



**ORDER OF MALTA
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION**

Guidelines for Service Uniforms: Order of Malta, American Association, USA

Dear Fellow Pilgrim to Lourdes:

You will notice during our week in Lourdes that all of the Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and Volunteers of the Order of Malta, and many of their guests, wear “service uniforms.” These uniforms are important for a number of reasons, not the least of which is they serve as reminders that the Order once had a military mission and is a sovereign state.

The uniforms also serve less tangible purposes. The similarities among the uniforms show how we are part of one order, one community, with the Grand Master as our leader and religious superior. The slight differences in appearance show the individuality of the various communities, or Associations, throughout the world.

In a very real sense, the uniforms elicit reassurance among the *Malades*, our lords the sick, whom we serve in Lourdes. Surely, the uniforms signify to the *Malades* that those who are serving them are organized and disciplined. They are in good hands. Also, the uniforms make crystal clear the sheer enormity of the prayer group behind our *Malades* during our week in Lourdes and for eternity.

Therefore, our uniforms are important and should be taken seriously. The Sovereign Council based in Rome established guidelines to this effect in 2012. Rome has asked us to inform our Pilgrims of the standards to which you will be expected to adhere during your time on Pilgrimage. When it comes from Rome, the standards are not “suggestions” or “guidelines,” but rather they are expectations. Please help us to adhere to the standards and to the definition of “uniform.” Personal interpretations or deviations from the guidelines are strongly discouraged.

The standards, found on the following pages, should be observed at all times. Any time you leave the hotel, you are expected to be in full uniform. For women, this means that you must wear your cape and veil. For men, this means that you must be wearing your beret unless you are in a church or in the Grotto.

We ask you to read this memo, take the uniforms seriously, do not improvise, and follow the lead of the team leaders and our Lourdes “veterans.” One side benefit of taking the uniforms seriously is that you will look the better for it!

Sincerely

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey R. Trexler, ChDD
Executive Director

UNIFORM VENDOR INFORMATION

T&T Uniforms Inc.

The following items are available for purchase online from T&T Uniforms, Inc.:

- **Should Patch**

PLEASE NOTE: A patch must be ordered for every work shirt you order. T&T will only attach the patch onto the shirt if you order a patch.

- **Black Long Sleeve Work Shirt***

**Don't forget to order a patch for every shirt you order!*

- **Black Beret**
- **Black Trousers**
- **Black Plain Tie**
- **Men's Black Leather Belt**

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit T&T Uniforms, Inc. Online Store.

Connecticut Auxiliary

The following items are available for purchase online from CT Auxiliary Malta Store:

- **Veils (Women)**
- **Red Cardigan Sweater (Women)**
- **Rain Jackets**
- **Vests**
- **Men's Leather Malta Belt**

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit The Connecticut Auxiliary Malta Online Store.

Men's Service Uniform

All Knights of the Order, candidates in their year formation, auxiliary corps, associates, medical team and volunteers are to wear the following work uniform throughout the week in Lourdes:

- Black beret w/ patch
- Black trousers (No cargo trousers)
- Black **long sleeve** shirt w/ patch
- Black tie
- White dress shirt - to be worn under black shirt
- Black Belt
- Black comfortable water-proof shoes

Knights wear their robes w/ large Malta decoration during Sunday Mass and Procession. **Robes not to be worn in the street.*

1. Black Beret with Order of Malta Emblem – Available for purchase at T&T Uniforms, Inc. Website

- Please see photos for proper way to wear the beret.
- Remember the Emblem should be aligned with your heart.

2. Black Trousers (Southeastern Code 3 Trousers) Available for purchase at T&T Uniforms, Inc. Website

- These should be un-pleated with no cuffs.
- Cargo trousers are prohibited

3. Black Long Sleeve Work Shirt (Southeastern Code 3 Shirt Long Sleeve) – Available for purchase at T&T Uniforms, Inc. Website

- **Please Note:** the **WHITE SHORT SLEEVE** work shirt listed on T&T Uniforms, Inc. website ***is not*** for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. This shirt should be purchased if you are attending The Our Lady of Good Help Pilgrimage in August.

