

Confraternity

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul



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Confraternity News

Issue 156

October 2025

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, Amen

Grand Master's Message

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Grand Master of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul, I extend my heartfelt greetings and blessings to all members and friends around the world.

Our Confraternity stands as a beacon of faith, charity, and brotherhood, founded upon the unshakeable example of our patron saints — St. Peter, the rock upon which Christ built His Church, and St. Paul, the tireless missionary of the Gospel. Together, they remind us that our calling as Knights is one of service, humility, and unwavering devotion to God's will.

In a world often marked by division and uncertainty, we are called to be instruments of peace and compassion. Through our charitable works, our support for the needy, and our witness to the values of Christian chivalry, we continue to uphold the noble mission of the Confraternity — *to serve God by serving others*.

Let us remain steadfast in faith, united in purpose, and generous in spirit. May our actions always reflect the light of Christ, inspiring others to walk the same path of love, justice, and mercy.

May St. Peter and St. Paul guide and protect us all in our mission.

With my blessings,

H.E. Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Grand Master

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul



Knights and Dames in the Confraternity

The current number of members of Confraternity around the world is 316.

Reflection: When Peter and Paul Disagreed — Unity in Diversity of Mission



In the early days of the Church, even the great apostles St. Peter and St. Paul did not always see eye to eye. Their well-known disagreement in Antioch (Galatians 2:11–14) reminds us that honest differences can arise even among holy men when their hearts burn for the truth.

Peter, the Rock upon whom Christ built His Church, had deep roots in the Jewish tradition. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, saw more clearly that faith in Christ freed believers from the old ceremonial laws. When Peter hesitated to share a meal with Gentile Christians, Paul confronted him — not out of pride, but out of love for the Gospel.

Yet what shines through this story is not division, but **growth**. Both apostles listened to the Spirit. The Church, guided by their witness, came to embrace a universal mission — one that welcomes all people, regardless of background, into the family of faith.

Their encounter teaches us that disagreement need not destroy unity. When approached with humility and charity, it can purify our vision and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

For us, as members of the **Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul**, their example is a call to steadfastness and harmony. Like Peter, we are called to build; like Paul, we are sent to proclaim. Each has a unique mission, yet both serve the same Lord.

May Saints Peter and Paul inspire us to work together in mutual respect and fraternal love, so that our witnesses as knights may always reflect the unity and courage of the apostles who gave their lives for Christ.

— *Confraternity Reflection*

Chevalier Rev. Fr. Frank Buhagiar

Chaplain of the Confraternity in Melbourne



Reflections for October

4th October : St Francis of Assisi:

St. Francis died on October 3, 1226, and was canonised two years later by Pope Gregory 1X. In 1939, he was named Patron Saint of Italy together with St. Catherine of Siena. He is unique among the Saints, not only because he received THE STIGMATA, but especially because of his likeness to Christ in his lifestyle and apostolate among God's Holy and faithful people.

Born in Assisi, the son of a wealthy wool dryer. Francis Bernardone spent a somewhat turbulent and adventurous youth, taking part in the war between Assisi and Perugia. After a mysterious dream, he returned to Assisi where in a small chapel of St. Damiano (1206) he heard three times the invitation from a CRUCIFIX (now at the Basilica of St Clare Assisi) to repair the Church that was falling into ruins. As a result, at the age of 25 yrs Francis renounced his patrimony publicly in the presence of the Local Bishop and citizenry, he stripped himself of all his possessions and consecrated HIMSELF TO GOD.

After he read the Gospel that describes the MISSION OF THE APOSTLES [Luke:9:3-5] Francis realized that his vocation was that of an itinerant PREACHER. He then, gathered a group of followers . This was the beginning of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) and the First Rule was approved by Pope Innocent 111 in 1209. In the second period (1209-1224) Francis and companions preached the Gospel to people of every condition.

