

**STATUTES**

**SACRED MILITARY**

**CONSTANTINIAN**

**ORDER OF SAINT**

**GEORGE**

## **Chapter I**

### **Purpose of the Order**

The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George is an Order of Knighthood which, from its most remote origins, has resolved to work for the glorification of the Cross, the propagation of the Faith, and the defense of the Holy Roman Apostolic Church.

Therefore, it is not only the primary duty of the Knights and Dames to live in conformity with the Catholic Faith, but more so to dedicate themselves to any activity or endeavor that fosters the growth of religious principles among mankind, cooperating in every manner with the practice of the Christian way of life.

The Order, in keeping with the times, emphasizes major contributions to the two great social works of hospital assistance and charitable relief to the poor.

## Chapter II

### Categories, Ranks and Numbers of Knights and Dames

#### Article I

The Categories and Ranks (Grades) of the Order are:

#### CATEGORY OF JUSTICE

Bailiff Knight and Dame Grand Cross of Justice with Collar

Bailiff Knight Grand Cross of Justice, for Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church

Bailiff Knight and Dame Grand Cross of Justice

Knight and Dame Grand Cross of Justice

Knight and Dame Grand Officer of Justice

Knight and Dame Commander of "Ius Patronato" of Justice

Knight and Dame Commander of Justice

Knight and Dame Officer of Justice

Knight and Dame of Justice

#### CATEGORY OF GRACE

Knight and Dame Grand Cross of Grace

Knight and Dame Grand Officer of Grace

Knight and Dame Commander of “Ius Patronato” of Grace

Knight and Dame Commander of Grace

Knight and Dame Officer of Grace

Knight and Dame of Grace

#### CATEGORY OF MERIT

Knight and Dame Grand Cross of Merit

Knight and Dame Grand Officer of Merit

Knight and Dame Commander of “Ius Patronato” of Merit

Knight and Dame Commander of Merit

Knight and Dame Officer of Merit

Knight and Dame of Merit

Knight and Dame of Office

## ARTICLE II

The number of Bailiff Knights and Dames Grand Cross of Justice with Collar shall be no greater than fifty, in memory of the individuals chosen by the Emperor Constantine for the custody of the Labarum; each of whom is entitled to the style of *Eccellenza* (Excellency) and of *Don* (Lord).

The Royal Princes and Princesses of the House of Bourbon of the Two Sicilies, Sovereigns, Princes and Princesses of other Royal Houses, Eminent Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, and Heads of State and Government are supernumerary Knights not included among the aforementioned fifty Bailiff Knights Grand Cross of Justice with Collar.

The number of Knights and Dames Grand Cross of Justice is limited to seventy-five, that of Knights and Dames Grand Cross of Grace is limited to one hundred, that of Knights and Dames Grand Cross of Merit is limited to one hundred and fifty. The number of Knights in the other ranks is unrestricted, as is that of Dames.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Conditions of Admission**

#### Article I

The Constantinian Cross is to be bestowed upon persons, regardless of nationality, who profess the Catholic Religion and demonstrate the virtues of true Christian Knights and Dames.

#### Article II

The Category of Justice is reserved for Royal Princes and Princesses, Sovereigns and foreign Princes, Cardinals, Heads of State and Government, representatives of illustrious noble families, those who possess at least two centuries of hereditary nobility through the lineage of each of four grandparents, and other persons of distinction for exceptional merit.

The Category of Grace is reserved to persons who, though not in possession of every qualification required for the category of Justice, belong to families of ancient and demonstrable nobility, and all Ecclesiastics or others who hold titles of great esteem.

The Category of Merit is reserved to those who have rendered worthy services, have supported the Order itself or are held in highest esteem.

The minimum age one must have reached to be considered for admission into the Order is established at eighteen years of age. The minimum age required for one to be considered for the grades of Knight and Dame Grand Cross is forty years of age.

### ARTICLE III

Ecclesiastics, as well as Military personnel, may aspire to each of the aforementioned grades, provided that they meet the requisite conditions.

### ARTICLE IV

The Grand Master may bestow the Cross of the Order *motu proprio*, as an exception to the preceding Articles II and III.

### ARTICLE V

The Knights and Dames of the Order may be decorated with the insignia of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta,

the Orders bestowed by the Holy See or under Its direct protection, the Orders of the Italian Republic, and those decorations conferred by other States and Royal Houses, including those no longer reigning.

