



**A WORD OF WELCOME FROM THE GRAND PRIOR INTERNATIONAL  
BARON KELINU VELLA HABER**

**(HEAD OF THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)**



In the Editorial of our very first issue of the “S.O.S.J. Observer”, that is, issue number 1 of October, 1978, we had stated that we had come forward to graft new wood on the old, that we do realise that there are a number of genuine Orders of St. John and that our policy would be to live and let live, never to attack but to defend ourselves if and when we are molested. Above all we stated that our motto should be one to promote the good and benefit of others putting us thus in line with the old motto of the Order “Pro Fide; Pro Utilitate Hominum”. All this we shall continue to invoke in our website while we also augur the unity of all Johannites in one single group. This we have stressed several times in our “S.O.S.J. Observer”. Likewise we invoke the unity of all Christians denominations but should this fail to come, this in itself would in no way rule out the validity of one group or the other or lessen the good work of either.

However, it has still to be pointed out that each Order, each organisation, each Society has its own history. As for ourselves and regarding the History of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem—The Hereditary Order, Knights of Malta, we do stand on solid rock. Suffice it to see a list of recognitions on our Observer Nr. 111 of July, 2006. As a matter of fact, the Order has been recognised as a Juridicial Personality, subject to International Law.

Regarding ourselves, we have now not only grafted new wood on the old but we have strived to behave as an expert gardener, taking great care of our trees, pruning wherever and whenever it was necessary in order to give shape or even defend the safety of our tree.....and this in order to help it produce luscious fruit.

Belonging to a Chivalric Order obliges us to act with a deep sense of honour, loyalty and yes, why not, with a sense of sacrifice. Needless to say, our modern lifestyle obliges us all to live within a very restricted time-frame, one that frequently robs us of our every leisurely moment. This notwithstanding, we can never, or rather, we should never forget that, as Johannites, we are called to be there together, “Ut Unum Sint”, in order to extend a helping hand to all those who require it regardless of social class, creed and race. Only thus can we aspire to live to our motto and calling “Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum”.

With these objectives in mind, we salute all members of Saint John and wish good luck to all our visitors, extending our right hand for a shake of friendship to all those who wish to receive it.