4. Patch – A patch **MUST be purchased for every work shirt you order. T&T will only attach the patch onto the shirt if you order a patch. Available for purchase as T&T Uniform, Inc. Website.**

5. Black Tie (Plain) - Available for purchase at T&T Uniforms, Inc. Website

- 6. Black Belt - Available for purchase at T&T Uniforms, Inc. Website or CT Auxiliary Website**
 - Solid black leather belt
- 7. White Dress Shirt – Shirt not available on website. Please purchase this item on your own.**
 - The shirt is to be worn underneath black work shirt.
 - Bring at least one white dress shirt for each day. No laundry facilities available.
- 8. Shoes**
 - Two pairs of comfortable shoes are recommended. Break them in before the Pilgrimage.
 - Consider purchasing water-resistant or waterproof shoes, as it will rain.
 - Black socks only – consider calf length.
 - Shoes to be black leather with black soles.
- 9. Rain Gear**
 - Black rain plain jacket - **Available for purchase at CT Auxiliary Website – Heavy Fleece Jacket**
 - Black rain pants
 - A black rain poncho with no commercial logos is acceptable.
 - Small folding black umbrella – consider a belt hook.
- 10. Cold-weather Gear (Optional)**
 - Solid black scarf
 - Solid black gloves
 - Warm undershirt or long johns
- 11. Decorations**
 - A simple watch and ring may be worn with the work uniform.
 - Order of Malta Cross (Knights Only): Large Cross for Church Robes during Pontifical Mass and Eucharistic Procession.
 - Ribbons, nametags, pins, and medals are **ALL** worn on the LEFT side of the uniform.
- 12. Church Robes (Knights Only)**
 - For Pontifical Mass and Eucharistic Procession.
 - Not appropriate for voiture pushers or pullers.
- 13. Required**
 - Nametag - if you do not have one, the American Association will provide it.
 - Nametags must be worn at all times from airport to airport, except on Church Robes.
 - Lourdes service medal (silver medal hung on red ribbon). If you are a first-time pilgrim, you will receive this in Lourdes.
 - Medical pin (if on the Medical Team)
- 14. Colored team ribbons**
 - Ribbons will be supplied at the airport to put over your epaulets.



The Proper Wearing Of Berets:

1. The Emblem on the beret should be centered over the left eye.
2. The brim of the beret should be horizontal and two finger-widths above both eyebrows.
3. The right side of the beret should overlap the right ear slightly.
4. The crease on top should extend forward, in front of the stiff flashing on which the Emblem is mounted.
5. The adjustment strings in back should be tied off and cut once a good fit is established.



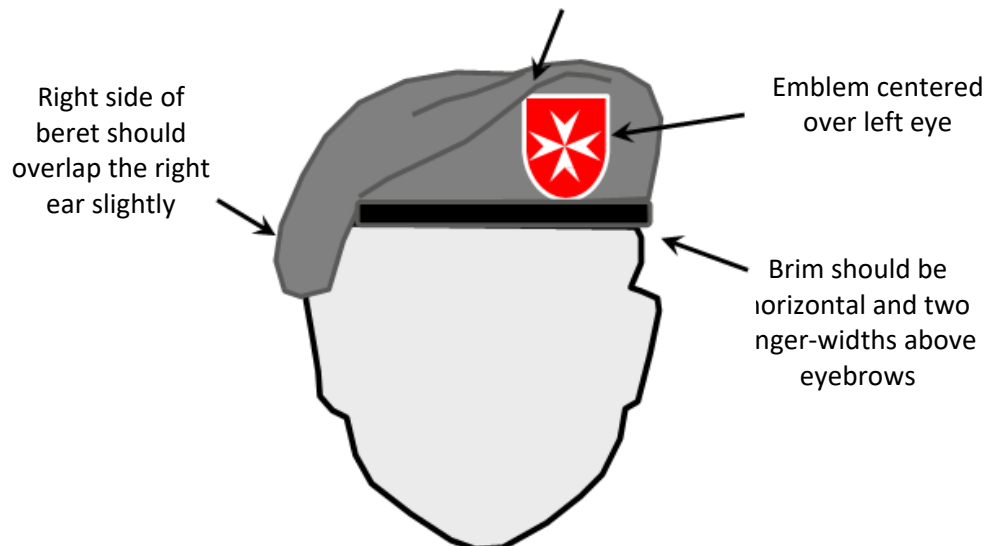
When not in use, the beret should be tucked under the **LEFT** epaulet. The beret should be worn at all times EXCEPT when indoors or in the Grotto.

