



CONSTITUTIONAL  
CHARTER

of the

MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

# CONTENTS

**Preamble**

**Section I Nature and Protection of the Order**

**Section II Organization of the Order**

**Section III Members of the Order**

**Section IV Government of the Order**

## P R E A M B L E

The existence of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century community of the Hospitallers of Saint Lazarus. Down through the ages it has been substantiated by bulls, indulgences and the favourable regard of sovereign pontiffs, notably the bull *Inter assiduas* of Pius IV dated 9 February 1565 and the bull *Militarium ordinum institutio* of Clement XIV dated 10 December 1772.

Following the return from the Holy Land after the fall of Acre, King Philip the Fair took the Order of Saint Lazarus under ‘...his special care and protection’ at Poitiers in July 1308 in order to prevent its despoilment. Thenceforth, successive Heads of the Royal House of France granted the same protection to the Order until the time of King Charles X in 1830.

The original purpose of the Order was to care for those suffering from leprosy. In welcoming leper knights from other orders into its ranks, it acquired a military dimension. The hospitaller vocation developed over the centuries. Today, the Order cares for the underprivileged without distinction of race, religion or belief.

Initially under the spiritual protection of the Greek Catholic Patriarchs of Jerusalem, the Order of Saint Lazarus was confirmed by the bull given by Pope Alexander IV in Naples on the 11<sup>th</sup> day before the calends of April 1255. Having revived its oriental origins by forging new links with the Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarchate in 1841, the Order of Saint Lazarus was officially restored to the temporal protection of the Head of the Royal House of France on 8 December 2004. It re-established a direct link to the Catholic Church on 2 February 2005 through the appointment of a High Prelate Protector.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Order of Saint Lazarus has also welcomed to its ranks Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant members. From this enriched heritage the definition of the Order’s vocation has developed: caring for the most disadvantaged whilst working for Christian unity in a spirit of chivalry.

This spirit is inspired by an ecumenical reasoning that united action leads to full unity in faith. Collaboration reveals our common fraternity and is a demonstration of the new law of love. Thus, members of the Order of Saint Lazarus unite in bold projects which aim to change our world so that respect for the needs and rights of all, especially the poor, lowly and defenceless, may triumph.

Living out this common spirit of charity encourages a life of continual conversion. In the Order of Saint Lazarus this is the fruit of prayer and of a rule of life which can be practised by members of all Christian communities.

## SECTION I

-

### NATURE AND PROTECTION OF THE ORDER

---

#### Article 1 - Nature and Aims of the Order

1.1. The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is, from its foundation within the Catholic Church, religious. Nowadays, it comprises chaplains and lay members drawn from the various Christian Churches. The spiritual vocation of the Order is the promotion of Christian unity.

1.2. The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is military in the context of its chivalric vocation. Thus the Order operates in a disciplined manner and may potentially be mobilized in the defence of Christianity.

1.3. The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is hospitaller in accordance with its spiritual and chivalric traditions, which require care for all people irrespective of race, religion or belief.

#### Article 2 - Protection of the Order

2.1. The legitimacy of the of the Order of Saint Lazarus was guaranteed spiritually by the Greek and later Latin Patriarchs of Jerusalem from its foundation until 1255, and then by successive Popes until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1841, the spiritual protection of the Order returned to the Greek-Melkite patriarchs, which lasted up until 2005.

2.2. The temporal protection that is intended to prevent the despoilment of the Order and provide assurance of its traditional legitimacy was assumed by the Heads of the Royal House of France from the time of King Philip (IV) the Fair until King Charles X.

2.3. Since 2 February 2005, the spiritual protection of the Order has been assured by a High Prelate solicited by the Grand Magistry. The Spiritual Protector is the guarantor of the spiritual legitimacy of the Order and of its links to the Catholic Church in a spirit of ecumenism.

2.4. Since 8 December 2004, the temporal protection of the Order has once again been assured by the Head of the Royal House of France. The Temporal Protector guarantees the historical continuity and the traditional legitimacy of the Order.

#### Article 3 - Religion

3.1. The members of the Order belong to the major Christian Churches. They must live in accordance with the teachings of the Church to which they belong.

3.2. People who do not belong to one of the major Christian Churches or who do not live in conformity with their Church may be associated with the Order as members of merit or companions.