In 1223 Francis, who was a Deacon celebrated Christmas Eve by presenting in TABLEAU(nativity scene) in the form of +- A LIVING CRIB(Using local people and animals) and He himself sung the Gospel at cave in the village of Greccio. In the last phase of his life, (1224-1226), almost blind and suffering from various physical afflictions, Francis received the STIGMATA (September 14, 1224) on Mount Alverno. Wounded with LOVE for God and People, he composed "The Canticle to the Sun" "Laudato Si". He died at the Age of 45. During

this Jubilee of Hope, [2025], we are asked to walk in the Footsteps of St. Francis and imitate his joyful love.

15th October : St Teresa of Avila (1515- 1582)

St. Teresa of Jesus died at Alba de Tormes in the Province of Salamanca, Spain on the historic night in which the Gregorian Calendar replaced the Julian Calendar. As a result, though she was born on 4th October, her Feast is celebrated on 15th October. She was canonised in 1622 and named Doctor of the Catholic Church in 1970 by Pope Paul VI. She was born in Avila, Spain, of Jewish descent on her father's side. As a child she was very devoted and even wished for martyrdom at the hands of the Moors (Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East who ruled parts of the Iberian Peninsula (modern-day Spain)). However, at the age of 20, she was greatly moved by reading the letters of St. Jerome and decided to become a Nun at the Carmelite monastery of the Incarnation at Avila.

After reading the confessions of St. Augustine and being deeply impressed by an image of ECCE HOMO, [face of Christ], Teresa, at the age of 40, resolved to dedicate herself seriously to the practice of prayer. The Holy See in Rome recognised two distinct branches of the Carmelite Order: The Discalced and the Calced.

Writing from her own personal experience, St. Teresa composed three major works on PRAYER and MYSTICAL LIFE: 1] The Life (her autobiography) 2]: The way of PERFECTION 3]: The INTERIOR CASTLE . During her life time she made more than 40 new foundations of Carmelite Nuns of the strict observance.

Preface : Prayer from the Carmelite Missal: “ We honor St. Teresa, on whom you bestowed such Gifts of Nature and Grace. You bestowed her too with the WISDOM of the Saints to be our Guide on the WAY of perfection and the SPIRITUAL MOTHER of a new family.

22nd October : Saint Pope John Paul II. (1920–2005)

At the time of his death on April 2, 2005, devotion to Pope John Paul II was already widespread, and the “CRIES” of “SANTO SUBITO “ rose spontaneously in St. Peter's Square following the announcement of his passing into Eternal Life.

He was beatified by Benedict XVI before a crowd of over one million people on May 1, 2011 in front of St. Peter's Basilica.

Pope John Paul II was elected to the Papacy on October 16, 1978, and on October 22nd began His Ministry as the Shepherd of the Universal Catholic Church. He is known as the Pilgrim Pope. He made 146 pastoral visits in Italy, and as BISHOP OF ROME he visited 317 of the 332 parishes in Rome.

As Successor of St. Peter for the whole Universal Church, he added up a total of 104 Apostolic trips. He left the Universal Church the following teaching documents: 14 Encyclicals, 15 Apostolic Exhortations, 11 Apostolic Constitutions and 45 Apostolic Letters. He wrote numerous other works including five books: Crossing the Threshold of Hope(1994), Gift and Mystery, (on the 50th Priesthood Anniversary 1996) One of his famous books that I like, was "Theology of the Body ".The total human body is a gift from Our Creator. On May 13,1981, Pope John Paul II was the victim of an attack in St.Peter's Square. He attributed his survival by the maternal hand of (Mary) Mater Elesia (Mother of the Church), he forgave his attacker. He inaugurated many celebrations of spiritual intensity, in particular THE GREAT JUBILEE YEAR 2000. He also attracted the younger generation by celebrating many WORLD YOUTH DAYS across the globe.

Pope John Paul II died in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace on Saturday April 2, 2005, the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday (Octave of Easter).