#### ARTICLE VI

The Order recognizes as valid only those marriages contracted in the Roman Catholic Rite.

#### ARTICLE VII

It is prohibited for Knights and Dames to take part in sects, organisations and associations, whose principles are contrary to those of the Catholic Religion or of the Order.

#### ARTICLE VIII

Violators of the preceding Articles V and VII are automatically suspended from the Rules of the Order, and following appropriate investigation, may be removed from the Order.



## CHAPTER IV

### DECORATIONS, BADGES AND UNIFORMS OF THE ORDER

#### Article I

The Cross of The Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George is a gold Greek Cross “fleury” enameled deep crimson, charged at the four extremities with the letters I. H. S. V. (*In Hoc Signo Vincas*), displaying at its centre the monogram *XP* and, on the transverse arms of the Cross, the Greek letters Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω).

The riband of the Order is of *bleu celeste* (sky blue) watered silk having an *undy* (wavy) *moiré* pattern.

#### Article II

The decorations of the various categories and ranks, and the use of honorific titles, are established by special Regulations, which, with the respective illustrations, form an adjunct to these Statutes.

#### Article III

The mantle is of *royal blue cloth*, bearing on the left side the Cross of the Order twenty-five centimetres in height; in all ways it must comply with the appended Regulations.

Lay Constantinian Knights, upon the Grand Master's special permission, may wear a military uniform composed of: a tunic and trousers, with stripes, of royal blue, epaulets, a belt, a collar and waist cuffs embroidered in gold braid, the pattern depending upon rank.

## **Chapter V**

### **Appointments and High Offices**

#### **ARTICLE I**

The Perpetual Holder of the Highest Office of the Order is the Grand Master, who enjoys all of the traditional rights affirmed by the Special Concessions and of the Bulls of the Supreme Pontiffs.

The Grand Master may issue new laws and statutes and may interpret them, and may likewise abrogate existing laws whenever such a judgement is deemed appropriate.

The high dignity of Grand Master, reserved to the Royal Family of Bourbon of the Two Sicilies, as heirs to the Most Serene House of Farnese, is lawfully bound to the patrimonial estate of the Head of the Royal House of Bourbon of the Two Sicilies. In the event that heirs are

lacking within the Royal Family of Bourbon of the Two Sicilies, the succession takes place as set forth in the testamentary designations of the Grand Master.

The Grand Master is assisted in his decisions by a “Counselor for the Royal House and the Dynastic Orders”, who is appointed by the Grand Master himself and is a person held in the utmost trust.

The Grand Master may appoint the “Secretary General” to whom he confers the necessary authority to guide and coordinate the Chancellery and the Delegations’ activities.

## ARTICLE II

In accordance with custom, the Grand Master may seek from the Holy Father the appointment of a Cardinal Protector to watch over the Order, thus representing the traditional bond of filial devotion that unites our Sacred Militia to the Church, and demonstrating its independence from any other external power whatsoever.

The Grand Master may nominate a Grand Prior who must obtain the Apostolic See’s “placet” and whose duties are described in Article IV of Chapter VII. The Grand Master can also designate a Prelate as Spiritual Assistant of the Order.

### ARTICLE III

The Grand Master appoints the four High Charges: the Grand Prefect, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Prior.

Also appointed are from a minimum of seven to a maximum of fifteen deputies who, together with the aforementioned High Charges, constitute the Royal Deputation.

The President, the Vice Presidents, of which there are ordinarily two, and the Secretary are chosen by the Grand Master from among those Deputies who are not already invested with other appointments.

The duration, the withdrawal and the reconfirmation of the appointment of the four Grand Charges, the President, the Vice Presidents, Secretary and Deputies are initiated solely by the Grand Master's will and Decree.

Their Order of Precedence amongst the offices of the Order is as follows: Grand Prefect, Grand Chancellor, Grand Treasurer, Grand Prior, President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Deputies (in order of seniority of investiture into the Order).

When the Grand Prior is a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church he will be collocated in precedence immediately following the Grand Prefect.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER**

#### ARTICLE I

The Seat of the Grand Magistracy resides with the Grand Master.

The Seat of the Grand Chancery of the Order is in Naples.

The Operational Seat of the Grand Chancery is in Rome.