#### Article 4 - Invocation

4. All official acts of the Order are to be preceded by the invocation 'In the name of God, the Virgin Mary and Saint Lazarus.'

#### Article 5 - Cross of the Order

5.1. From the origins until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the cross of the Order was a green cross pattée.

5.2. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the cross of the Order has been a green eight-pointed cross.

## **Article 6 - Arms and Seal of the Order**

6.1. The arms of the Order are the following: Argent a cross vert, the shield superimposing a cross of eight points vert, fimbriated argent, encircled by the grand collar of the Order; the whole on a manteau sable, lined ermine, fringed, corded and tasselled or, on the sinister side the eight-pointed cross of the Order; surmounted by the antique crown of the Order, with nine visible points; at the foot of the manteau the motto of the Order: ATAVIS ET ARMIS.

6.2. The seal of the Order comprises the arms of the Order circumscribed with these words:  
'S. Ordinis Militaris et Hospitalaris Sancti Lazari Hierosolymitani'.

## **Article 7 - Habit of the Order**

7.1. The habit, the symbol of the fraternity of the Order, is a black mantle (the colour of Saint Basil) embroidered with the green eight-pointed cross on the left side over the heart.

7.2. The uniform and attire to be worn by the members of the Order are described in the International Regulations.

## **Article 8 - Seat of the Order**

8.1. The seat of the Order has been successively Jerusalem, Saint-Jean d'Acre and the Château Royal de Boigny which is remembered as the historic seat of the Order.

8.2. The magistral seat of the Order is wheresoever the Grand Master designates.

8.3. The Grand Master may propose the separation of the administrative and magistral seats of the Order.

## **Article 9 - Language of the Order**

9.1. The official language of the Order is French.

9.2. The principal administrative language of the Order is English.

9.3. Should a dispute arise regarding the interpretation of a text, the French version shall prevail.

## SECTION II

-

### ORGANIZATION OF THE ORDER

---

#### Article 10 - The Order

10.1. All the structures of the Order exist to further the three vocations and ends of the Order: spirituality, charity and tradition.

10.2. The basic structure is the commandery. Directed by a commander, it implements the three vocations and ends of the Order: spirituality with a chaplain, charity with a hospitaller and tradition with a capitular. The commanders of a Priory or a Grand Priory are nominated by the Prior or Grand Prior.

10.3. At the national level, the commanderies are grouped into a national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory, depending on the number of members. Their means of operation are defined in the International Regulations.

10.4. The national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory is governed by a Commander, Prior or Grand Prior appointed by the Grand Master with the agreement of the Grand Magistracy. He is called the Head of Jurisdiction.

Each Head of Jurisdiction is assisted by a minimum of (in alphabetical order):

- a capitular
- a chancellor
- a chaplain general
- a hospitaller
- a marshal
- a treasurer

Together they constitute the Council of the national Commandery, Priory or the Grand Priory, whose function is defined by the International Regulations.

10.5. All the members of a national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory meet in chapter at least once a year to be informed of the activities of their Jurisdiction with respect to the three vocations and ends of the Order and to approve the financial affairs of their Jurisdiction.

10.6. Each national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory is to establish a legally constituted association according to the laws of the country. Its name is to be a translation into the national language of 'Ordre Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem.' The president of the national association is the Head of Jurisdiction appointed by the Grand Master. The members of the Jurisdiction are automatically members of the association. The statutes of the association are to include the stipulation in the articles concerning the appointment of the president that he must be in good standing with the Grand Magistracy of the Order for the duration of his term of office. The statutes of the association must be concordant with the current Constitutional Charter.

#### Article 11 - Hospitaller Activity

11.1. The organizations through which the hospitallers of the Order operate share a common name of 'Saint Lazare' followed by the name of the national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory.

11.2. Each national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory is to establish a legally constituted association according to the laws of the country, with the name 'Saint Lazare' followed by the name of the national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory. The statutes of this association must be concordant with the current Constitutional Charter.

11.3. Through membership of the juridical structure of a national Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory, members of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem are automatically members of the juridical national Saint Lazare hospitaller structure.

11.4. Members of the Order must hold the majority of seats and the presidency of each hospitaller organization. This stipulation must be explicitly stated in the statutes of each hospitaller organization.