On April 8, he was buried in the Vatican Grotto following the solemn funeral celebrated in St. Peter's Square. The late Pope Francis canonized St.Pope John Paul II in 2014. The Opening prayer on his Feast Day reads" St. Pope John Paul II had presided over your Universal Catholic Church Lord, grant us we pray that instructed by his teachings, we may open our hearts to the saving grace of Christ, Sole Redeemer of Humanity, Amen.

Rev.Fr. Francis Buhagiar Pastor Emeritus.
Chaplain of the Confraternity of Sts. Peter & Paul
Melbourne Victoria Australia.

Grand Chapter of Germany

Chevalier Peter Michael Neuen

Grand Prior / Deputy Grand Master in Europe



Your Excellency Grand Master Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli,

I hope that everything is running well with you and your family,

On Friday 10th of October 2025, Dame Gabriele and I were in Malta, and we had the great pleasure in the Parliament of Malta meeting His Excellency the Speaker of the Parliament Dr. Anġlu Farrugia, whom I have known for several years.

We also had the pleasure of being invited to the Palace of the President of Malta, HE Myriam Spiteri Debono, and were introduced to her. It was a very impressive evening.

On Friday, October 24h, 2025, Dame Gabriele again handed over several large bags of used clothing and toys for children to the owner of the "Fairness Social Department Store in Neustadt / Weinstr.

This valuable facility creates socially insured jobs for people with disabilities. Donations of kinds of clothing, small furniture, electrical items, books and household goods can be handed in here, which in turn are used by people in need and do not simply end up in the trash.

The prices are very cheap and people in need can buy things there for little money and thus create jobs for people with disabilities. We will continue to support this charitable institution in the future.



Photo: Dame Gabriele Neuen presenting clothing and toys to "Fairness Social Department Store in Neustadt / Weinstr.

Best wishes to Dame Mary Portelli and to you, Grand Master, may our gracious Lord always protect you!

Grand Chapter of Melbourne

Fundraising Lunch

Sunday 26 October 2025.

Today the Grand Chapter of Melbourne organised the last fundraising lunch for the year. Dame Carmela Barbaro opened the event with a prayer followed by a welcome by the Grand Master, His Excellency Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli, Grand Master of the Confraternity.

It was a very pleasant afternoon with a theme of Christmas, being the last event of the year. The music was provided by Duo J&C Music.

As always, thank you to the helpers, the members of the Confraternity, and thank you the patrons for supporting us throughout the year.
God bless everyone.



Photo: Opening of the function by the Grand Master Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli and members of the Executive of Supreme Council. From left. Dame Carmela Barbaro, Dame Angela Greto, Chev. Joseph Coleiro, Chev. Peter Paul portelli, Dame Mimma Sbatini and Chev. Mario Sabatini.



Photo from Left: Dame Caterina Priscoglio, Rosa Scenini / helper and Dame Mimma Sabatini preparing the Antipasto for the fundraising lunch.



Photo: Dame Elvira and Chevalier John Lorenzin benefactors of the Confraternity.



Grand Chapter of Melbourne

His Excellency Mons. Bishop Anton Teuma visited Melbourne.
Sunday 5 October 2025

His Excellency The Most Rev. Monsignor Anton Teuma, Bishop of Gozo celebrated Mass at St. Paul's Parish in Kealba, Melbourne.
Bishop Anton Teuma was visiting the Maltese community of Melbourne.

The Grand Master of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli, his wife Dame Mary Portelli and Dame Maria Vella presented His Excellency Bishop Anton Teuma with a medal of the Confraternity.

Also present was Dame Elaine Cotter and friends of the Confraternity.

Thank you to His Excellency Bishop Teuma for his visit to Melbourne.



Photo: The Grand Master Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli presented His Excellency Bishop Teuma with a medal of the Confraternity.

From left: Dame Maria Vella, Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli, His Excellency Bishop Anton Teuma and Dame Mary Portelli.

During the bishop's visit in Melbourne, our own Chevalier Rev. Fr. Frank Buhagiar assisted Bishop Teuma in the Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu in Bacchus Marsh and at the Rosary Home in Keilor Downs.



