

**Address by HRH The Duke of Castro on the occasion of the conferring
of the Grand Cross pro Merito Melitensi within the Special Class of the
Sovereign Military Order of Malta
Roma - 5 December 2013.**

Altezza Eminentissima, Eminenza Reverendissima, Membri del Sovrano Consiglio, Eccellenze, Cari Confratelli,

May I thank you, Your Highness, for your kind and most generous words and for receiving us today. I am delighted to be here and to receive from you this further high honour of the Grand Cross pro Merito Melitensi within the Special Class. I accept it with appreciation and conscious of the spirit in which Your Highness has approved it.

Our warm friendship, on a personal and institutional level, is one which I greatly value. The many centuries of cordial and brotherly relations between our two Orders are well known and appreciated.

In particolare gli stretti legami di amicizia e solidarietà sono chiaramente fondati sui comuni scopi di assistenza morale e di aiuto materiale a favore delle persone bisognose, nella convinzione di dover rendere sempre più efficace il nostro impegno a sostegno dei nostri principi religiosi.

Al riguardo vorrei esprimere il mio grande apprezzamento per Lei, i Membri del Sovrano Consiglio, le Missioni diplomatiche e le Associazioni nazionali che nel mondo svolgono queste funzioni così significative anche in momenti di grande difficoltà.

The fact that our respective Orders share members of both sides is also indicative of our shared commitment to serving the Universal Catholic Church, both on the national and international level.

Your Highness,

I have been a member of the Order of Malta for thirty years and it is ten years since my appointment as a Bailiff Grand Cross. I would therefore like to use this occasion to commit myself, my Royal House and my dynastic orders to developing an ever deeper expression, of spiritual and charitable cooperation, between our respective, noble, and internationally recognised, institutions. Thank you.