### **Article 12 - The Regular Fraternity**

12.1. The Regular Fraternity comprises a group of professed knights from the major Christian Churches under the direction of an elected Prior, confirmed by the Grand Master with the agreement of the Grand Prior Spiritual.

12.2. The Regular Fraternity may be organized into national fraternities depending on the number of professed knights.

12.3. The members of the Regular Fraternity follow the hierarchical rules applicable to all members. They fulfil their spiritual vocation within the commandery in liaison with their chaplain. It is incumbent on the Prior of the Fraternity to inform the Chaplains General in each Jurisdiction of the spiritual activities of the professed knights in their Jurisdiction.

### **Article 13 - Means**

To realise its objectives, the Order of Saint Lazarus has at its disposal various means:

13.1. The whole international organization depends on the bodies which represent the government of the Order and the expression of each of its members.

13.2. The chaplains are responsible for fostering the spiritual enrichment of members and their mutual relationships, taking into account the personal vocation of each individual.

13.3. Each member of the Order exercises his hospitaller role through a national hospitaller structure which is itself federated to an international structure called 'Saint Lazare International.'

13.4. The financial means required to realise the objectives of the Order are provided through passage fees, free contributions, grants, legacies, all types of public and private means or through any other means agreed by the Grand Magistry. In addition, each member must pay their annual oblation.

13.5. The Order of Saint Lazarus is entitled to acquire, administer and dispose of temporal goods for its own ends.

## SECTION III

-

### MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

---

#### Article 14 - States of Membership

14.1. In accordance with its nature and objectives, the Order of Saint Lazarus may admit those who freely apply, be they lay men or women, single or married, priests or pastors, or male or female religious of the various Christian Churches. New members are received into the Order in accordance with their personal situation and state and may choose the nature of their commitment.

There are two possible states of membership: member or member of devotion.

14.2. The members profess the Christian faith, conform to the teachings of their Church and participate in the spiritual life of their Jurisdiction in support of Christian unity. Male members may be invested as knights while female members may be invested as dames.

14.3. The members of devotion, known as professed knights, are those who choose to perfect their chivalric investiture through the practice of a rule of life adapted for lay persons.

14.4. Members and members of devotion must be at least 25 years of age. However, the Order may admit persons over the age of 18 under the same criteria as esquires or demoiselles.

14.5. Chaplains must have been ordained in a Christian Church with which they remain in good standing. Seminarians and students preparing for ordination may be received as novices.

#### Article 15 - Ranks and Categories

15.1. According to the nature of their commitment and their progress, members of the Order may attain the following ranks:

Male Designation	International Abbreviation	Female Designation	International Abbreviation
Brother	BLJ	Sister	SLJ
Serving Brother	SBLJ	Serving Sister	SSLJ
Knight	KLJ	Dame	DLJ
Knight Commander	KCLJ	Dame Commander	DCLJ
Knight Grand Cross	GCLJ	Dame Grand Cross	GCLJ

Chaplains:

Designation	Abbreviation international
Chaplain	ChLJ
Senior Chaplain	SChLJ
Ecclesiastical Commander	ECLJ
Prelate Grand Cross	GCLJ

15.2. Knights and dames of the Order are invested as such in one of the following categories:

15.2.1. The category of justice when the family is noble according to the criteria of their national tradition as confirmed by the Grand Magistracy;

15.2.2. The category of grace if, being unable to prove noble family origins, their personal situation exhibits a particular aptitude to serve the three vocations and ends of the Order. In this case the member is received by virtue of a dispensation of the Grand Master called magistral grace.

#### **Article 16 - Commitment of Members**

16.1. The members of the Order pledge to live exemplary lives in accordance with the duties and principles of the Church to which they belong.

16.2. At their investiture, each candidate makes the following promise: 'I do solemnly promise before Almighty God to serve loyally and faithfully the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, to respect and observe its Constitutional Charter, regulations, ordinances and customs, and to obey its hierarchy, for the greater glory of God and the service of the Order.'

