



ADDRESS OF H.M.E.H. Fra' MATTHEW FESTING,  
PRINCE AND GRAND MASTER OF THE  
SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN  
OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERRAL OF THE  
GRAND CROSS SPECIAL CLASS OF THE ORDER *PRO MERITO MELITENSI*  
TO H.R.H. PRINCE CARLO DI BORBONE DELLE DUE SICILIE

(Palazzo Magistrale, 5 December 2013)

Your Royal Highness,

It is a great pleasure for me to have you today at the Magistral Palace together with Princess Camilla and your distinguished guests.

The ceremony of today is the latest token of the warm and cordial ties which have existed for centuries between the Royal House of Bourbon-Two Sicilies and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

This relationship dates back to the time when the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies enjoyed a close relationship with the Order of Malta, with which it maintained a treaty granting military protection to the Island of Malta.

The affinity between your family and our Order is also reflected in the friendly ties between the Sacred Constantinian Order of Saint George and the Order of Malta. This is the result of our shared ideals which are aimed at providing assistance to the sick and the poor as an expression of our Faith and by alleviating the suffering of the victims of violence and natural disasters.

It is with these feelings and in consideration of your support as an esteemed member of our Order for thirty years that I am pleased to confer upon you the Grand Cross Special Class of the Order *pro Merito Melitensi*, with the most heartfelt wishes for ever greater bonds between your August Family and the Order of Malta.