

CHAPITRE MALTA 2025 – GALA DINNER WELCOME SPEECH

PHOENICIA SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2025 (Chancelier Charles Gatt)

Confreres, Consoeurs and guests. Good evening and welcome to our gala dinner following our Induction Ceremony.

A **number of congratulations** are certainly in order.

Firstly, to the Inducting officer Ilse Duponcheel who conducted the ceremony with ease and experience dubbing over 40 new members and promotes and handing awards. She will now send us a bill for receiving therapy for a **painful shoulder**, holding the sword for so long.

The Ceremony went perfectly smoothly without any apparent hitch. But then that is what one expects from an established and experienced inducting officer. She deserves special applause.

Congratulations to all the new members and those who were intronised into the Chaîne, received a promotion or an award. An impressive array of diplomas, ribbons and medals.

It was a **wonderful surprise** to members who received a medal for their long-term service to the bailliage

May I also ask our local members to give a big hand to the visiting overseas members and their guests for supporting our Chapitre with their presence? We thank members from Turkey, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, France, Liechtenstein, Austria, Oman, Belgrade, and last but not least from Germany.

All this shows the international nature of our Confrerie. Even in our own bailliage we have different nationalities such as Maltese, British, German, French, Italian, Swedish and Turkish.

One must not forget the **input** necessary from the **local bailliage** board members for preparing for the ceremony and dinners. So, an **applause** for them is very appropriate.

Lastly, I wish to refer to the **secretariat in Head Office** in Paris who prepare all the items related to a Chapitre. The staff there are so efficient. I was impressed, although their latest computer software update caused me one or two headaches. I had to ask my young grandson for help at times. The merchandise for the ceremony delivered by DHL had everything packed precisely according to the list. Very impressive indeed.

I shall stop here as I'm sure you are all ready to enjoy the dinner prepared for us by the Chef de Cuisine, M. Daniel Debattista, and to get a brief description of the wines selected by our Echanson.

Finally, may I request you to switch off your mobile phone or put it on silent mode during the dinner.

Ladies and gentlemen, enjoy the dinner and Vive la Chaîne.