Paul: .................................................................................................................. 4
6. Order of Malta: ...................................................................................................................... 7
7. Grand hailing sign ................................................................................................................ 11
8. Grand' word of a knight of Malta......................................................................................... 11
9. The Grand Token and word ............................................................................................... 12
10. HISTORICAL AND EXPLANATORY LECTURE .................................................................. 14
11. Table in the West: ............................................................................................................... 17
12. Banners: .............................................................................................................................. 18
13. 
Players:

Prior
Chaplain
Marshal
Banner Guard 1 - Birth
Banner Guard 2 - Life
Banner Guard 3 - Death
Banner Guard 4 - Resurrection
Banner Guard 5 - Ascension

8 Knights seated at a Table in the West (or none - if done with slides or projection)
Banner Guard – St. Paul
Banner Guard – Malta

Paraphernalia:

Malta costume for players above
(Malta Mantle & Cap, if available)
5 scrolls for Banner Guards
Table in the West with Malta table cloth
(or none, if done with slides or projection)
Banner of St. Paul
Banner of Malta
Sword for Prior
– Bread & water for each candidate
New Testament, Cross, & Sword
Maltese Cross for each Candidate
Sword and Baldric for each Candidate
Work:

[A Priory having been opened, or declared open, the Mediterranean Pass and the Order of Malta may be conferred in this revised short form. The Prior, Marshal, Chaplain, and Candidate should appear as in the full ceremony. Members are in dark clothing, wearing the Malta mantle and Malta cap, or in citizen's dress. The Templar chapeau and fatigue cap must not be worn. The Candidate(s) is conducted by the Marshal to west of Altar without any preliminary ceremonies.]

Candidate Vow:

Prior: The Order of Malta is conferred in a Priory duly convened, and the ceremony must be conferred in full or short form. I will confer the Order upon you in modified short form, and proceed to invest you with the attributes of the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass, the Pass-degree to the Order of Malta. Before doing so, however, I must require of you the following declaration:

My Brother(s), do you solemnly promise on your honor as a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross that you will never improperly reveal the secrets of this Order which I am about to impart to you?

Candidate(s): I do solemnly promise.

Order of St. Paul:

Prior: Your answer is satisfactory. I will now invest you with the attributes of the Degree of Knight of St. Paul or, the Mediterranean Pass. The incidents upon which this degree and its' modes of recognition are founded are recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Reverend Chaplain you will read a lesson for our 'instruction'.

All rise with the Chaplain and uncover. Or, Prior gives the command “Attention, Knights, Uncover”.

[The reading of the lesson by, the Chaplain is obligatory and cannot be omitted. The instruction here given applies to all the other Scripture lessons which follow. The reading shall be done as laid down in the full ceremony.]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the first verse of the twenty-eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles [verses 1-6].

1 And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

2 And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

3 And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

4 And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

5 And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

6 Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

Here endeth the first lesson.

[All re-cover and are seated. Or, the Prior commands, “Recover, Be seated”]

Prior: I will now invest you with the Sign of this degree. It is made by holding both hands forward, palms down as if warming them, at a fire. Then, grasp the lower or fleshy part of your left hand between the forefinger and thumb of your right hand; then raise them with a quick motion, and throw off
the right hand with a jerk, as if plucking something offensive from your left 
hand. This refers to the incident of St. Paul plucking the viper from his hand and 
casting it into the fire, and is called the sign of "Melita."

Prior: Reverend Chaplain, you will read another lesson from the Holy 
Scriptures.

[All rise with the Chaplain and uncover. Or, the Prior commands “Attention, 
Uncover.”]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the twenty-second verse of the twenty-seventh 
Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. [Verses 22-25]

22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of 
any man's life among you, but of the ship.

23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom 
I serve,

24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God 
hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even 
as it was told me.

Here endeth the second lesson.

[All recover and are seated. Or, the Prior commands “Recover, Be seated.”]

Prior: The Pass-word of this degree is "Fear not, Paul." The Grand Word 
of this degree is "Melita", the ancient name of the Island of Malta. Brother A. 
B., it was customary for the knightly soldiers of the Crusades, previous to their 
departure for the Holy Land, to prepare themselves by a general confession and 
reception of the Holy Eucharist receiving the benediction of the Church. In 
allusion to this custom, but to avoid the semblance of irreverence to the Sacred
Mystery, we substitute water for wine and commemorate it to remind us of the extreme perils, suffering and destitution encountered by our pilgrim brothers of old, when on their way to the Holy City, for then, they could procure the bare necessities of life only at the sword's point.

[A salver is here presented by the Chaplain, upon which is a cup of water and some small pieces of bread.]

Prior: You will now receive bread from the point of the sword and water from the blade.