On the left: Chevalier Rev. Fr. Frank Buhagiar / Chaplain of the Confraternity with His Excellency Most Rev. Anton Teuma Bishop of Gozo.

While in Melbourne, Bishop Anton Teuma had a meeting with Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Rev. Peter A Comensoli.



Photo from left: Rev. Fr. Tony Kerin / Vicar General, Most Rev. Peter A Comensoli / Archbishop of Melbourne, Most Rev. Anton Teuma / Bishop of Gozo and Fr. Daniel Grech / Secretary of Bishop Teuma..

Grand Chapter of Malta

Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese visits Malta

Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese, Prior of Malawi, visited Nadur.

Sunday 12 October 2025.

The Prior of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul Chevalier, Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese, visited the Grand Chapter of Malta, based in Nadur, Gozo.

The Grand Prior Chevalier Carmel Saliba and the members of the Confraternity welcomed Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese at their Office on December 13 Street, in Nadur, for a chat and a photo.

Fr. Joseph was presented with the history of the Confraternity Vol. I and II and a medal.

Afterwards, Fr. Joseph assisted in the Mass, presided by Monsignor Rev. Fr. Joseph Attard in the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul.

At present, there are 4 knights in the Chapter of Malawi, all of whom are priests.

Thank you, Prior Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph for visiting our Grand Chapter in Nadur.



Photo
Jane Saliba 12.10.25.

Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese meeting the members of the Confraternity at their office in Nadur, Gozo.

From left: Chev. Mario Cardona, Dame Lina Mifsud, Chev. Michael camilleri cauchi, Chev. Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese, Chev. Carmel saliba, Chev. Jonathan Vella and Dame Veronica Camilleri Cauchi.



Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese giving Holy Communion to Dame Veronica Camilleri Cauchi in the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul in Nadur.

Chevalier Rev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese visits Gwardamanġa, Malta

Saturday 18th October 2025.

Chevalier Fr. Joseph Sikwese also met with the Knights and Dames of the Confraternity in Malta.

Fr. Joseph blessed the statue of St Peter and St Paul with their relics as well, he blessed the statue of our lady of Fatima where after a donation, it was presented to him together with the statue of our lady of Fatima

While in Malta, Fr. Joseph took part in the celebration of the feast of the Apparition of Our Lady of fatima at Pieta.



From left: Chev. Vincent Marshall, Chev. Mario Calleja, Chev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese, Chev. Johan Briffa, Chev. Kenneth Mangion and Dame Vanessa Mangion.



Chev. Fr. Joseph Sikwese celebrates Mass with Fr. Joseph Zahra Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima.

Chapter of Malawi

Central Africa

Chevalier Prior Fr. Joseph Sikwese



"I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for your kind invitation to visit the Knights and Dames of the Confraternity of St Peter and St Paul. It was a true joy to share in your fellowship and witness your deep spirit of faith and charity. I am deeply thankful for the generous donations I received in support of my missionary work. Your kindness and solidarity will go a long way in

bringing hope and comfort to those we serve in Malawi. May the Lord richly bless you and all the members of the Confraternity for your continued commitment to the mission of the Church.

With sincere appreciation and prayers,"

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

Grand Chapter of Malta



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2026

Dinner at the Lantern - Marsalforn, Gozo

Saturday 13 December 2025

Time; 7.45 pm.

Menu:

1. Soup or hors d'oeuvre
2. Lasagna, ravioli or penne salmone
3. Cerna, bragjoli (no cheese no breadcrumbs), stuffed chicken
4. Desert 1 drink

Adults: 28 Euro. Children: 5 to 12 - 14 Euro.

Children who want chicken nuggets and a drink can arrange with the Lantern.

Book early with Chevalier Carmel Saliba - Grand Prior

Brink a friend



Poem honoring St. Peter and St. Paul, two pillars of the early Christian Church, capturing their faith, contrast, and unity in mission:



Two Pillars: St. Peter and St. Paul *(A Poem)*

Upon the rock where waters break,
Stood Peter, bold for Jesus' sake.
A fisherman with calloused hand,
He cast his net at Love's command.

