

**CHAPITRE MALTA 2022 – GALA DINNER SPEECH AT THE CORINTHIA PALACE HOTEL
ON SATURDAY THE 29TH OCTOBER (CHANCELLIER CHARLES GATT)**

Confreres, Consoeurs Good Evening and welcome to our Grand Chapitre Gala dinner.

We have a few more with us this evening including the Bailli Delegue Hon. of Italy, Roberto Zanghi and his lady Petra and also the Bailli of the Solent Bailliage John Wigg and his new bride Debbie.

A number of congratulations and thank yous are certainly in order.

Firstly, to the Inducting officer the Bailli Delegue of Great Britain Philp Evins whose obvious experience in conducting induction ceremonies was clearly shown in dubbing some 30 new members and promotes and presenting awards. He will now send us a bill for repetitive stress injury after lifting the sword repeatedly for a long period.

Seriously though the Ceremony went perfectly smoothly without any apparent hitch. But then that is what one expects from an established and experienced inducting officer. He deserves a special applause.

Special congratulations must go to our own Bailli Délégué Joseph Xuereb who was made a member of the Conseil Magistral. Joseph could have received his coveted red ribbon in Paris at the last International Grand Chapitre in June, but he opted to receive it here with us in Malta. Thank you and congratulations Joseph on behalf of the members of our bailliage.

Congratulations to the all the new members local and foreign and those who were inducted, received a promotion or an award.

And may I also ask our local members to give a big hand to the visiting overseas members and guest for their support in joining us on this great occasion.

I also wish to refer to the secretariat in Headquarters in Paris

Preparing for a Chapitre involves quite a bit of preparation and co-ordination between the local bailliage and the secretariat in Paris. This wasn't made easy by the introduction by Paris of new software.

Fortunately, we have excellent, and I must say patient administrative help at the other end. People like Laura Smet and Bernadette Louit whose replies to my queries did not betray their annoyance at my persistent request for guidance. What surprised me was the prompt reply to my queries in spite of their workload with other chapitres being held elsewhere.

The Livre d'Or and insignae arrived only a few days ago causing some nervousness in the preparations. Unfortunately, we were advised that the Diplomas could not be despatched from Paris in time for presentation at the Induction Ceremony.

There is nothing we could do about that.

We shall of course send them by post when they eventually arrive.

I must stop here as I'm sure you are all ready for the food prepared for us by the Corinthia Palace Chef de Cuisine Stefan Hogan and taste the selected wines. Our Echanson will brief us about the wines supplied by Marsovin Malta Ltd.

Some persons have asked me about the motif or logo on the front of the menu and the badge we placed on the tables.

It is a front profile view of a Maltese wooden hull fishing boat called the Luzzu. It is built from strong timber and painted in traditional bright colours.

The eyes are designed to protect or ward off the evil eye directed at them.

Enjoy your dinner

Vive la Chaine