[The Prior takes the sword from the Altar, placing on its point a piece of bread, and presents it to each Candidate, who receives and eats it. The Prior then takes the cup in his left hand, and, supporting the bottom of it with the blade of the sword, presents it to each Candidate, who takes it in his right hand and drinks from it. The cup is then replaced on the salver.]

Chaplain: May you be kept steadfast in all your solemn professions, and blessed in all praiseworthy occupations and undertakings.

Prior: This ceremony constitutes you a Knight of St. Paul, or the Mediterranean Pass. It is the Pass-degree to the Order of Malta.

Order of Malta:

Prior: I will now invest you with the attributes of the Order of Malta. Before doing so I must require of you a solemn vow that you will be faithful to the trust reposed in you. You will, therefore, kneel at our Altar, on your right knee, your right hand resting on the New Testament, Cross and Sword.

[All Candidates kneel at the altar. Prior commands “Attention.” Done]

Prior: You will say “I," pronounce your name, and repeat after me:
I,____ , of my own free will and accord, in the presence of Almighty God and these witnesses, do hereby and hereon, solemnly promise and vow, that will forever keep and conceal the secrets belonging to the Order of Malta; that I will not communicate them to anyone except to a true and lawful Knight of the Order; and not unto him until after due trial, strict examination, or lawful information, I shall 'have found him lawfully entitled to the same, or within the body of a regular and duly constituted Priory of Knights of Malta.

That I will conform to the statutes, rules and regulations of the Order and live in strict accordance therewith; under the penalty of forfeiting my membership and of being despised and cast out from all who love honor and integrity.

So help me God and 'keep me steadfast.

Prior: By virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Grand Commandery of the State of Nevada, and in the name of St. John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Order, I make you, a Knight Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta. Be zealous and vigilant for the honor of Knighthood.

[The Prior takes him (exemplar) by the right hand.]

Prior: We admit you into our Order, and raise you by a new Name - Arise; Knight of Malta.

[Prior causes all of the candidates to arise. The Chaplain presents the Cross of the Order; the Prior places it upon the breast of each Candidate.]

Prior: I now invest you with the Cross, or Jewel, of the Order. It is the Maltese Cross. Its eight points are symbolical of the eight languages into which the Order was formerly divided. It has, however, a higher and more important
meaning than this, for it symbolizes and reminds you of the eight beatitudes recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Reverend Chaplain, you will read a lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

[All rise with the Chaplain and uncover. Or, the Prior commands “Uncover.”]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the third verse of the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St; Matthew. [Reads verses 3 - 11.]

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Here endeth the third lesson.

[All re-cover and are seated. Or, Prior commands “Recover, Be seated.”]

Prior: My Brother, these virtues you should cherish in your heart for the consolation and preservation of your soul. Therefore, that you may have this precious symbol always before your eyes, you will wear it on your breast, near
your heart, and never desert it or lay it aside. Reverend Chaplain, you will read another lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

[All rise with the Chaplain and uncover. Or, Prior commands “Attention, Uncover.”]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the twenty-fourth verse of the twentieth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. [Reads verses 24-29.]

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Here endeth the fourth lesson.

[The reading ended, all re-cover and are seated. Or, the Prior commands “Recover, Be seated.”]

Prior: I will now invest you with the Sign, Grip, and Word of the Order.

[Prior directs Exemplars (and designated instructors) take their post to demonstrate the Sign, Grip, and Word.]
One says, "Reach hither thy finger and feel the print of the nails". They join right hands and force the first finger into the center of the palm.

Then he says, "Reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side."

Each extends his left hand, and presses his fingers into the left side of the other, still holding on by the grip; with arms thus crossed, they give the Word.

One says, "My LORD"; the other responds, “AND My GOD.”

The name of this Sign and Grip is “Infidelitas” - unbelief. It teaches us that there is an unbelief which transcends a rational skepticism; that we should possess a power of Faith to receive Divine Truth, even though unaccompanied by physical evidence, and thus entitle us to that commendation of our Divine Teacher - "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

I will now invest you with the Grand Hailing Sign and Grand Word of a Knight of Malta; also the Grand Token and Word of the Order.

**Grand hailing sign**

*Prior*: Place both hands to the mouth as if speaking through a trumpet, right hand in front of left.

**Grand word of a Knight of Malta**

*One says* "Do you come in peace!"
[The answer] “We come in peace.”

[The response] “Then come in peace.”

The Grand Token and word

Draw swords and come to carry. Advance left feet and place them beside each other. Interlace fingers of left hand, moving arms backward and forward as if rowing a boat. The swords held upwards in the right’ hands, saying together the Grand Word: “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

Prior: Carry, Swords. Return, Swords.