He faltered once upon the wave,
Yet found the hand of One who saves.
And though he wept at rooster's cry,
He stood redeemed, no longer shy.

A shepherd forged in fire and grace,
He led the Church through trial's face.
With keys in hand and heart made whole,
He bore the weight of Heaven's role.

—
From distant roads and scroll-filled halls,
Came Paul, who answered higher calls.
A Pharisee with burning zeal,
Transformed beneath Damascus' wheel.

No longer bound by law alone,
He preached the Christ he once disowned.
His letters thundered through the age,
Still burning on the sacred page.

Where Peter led with heart and hand,
Paul lit the fire in every land.
Through storms, through chains, through deathly pall,
The Gospel rose — they gave it all.

—

Two men so different, yet the same,
Both burning with the Savior's name.
One held the keys, one bore the sword,
Together, saints who served the Lord.

And now in light, where martyrs sing,
They stand in glory by the King.
O Peter, Paul — still guide the way,
As we bear Christ from day to day.

Metro station dedicated to Virgin Mary opens in Tehran

29 October 2025

A new underground metro station in Iran dedicated to the Virgin Mary offers an opportunity for daily commuters to reflect on God's love for all, Cardinal Dominique Mathieu of Tehran-Isfahan said.

In an editorial published last week by *Fides*, the news agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Cardinal Mathieu explained in detail the various bas-relief images of Jesus, Mary and a dove representing the Holy Spirit that adorn the “Maryam-e Moghadass” (“Holy Mary”) metro station in Tehran.

The cardinal noted that while the “gazes of Jesus Christ and His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, are fixed on the commuters,” their closed eyelids exchange glances with commuters, “except that of the ‘eye of the dove’”.

The sacred images, he said, invite those passing by to contemplate “the Love of the one God, which inflames and ignites hearts to walk with gentleness, humility, and a desire for peace, on the path of journeys and encounters that the Creator orchestrates for his children”.

SOCIETY AND PEOPLE

Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter and St Paul marks 25 years in Malta

CARMEL SALIBA

Late this summer, the Grand Chapter in Malta of the Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter and St Paul celebrated the 25th anniversary of the chapter's foundation on the islands. Among those present for the celebrations were the founder and Grand Master of the confraternity, Chev. Peter Paul Portelli, GC and his spouse, Dame Mary Portelli.

The confraternity is a registered (in Australia) charitable body committed to support the Church and the needy. It aims to maintain, at the highest level, the honour and name of saints Peter and Paul, its patron saints and the pillars of the Catholic Church.

Portelli, who is from Nadur but emigrated to Melbourne, Australia in his early adulthood, started the Order of the Knights of St Peter and St Paul – as it was originally called – in Melbourne in November 1996.

The first investiture of knights and dames took place on July 6, 1997. This was during a mass celebrating the feast of St Peter and St Paul organised by the Australian Nadur Association Incorporated, of which Portelli was then president. During the event, messages from Nadur archpriest Salv Muscat and Jeff Kennett, then premier of the State of Victoria, were read.

On July 1, 2007, the Order became independent from the Australian Nadur Association and began operating as a separate legal entity as an incorporated association. On that day, a mass was held in honour of St Peter and St Paul and an investiture of new knights and dames was held.

In March 2010, at the suggestion of the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Council of the Order decided to change the name from 'order' to 'confraternity'. Today, it has spread to many countries, including Malta, Italy, Germany, Portugal,

Malawi, the Philippines, Brazil and Spain.

The confraternity in Malta is a Grand Chapter and has its headquarters in Nadur. Apart from knights and dames from the Gozitan village, there are others from around Gozo and from Malta, as well as many supporters of its work. Among the members of the confraternity are 24 priests and bishops from around the world.

