



SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE OSPEDALIERO
DI SAN GIOVANNI DI GERUSALEMME DI RODI E DI MALTA

Rome, November 10, 2017
Prot. N. PRL 150/2017 A/NZ

IL PRELATO

H.E. Jack Edward POHRER
Gran Cross of Magistral Grace
President of the American Association
of the S.M.O. of Malta
1011 First Avenue - Suite 1350
NEW YORK, NY 10022-4112
U.S.A.

Your Excellency,

I have reviewed the plans for the Pilgrimage for Life and approve the Pilgrimage as a worthy activity of the Order, the American Association and its members: Culture of Life is truly an important focus area for our Order.

We know that Lourdes is a central work of the Order and every Knight and Dame must make the effort to participate in that great work of mercy and love. For many Knights and Dames, the Lourdes Pilgrimage opens their eyes to the full commitment to help the sick and the poor while giving witness to their own faith. At the same time, we recognize the value and the importance of standing up for the unborn and for life at every stage, and so, we are happy to bless the work of the Pilgrimage for Life and approve participation as a legitimate expression of one's care for the sick and the poor, and a strong statement in defense of the highest principles that our Order stands for.



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This Pilgrimage may substitute for the Lourdes Pilgrimage for those candidates who, in their year of preparation or in their early years in the Order, in specific circumstances, for family or personal reasons, are unable at that time to come with the Order to Lourdes.

I emphasize that the obligation to participate in the Lourdes pilgrimage is a benefit to the person and to the Order as we show our universal solidarity to the charism of helping the sick and the poor; every candidate should know of and commit to fulfilling that obligation as soon as is practical for them.

May Our Lady of Phileremo and St. John the Baptist and Blessed Gerard intercede for us and may we be faithful always in our vocation.

In Domini Corde,

✠ Jean Laffitte

Titular Bishop of Entrevaux