The Pass-words of the Order are: BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH, RESURRECTION and ASCENSION; these words are used to commemorate the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our Savior.

Prior: Reverend Chaplain, you will read another lesson from the Holy Evangelist.

[All rise with the Chaplain and uncover. Or, the Prior commands “Attention, Uncover.”]

Chaplain: Here beginneth the nineteenth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. [Reads 19th verse only.]

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Here endeth the fifth lesson.

[All re-cover and are seated. Or, the Prior commands “Recover, Be seated.”]
Prior: The Sacred Word of the Order is: “INRI” It is formed by the initials of the four Latin words which were set up over the head of our Blessed Savior upon the Cross: “IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEROUM” – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

Prior: You will now give your attention to the Historical and Explanatory lecture connected with this Order, under the direction of the Marshal. Knight Marshal, you will instruct this newly made Knight of Malta.
HISTORICAL AND EXPLANATORY LECTURE

Marshal: My Brother, I will now direct your attention to a brief resume of the History of this Ancient Chivalric Order, and its bearing upon the present ceremonies. While doing so we will pass by the different ceremonial banners, and their significance in connection with the history and traditions of the order will be explained to you.

[Marshal conducts candidates to each station for the reading of the scrolls.]

[First Banner” Birth”]

Banner Guard 1: This Order was founded at Jerusalem in the year of our Lord 1099, by the association of a number of pious Knights with the fraters of St. John’s Hospital, an establishment previously formed for the relief of pilgrims who had come to worship at the Holy Sepulcher. The name and date upon the white banner, "Birth," "Palestine, 1099," commemorates the country of our Savior’s nativity; the place where the Order was founded, and the first epoch in its history.

[They pass to second banner “Life”]

Banner Guard 2: After a troubled existence of two hundred years in the Holy Land, and being deprived by the wars raging in Europe of needed and looked for assistance, the Order was compelled to evacuate Palestine, and in 1287 it established itself on the Island of Cyprus, and settled in Limisso. The name and date upon the red banner, "Life," "Cyprus, 1287," commemorates the second place of their sojournming, and the second epoch in their history.

[They pass to the third banner, "Death."]

Banner Guard 3: On the fifth of August, 1310, the Island of Rhodes
became the property of the Order by right of conquest from the Saracens; In
1312, the Order was strengthened in numbers and enriched by the sequestered
property of the Knights Templar, who were in that year suppressed by the
cruelty and avarice of Pope Clement V and Phillip the Fair, King of France. This
was the first direct approach to that union between the two Orders, which was
subsequently formally decreed by the Pope. From this period, they were known
as the Knights of Rhodes. The remains of the fortifications erected there by the
Knights, still bear testimony of their engineering skill and ability. In 1522, the
Island of Rhodes was besieged by the Turks, under the Emperor Sulyman II, and
after a memorable defense, their fortifications being reduced to ruins, scarcely
one stone remaining standing upon another, they were compelled to surrender
and evacuate the island, after an occupancy of more than two hundred years.
So deeply had their desperate prowess excited the admiration of their foes, and
so firmly implanted were the chivalric ideas of the time, even in the bosom of
the infidels, that the Knights were allowed to withdraw unmolested, and
with the honors of war. The name and date upon the black banner, "Death,"
"Rhodes, 1310," commemorates the third place of the sojourning of these
valiant Knights, and the third epoch in their history.

[They pass to the fourth banner "Resurrection."]

Banner Guard 4: During the period from 1523 to 1530 the Order ceased
to exist as a sovereign power, and the remnants of it wandered from place
to place without a home. During this most depressing period in their history,
they went, first to Castro in the Island of Candia, thence successively to
Venice, Viturbo, Villa Franca, Syracuse, and Messina. The name and date of
the purple banner, "Resurrection," "Candia, 1523," commemorates' this;
the fourth memorable period in the history of the Order.'

[They pass to the fifth banner “Ascension”]
Banner Guard 5: On the 24th of March, 1530; the Emperor, Charles V, ceded the Island of Malta to the Order, upon condition that they would defend it and repress the ravages of the Moorish rovers, who at that time infested the southern ports of the Mediterranean Sea. Accordingly, under L'Isle Adam, the then Grand Master - one of the brightest names in the history of the Order - they took possession of the Island and thenceforth acquired the additional title of Knights' of Malta. The name and date on the yellow banner; "Ascension;'" "Malta, 1530," commemorates this the fifth memorable period in the history of the Order.

Marshal: The legend connected with the approach of the Knights to their final and most renowned abiding place has given rise to the distinguishing Sign and Word of the Order. The tradition runs, that on coming to take possession of the Island, the Knights approached the shore in their galleys, two men to an oar, their oars in their left hands and their swords in their right hands, singing a psalm as they rowed, in these words “Rex Regum et Dominus Dominorum” [English, “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”].