16.3. All members are required to participate effectively in the three vocations and ends of the Order: spirituality aimed towards Christian unity, charitable activity and the maintenance of the traditions of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

#### **Article 17 - Progress in the Order**

17.1. Promotion within the Order is based upon merit, ability and vocation.

17.2. Postulants are received into the Order of Saint Lazarus as a Brother or Sister for a probationary period of at least one year.

17.3. On completion of the probationary period, the Brother or Sister is received as a Serving Brother or Serving Sister to serve the Order within the scope of its three vocations and ends.

17.4. A Serving Brother or Serving Sister who has proven their ability to serve the Order may be invested as a knight or dame, which marks the fullness of commitment within the Order of Saint Lazarus.

17.5. Members who have made their definitive commitment to the Order and acquired sufficient spiritual maturity may, with the agreement of their chaplain and the Prior of the Regular Fraternity, take the promise to follow the rule of life. They are designated as professed knights.

#### **Article 18 - Exclusion of Members**

18.1. The Grand Master may, on the advice of the Grand Magistracy, exclude a member whose attitude conflicts with his undertaking or is detrimental to the aims of the Order or brings it into disrepute. Such an exclusion will only be effected after the member concerned has been heard by his superior in the Order.

18.2. An appeal for clemency may be submitted to the Constitutional Council within sixty days of the date of notification. The Constitutional Council has sixty days to reach a decision. This decision is final and irrevocable.

18.3. Pending a definitive decision from the Constitutional Council, the member concerned is suspended and does not take part in any activity of the Order.

18.4. In case of an exclusion, nobody is permitted to request reimbursement or compensation for services rendered to the Order of Saint Lazarus or for oblations made to support the Order.

## SECTION IV

-

### GOVERNMENT OF THE ORDER

---

#### Article 19 - Structure of Government

19. The Government of the Order is constituted as follows:

- The Grand Master is the supreme Head of the Order.
- The Grand Magistracy assists him.
- The Constitutional Council interprets the regulations, statutes and Constitutional Charter of the Order. It arbitrates in disputes between the organs of government, the Jurisdictions and the members.
- The Governing Council provides the representation of the national Jurisdictions.
- The Chapter General permits the expression of the voting members.

#### Article 20 - The Grand Master

20.1. The Grand Master is the supreme Head of the Order. He is elected by an absolute majority of the voters present or represented at a Chapter General. After two ballots without result, the vote is between the two candidates with the most votes or between the two oldest if there are more than two. If support for the candidates remains equal after the third ballot, the eldest is deemed to be elected.

20.2. The Grand Master must be a member of the Order, a Catholic in good standing with his Church, and must be a member of a major noble family.

20.3. The Grand Master remains in office until the day of Pentecost in the year of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. He then becomes Grand Master Emeritus.

20.4. In the case of incapacity, only the President of the Constitutional Council, mandated by the Grand Magistracy, with the agreement of the Spiritual Protector and the Temporal Protector, may convoke an extraordinary Chapter General for a new election.

20.5. In the case of incapacity and pending the election of a new Grand Master, his functions are exercised *ad interim* by a member of the Grand Magistracy elected by a two-thirds majority of the Grand Magistracy. He assumes the title of Administrator General.

20.6. The Grand Master is the legal representative of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.

20.7. The Grand Master maintains the three vocations and ends of the Order: spirituality, charity and tradition. He works for the development and prosperity of the Order, assisted by the members of the Grand Magistracy.

20.8. In the case of a grave dispute between the Grand Master and the Grand Magistracy, the President of the Constitutional Council solicits the views of the Spiritual Protector and the Temporal Protector, who must come to a unanimous opinion.

20.9. During his ceremony of inauguration, the Grand Master makes the following promise: 'I do solemnly promise before Almighty God, to honour, respect and observe at all times his holy commandments and to ensure, as far as lies within my power, that they are maintained, venerated and observed; to administer and govern the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem loyally and faithfully, as becomes the duty and dignity of the Grand Master; to respect the Constitutional Charter, regulations, ordinances and customs of the Order and to ensure they are respected by all the members; so help me God.'

20.10. In order to realise the three vocations and ends of the Order, spirituality, charity and tradition, the Grand Master uses the power conferred on him by the Chapter General and confirmed by the Protectors. He may delegate this power by naming Grand Officers, members of the Grand Magistracy and Heads of Jurisdiction in the various countries where the Order is established. This delegation is valid as long as the Grand Master considers the Grand Officer appointed to be loyally exercising this delegated power.