PAST EVENTS

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the confraternity (1997-2017), a Congress was organised in Malta. It coincided with the celebration of the feast of St Peter and St Paul in Nadur. Knights and dames from many countries, including Australia, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Germany and Bulgaria, participated.

On Saturday, June 24, 2017, the late Mgr Emmanuel Barbara, OFM Cap, Bishop of Malindi in Kenya, celebrated mass for the confraternity at the Nadur basilica during the days of the novena of the feast of St Peter and St Paul. He was later presented with a donation of money to support his mission and charity.

Four days later, a conference for the confraternity was also at the city hall in Nadur, where members discussed proposals to grow and strengthen the confraternity. It was opened by the Grand Chancellor Chevalier Joseph Coleiro and led by Portelli. Following the meetings, in the evening, the members took part in the procession of the Holy Relics of St Peter and St Paul from the church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the basilica of St Peter and St Paul. The procession was led by the clergy and then Bishop of Gozo, Mario Grech. Later, the confraternity members joined in the vespers in the basilica.

Celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the



Members of the Malta Chapter of the Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter and St Paul in front of the titular statue of St Peter and St Paul at the Nadur basilica, on June 28.

Confraternity of St Peter and St Paul (which fell in 2022) were held in 2023. A small convention was organised in Malta where knights and dames from various countries around the world converged in Nadur for the occasion and took part in the liturgical celebrations of the feast of St Peter and St Paul. It has been the practice of the confraternity that, every year, on the eve of the feast or close to it, an investiture ceremony takes place for new members.

CHARITABLE WORK AND PUBLICATIONS

The Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter and St Paul in Malta is active in its support of the needy and the Church. It organises various activities throughout the year, primarily to help missionaries and do charity with those families in need. Every year, food and other items are collected and distributed to these families, such as hampers at Christmastime. Every month, soft drinks and ravioli packages, among other things, are distributed to the Gozo seminary, Dar it-Tama, Dar Guzeppa Debono, Fondazzjoni Arka, the Franciscan Sisters of Nadur and various parishes in Gozo.

In Australia, the confraternity supports various charitable organisations and needy persons and causes. These include the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, the Peter Macul-



Members of the chapter during a donation to the Life Network Foundation in May 2024.

lum Cancer Hospital, the Royal Women's Hospital and the homeless, to name a few. It helps those in need, especially young patients in children's hospitals, and women with special needs. For example, in 2020, the state of Victoria in Australia suffered a major bush fire. There was much devastation and personal suffering. Among the victims was a Maltese man who lost everything, including his home. The confraternity helped him and his family with donations of money, food and other support.

The confraternity published two volumes about its history to coincide with its 25th anniversary. Titled *Confraternity of the Knights of St Peter and St Paul*, these two volumes note its history, members and where its work is located.

The first volume includes the years 1997 to 2017 and the second volume, 2017 to 2022. They were written by Grand Master Portelli and his personal secretary and Grand Chancellor Coleiro and can be found in public libraries, including at the University of Malta. They were also presented to various dignitaries and personalities.

Carmel Saliba is Grand Prior for the Chapter of Malta.

Interested individuals who have a genuine commitment to charitable work, especially working to support the Church and the needy, are invited to contact the confraternity through Carmel Saliba at: carmelsaliba@yahoo.co.uk or Grand Master Portelli at: grandmaster.knightsstpeterpaul@gmail.com.



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SUPPLY, REPAIRS AND
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MACHINES &
MASKS (CPAP)



Contact us on:
2789 3002 - 7789 3007 - 2789 3007

That is all I have for you in October, 2025.

I hope that you enjoyed reading the newsletter.

Thank you to Chevalier Fr. Frank Buhagiar for his monthly reflections on the saints. May Saints Peter and Paul inspire us to work together in mutual respect and fraternal love, so that our witnesses as knights may always reflect the unity and courage of the apostles who gave their lives for Christ.

God bless you in St. Peter and St. Paul.

With every good wish.



Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Grand Master

CKSPP

Melbourne. Australia.