The islanders seeing them approach in this warlike manner, hailed them through a speaking trumpet, saying in the Arabic language, “Ah tie toom bis sah lahm” [Do you come in peace?]

To which the Knights responded in the same tongue, “Ah tie nah bissah lahm” [We come in peace.]

Then the islanders responded, “Fa two bis sah lahm” [Then come in peace.]

It is worthy of note that these words, or substantially the same, are the common form of salutation between an Arab and a stranger at the present day. We hold that the Order now conferred upon you has direct connection with the religious branches of the old Order. It preserves the memory of the Union that
took place between the persecuted Templars and the Knights of St. John, and
which was continued in Scotland, where the combined Orders held their lands
in common up to the time of the dispersion of the religious houses at the
Reformation.

We, as Masons, perpetuate, cultivate and practice the Christian and
chivalric principles of the Ancient Order, in connection with that of the
Templars, as a peaceful Christian society, to which we now welcome you as
a brother.

Table in the West:

[Eight Knights at the Table in the West:]

There are eight Knights seated at the table in the West. According to
the European Ceremonial, these Knights are officers of the Priory. They
represent the eight languages into which the Order was formerly divided,
which were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provence</th>
<th>Auvergne</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aragon</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castile</td>
<td>Anglo-Bavaria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table at which these Knights are seated has depicted upon it a
large Maltese Cross, on the center of which is a circle, divided into four
equal quarters by two transverse bars crossing each other at right angles in
the center. Each of the four quarters of the circle has a figure depicted
upon it:

1. A ship or ancient galley.
2. A ladder, with five rounds or steps, with the letters B. L. D. R.
A., one on each step, and a speaking trumpet.

3. A hand and a serpent.

4. A human skull, cloven in twain from the top with a double-edged sword, and a spear beneath it.

The galley reminds us of the maritime character of the Ancient Order, both in war and commerce.

The letters on the steps of the ladder correspond with those on the five ceremonial banners, and are the initial letters of the pass-words on those banners.

The hand and the serpent remind us of the history of St. Paul, in connection with the Island of Malta.

The human skull, cloven by the two-edged sword, reminds us of the penalty that was inflicted upon traitors to the Order in ancient times.

The spear again reminds us of the passion of our Blessed Savior, for with such an instrument they pierced His side.

Banners:

Marshal: I will now direct your attention to the Grand Banners of the Order, of which there are two:

The Banner of St. John, and that of Malta.

Banner Guard – St. John: The Banner of St. John is red, having painted upon it a white Greek Cross, the bars of the Cross extending to the edge of
the banner, and on the center of the Cross a "Paschal Lamb." The letters F. E. R. T. are also on the banner, one in each quarter. These are the initial letters of the four words in the Latin sentence, "Fortitudo ejus Rhodum tenuit," which in English is "His courage preserved Rhodes." According to a tradition of the Order, these letters upon the banner had their origin during the Grand Mastership of Villaret, early in the fifteenth century. In 1415 the Turks laid siege to Rhodes, the new home of the Order, and were repulsed by the brave Christian Knights. Amadeus V, Duke of Savoy, having rendered timely and valuable assistance to the besieged Knights Hospitalers during this attack, the Grand Master, in commemoration thereof, caused the letters to be added to the Banner of St. John. The descendants of the Duke Amadeus have, since that time, always borne on their shield a white cross, with the word FERT as a device; the word being composed of the initial letters of the Latin words, as before described.

Banner Guard - Malta: The Maltese Banner is black, having upon it a silver or white Cross, with a Cross of St John on a small shield resting on the center, Around the cross the legend, "Rex Regum et Dominus Dominorum;" [In English, “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”]

Prior: And now, my Brother, in behalf of the Knights of this Priory, I bid you a hearty welcome to all the rights and privileges, even to the distinguished friendship and unbounded hospitality which ever has distinguished us and we trust will long continue to adorn and characterize these noble Orders, with the age and the occasion which gave them birth, their adventurous and warlike spirit has passed away, but their moral and beneficent character still remains, bright in all its primitive beauty and loveliness, to incite, as in days of their greatest glory, that spirit of refined and moral chivalry which should prompt us to press onward in the cause of truth and justice, stimulating us to exertion in behalf of the destitute
and oppressed, to wield the sword, if need be, when “pure and undefiled religion” calls us in her defense, and in a Brother’s cause, to do all that may become men.

They also teach the triumph of immortality—that, though death has its sting, its infliction is but for a moment; that this frail organization, though here subject to the many "ills that flesh is heir to," possesses an immortal soul which shall soar to realms of endless bliss, and, beyond the power of change, to live forever.

My Brother, you will now be seated.