20.11. The Grand Master is the sole authority for the admission or promotion of a knight, dame or ecclesiastic in the Order. No one may be admitted into the Order against the wishes of the Grand Master.

20.12. The Grand Master, advised by the Grand Magistracy, signs the ordinances.

## Article 21 - The Grand Magistracy

21.1. The purpose of the Grand Magistracy is to permit the Grand Master to govern the Order in accordance with the three vocations and ends of the Order: spirituality, charity and tradition. It works for the development and prosperity of the Order. In this spirit, it consults the Governing Council on any matters which concern a substantial change to the Order or which engage its responsibility, in particular proposals to amend the Constitutional Charter and the annual budget.

21.2. The Grand Master presides over the Grand Magistracy, which is composed of Grand Officers under the age of 75 (in alphabetical order):

- The Grand Capitular
- The Grand Chancellor
- The Grand Hospitaller
- The Grand Marshal
- The Grand Prior Spiritual
- The Grand Secretary
- The Grand Treasurer
- The Grand Visitor
- The President of the Constitutional Council
- The President of the Governing Council

21.3. The Grand Capitular: he is the guardian of the traditions of the Order and keeper of the historical archives. To that end he maintains links with the capitulars in each Jurisdiction. He convokes the Chapter General at the request of the Grand Master or the Protectors.

21.4. The Grand Marshal: respecting the history of the Order, the Grand Marshal implements the ceremonial and protocol of the whole Order. In the same spirit, he is responsible for the dress code and insignia regulations for the various meetings of the Order.

21.5. The Grand Chancellor: to assist the Grand Master, the Grand Chancellor coordinates all the activities of the Grand Officers of the Grand Magistracy and Heads of Jurisdiction in support of the three vocations and ends of the Order. He is also responsible for the external relations of the Order.

21.6. The Grand Hospitaller: he implements the charitable end of the Order within the scope of the hospitaller policy determined by the Grand Magistracy. To this end he liaises with the hospitallers of each Jurisdiction.

21.7. The Grand Prior Spiritual: within the context of the first end of the Order, that of Christian unity, the Grand Master in consultation with the Spiritual Protector appoints a prelate who is already a member of the Order. The prelate oversees the spiritual development of the members of each Jurisdiction through their chaplains general. The professed knights of the Regular Fraternity also fall within his domain.

21.8. The Grand Secretary: the Grand Secretary puts in place and monitors all the administrative systems which enable the whole Order to function.

21.9. The Grand Treasurer: he effects the financial management necessary for the smooth running of the Order. He is also responsible for the financial resources of the Order, the management of its movable assets and real estate and the protection of its intellectual rights.

21.10. The Grand Visitor: within the context of the Grand Magistracy, the role of the Grand Visitor is to visit and establish contacts with countries in which the Order is not yet established or where it is not currently recruiting. He may also be entrusted with specific missions relating to the development of the Order.

21.11. The President of the Constitutional Council: he is elected by the Members of the Constitutional Council and confirmed by the Grand Master. He presents to the Grand Master the recommendations of the Council concerning the interpretation of the Constitutional Charter, regulations and ordinances, and disputes involving the Governing Council or the Grand Magistracy. He also gives opinions on individual appeals.

21.12. The President of the Governing Council: he is elected by the Heads of Jurisdiction and confirmed by the Grand Master. He represents the Heads of Jurisdiction in the Grand Magistracy and thus ensures the essential flow of communication from the Grand Magistracy to the Jurisdictions and from the Jurisdictions to the Grand Magistracy.

21.13. The means of operation of the Grand Magistracy are defined in the International Regulations.

### **Article 22 - The Constitutional Council**

22.1. The Constitutional Council is responsible for the interpretation of the Constitutional Charter, the regulations and the ordinances of the Order. It is the guarantor of the electoral process. Its conclusions are expressed in the form of recommendations, which become binding once validated by the Grand Master.

22.2. The Constitutional Council is composed of five members appointed by the Grand Master for a renewable five-year term. They likewise elect their President for a renewable five-year term.