#### ARTICLE II

The Royal Deputation is the advisory body of the Order and the Grand Master or the Grand Prefect can interpellate it for questions or problems of particular importance.

The Royal Deputation:

gives advice and suggestions on the general organization of the civil and religious works undertaken in accordance with the Purpose of the Order;

may propose revisions of the Statutes to the Grand Master;

may propose to the Grand Master the admission of Knights and Dames.

### ARTICLE III

In the case of urgent measures, a Council of Presidency is constituted within the Royal Deputation, composed of the Grand Master, the four High Charges, the President and the Secretary. A Magistral Juridicial Council and a Magistral Heraldic Commission can also be called upon for opinions.

### ARTICLE IV

The functions of the President of the Royal Deputation are, by the express will of the Grand Master :

to arrange meetings and preside over the proceedings;

to exercise execution of the deliberations.

## ARTICLE V

In the event of the absence or impediment of the President, the Senior Vice President shall assume the functions of that office.

## CHAPTER VII

### **Responsibilities of High Charges**

#### ARTICLE I

The Grand Prefect is the highest authority of the Order after the Grand Master, and normally represents the Grand Master in the event of absence.

In the event of the demise of the Grand Master, or during their minority, the Grand Prefect assumes the Magistral Duties.

#### ARTICLE II

The Grand Chancellor maintains custody of the protocols and Decrees of the Order as well as the documents concerning the nominations of the Knights and Dames,

including the Archives, and publishes the Rolls and bulletins. The Grand Chancellor addresses correspondence, countersigns the Decrees of Nomination, organizes all of the ceremonies of the Order and maintains custody of the Labarum of the Order.

In the absence of the Grand Master or the Grand Prefect the Grand Chancellor represents the Order.

### ARTICLE III

The Grand Treasurer is charged with the duty of managing the assets of the Order, executes the negotiable instruments that are transmitted, collects the sums payable to the Order and issue the corresponding receipts. The Grand Treasurer annually presents the final balance of the accounts for the most recent fiscal year, and an estimated balance and budget for the successive fiscal year to the Grand Master. The Grand Treasurer makes use of the works of a non-profit organization (ONLUS), which is specifically created and linked to the Order, and exercises a strict supervision over it.

All financial provisions must be approved in advance by the Grand Treasurer.



## ARTICLE IV

The Grand Prior exercises spiritual guidance over the Order, having direct supervision of Ecclesiastical Knights and their participation in the Order's activities. The Grand Prior holds direct supervision of the organization of all Religious Functions.

The Grand Prior may be assisted by a Vice Grand Prior appointed by the Grand Master.

## ARTICLE V

The Secretary of the Royal Deputation assists the Grand Chancellor in the Chancery's work and in the dispatch of business correspondence and distribution of notices of any meetings of the Royal Deputation, compiling the minutes of their deliberations, and likewise those of the Council of Presidency.

## ARTICLE VI

In all of the Italian Regions, as well as in foreign countries, *Delegations* or *Representations* of the Order can be constituted.

They will have to conform to the “Delegates Regulation” in force at the time.

## ARTICLE VII

Certain nations shall have National Association of Constantinian Knights, and in such cases the Presidents of the Associations will be nominated by the Grand Master who will also approve the Statutes of said Associations.

## CHAPTER VIII

### SESSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS

#### ARTICLE I

The Royal Deputation meets in both ordinary and extraordinary sessions. The ordinary sessions generally take place once a year. The extraordinary sessions are held at the discretion of the Grand Master.

#### ARTICLE II

The record of the proceedings of the deliberations must be signed by the President, the Grand Chancellor and the Secretary.

## **CHAPTER IX**

### **RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS**

The religious functions are established by the Grand Prior and approved by the Grand Master. The solemn religious functions celebrated are:

- A. The 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Feast of Saint George, Patron of the Order;
- B. The 14<sup>th</sup> September, Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross;
- C. Anniversary of the death of the last Grand Master. In the course of this last function, the Solemn High Mass is offered in memory of the Souls of all the deceased Grand Masters, and those of deceased Knights and Dames.

## **CHAPTER X**

These Statutes shall be in force from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

-Given in Naples 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2018

*CHARLES*

*GRAND MASTER*

APPROVED

THE COUNCELOR FOR DYNASTIC ORDERS

ANTONIO BENEDETTO SPADA