22.3. Should a member of the Order wish to raise a matter of dispute he may appeal to the Constitutional Council through the hierarchy within sixty days of the disputed notification. The Constitutional Council then has sixty days to announce a decision. This decision is final and irrevocable.

22.4. In the case of a serious dispute between the Grand Master and the Grand Magistracy, only the President of the Constitutional Council is entitled to approach the Protectors who must express themselves unanimously in writing.

22.5. The means of operation of the Constitutional Council are defined in the International Regulations.

### **Article 23 - The Governing Council**

23.1. The Governing Council is composed of the Heads of Jurisdiction.

23.2. The members of the Governing Council elect from among their number a President and a Vice-President for a renewable six-year term.

23.3. The Governing Council formally meets at least once a year at the convocation of their President.

23.4. The Governing Council's function is to transmit to the Grand Magistracy, via their President, propositions or reports of difficulties encountered in the national Jurisdictions. Conversely, it is the duty of the President of the Council to transmit back to the Heads of Jurisdiction all information from the Grand Magistracy that is necessary for the good functioning of each national structure. In this spirit, the Governing Council is consulted by the Grand Magistracy on any matters which concern a substantial change to the Order or which engage its responsibility, in particular proposals to amend the Constitutional Charter and the annual budget.

23.5. The accounts and reports of activities approved by the Grand Magistracy are presented to the Governing Council for their information.

23.6. The means of operation of the Governing Council are defined in the International Regulations.

## **Article 24 - The Chapter General**

24.1. Under the invocation of the Holy Spirit and having received the confirmation of the Protectors, the Chapter General is the expression of power in the Order.

24.2. The Chapter General comprises all the members who have been invested as knights, dames or senior chaplains. The members concerned are entitled to vote once their Jurisdiction has confirmed their good standing. Their Jurisdiction must itself be in good standing and confirmed as such by the Grand Magistracy.

24.3. The Chapter General is convoked by the Grand Capitular at least once every three years and preferably at Pentecost, in accordance with the traditions of the Order, to be informed about the activities of the Order: spiritual initiatives, assessment of the humanitarian and charitable activities, presentation of the accounts of the international administration and the main lines of development in the years ahead.

24.4. The Chapter General is convoked by the Grand Capitular on the order of the Grand Master for any change to the Constitutional Charter.

24.5. An extraordinary Chapter General may be convoked by the Grand Capitular with the agreement of the President of the Constitutional Council and the Protectors in order to elect a new Grand Master.

24.6. Given the dispersion of the members of the Order throughout the world, postal voting is permissible. The details and conditions for postal voting are set out in the International Regulations. Postal votes are received by the Grand Chancery and validated by the Constitutional Council.

24.7. The Grand Capitular convokes all the members by notifying their Heads of Jurisdiction 180 days before the date on which the Chapter General is intended to be held.

## **Article 25 - Financial Administration of the Order**

25.1. The routine financial administration is carried out by the Grand Treasurer in conformity with the functions assigned to him by the Constitutional Charter and always guided by the prudence of sound economic management.

25.2. Unusual financial decisions (real estate, investments, legacies etc.) require the authorisation of the Grand Master and Grand Magistracy.

## **Article 26 - Changes to the Constitutional Charter**

26. Any change to the current Constitutional Charter must be:

- proposed and submitted for the Constitutional Council to study
- approved by the Grand Magistracy and the Chapter General, each with a two thirds majority
- promulgated with the unanimous agreement of the Protectors

## **Article 27 - Dissolution**

27.1. The dissolution of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is a decision which falls to the Chapter General, requiring a qualified majority of two-thirds of the members entitled to vote.

27.2. This decision is required to be validated unanimously by the Protectors and by the Grand Magistracy.

27.3. In this event, the assets of the Order of Saint Lazarus shall be donated to any other organization with the same objectives in accordance with the wishes of the donors. This organization shall have been approved by the Grand Magistracy of the Order of Saint Lazarus, who shall inform the Protectors accordingly.

## Article 28 - International Regulations

28.1. The International Regulations explain and interpret the contents of this Constitutional Charter.

28.2. The International Regulations are drafted and modified by unanimous vote of the Grand Magistracy and are validated by the Grand Master.

28.3. Jurisdictions may compose their own Regulations. They must be concordant and juridically compatible with the current Constitutional Charter and with the International Regulations.