The Military Style Beret

Instructions on the proper wearing of berets:

1. The Emblem on the beret should be centered over the left eye.
2. The brim of the beret should be horizontal and two finger-widths above both eye brows.
3. The right side of the beret should overlap the right ear slightly.
4. The crease on top should extend forward, in front of the stiff flashing on which the Emblem is mounted.
5. The adjustment strings in back should be tied off and cut once a good fit is established.

Crease on top should extend forward, in front of stiff flashing on which the Emblem is mounted



Women's Service Uniform

All Dames of the Order, candidates in formation, auxiliary corps, associates, medical team and volunteers are to wear the work uniform throughout the week in Lourdes.

Work Uniform for Dames of the Order: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Malta Cape- Small Malta Cross- White veil w/ pin- White dress or skirt (no trousers)- White blouse- Red cardigan sweater- Nude stockings- Black shoes (no sneakers) <p><i>*Dames wear their veil, Malta cape with large Malta decoration during Sunday Mass and Procession.</i></p>	Work Uniform for those in their year of formation, auxiliary corps, associates, medical team and volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Malta cape (a limited # of capes will be given out in Lourdes to borrow)- Black rain coat (to be used in the event there are no capes available)- White veil with/ pin- White dress or skirt (no trousers)- White blouse- Red cardigan sweater- Nude stockings- Black shoes (no sneakers)
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1. Cape

- Dames of the Order of Malta receive capes upon their investiture; the American Association has a limited number of capes available for Volunteers and Auxiliary.
- If you do not have your own cape, you must bring a solid long black raincoat in the event that there are no capes available.
- **NO** printed scarves are to be worn with the cape.

During the Pontifical Mass and Eucharistic Procession, the cape, worn as the Lourdes work uniform by women, becomes the Dames' Church Robe.

2. Veil – Available for purchase at CT Auxiliary Website

3. Skirt and Blouse - You will need to purchase the skirt and blouse on your own.

- **Plain white knee length skirt** - no ruffles, eyelet, horizontal stripes or calf length skirts.
- **Plain white blouse with sleeves** – no turtlenecks, polo shirts or t-shirts.
- Due to limited laundry service, we suggest bringing several white skirts and blouses.

4. Shoes:

- Two pairs of comfortable shoes are recommended. Break them in before the Pilgrimage.
- Consider purchasing water-resistant or waterproof shoes, as it will rain.
- Shoes to be black leather with black soles.

5. Stockings

- Nude stockings – no black or white

6. Red Cardigan Sweater - Available for purchase at CT Auxiliary Website

- **No fleeces**

7. Rain gear (optional):

- Red poncho
- Small folding red or black umbrella

8. Cold-weather gear (optional):

- Red fleece or vest with minimal commercial logos may be worn over the sweater under the cape in cold weather. - **Available for purchase at CT Auxiliary Website**
- Solid color red or black scarf (worn under the cape)
- Solid-colored black gloves

9. Decorations

- A simple watch, ring, and earrings may be worn with the Service Uniform.
- Order of Malta Cross (Dames Only): Large decoration, for cape during Pontifical Mass and Eucharistic Procession, is to be worn on the left-hand side. No nametags, ribbons or medals are to be worn on the cape during these events only.
- Ribbons, nametags, pins, and medals are **ALL** worn on the LEFT side of the uniform.

10. Required

- Name tag - if you do not have one, the American Association will provide it.
- Nametags must be worn at all times from airport to airport, except on Church Robes.
- Lourdes service medal (silver medal hung on red ribbon). If you are a first-time pilgrim, you will receive this in Lourdes.
- Medical pin (if on the Medical Team)



Ribbons, nametags, pins, and medals are worn on the **LEFT** side of the women's uniform, on the cape or sweater, whichever is the outermost layer- except on Church Robes. Instead of epaulets, women wear colored ribbons on their nametags to designate their team affiliation. These ribbons will be provided to you at the airport.

In addition to a cape, the women wear a white blouse, a white knee-length skirt or nurse's dress, a red cardigan sweater, a white veil, beige stockings, and black leather shoes.



Women must be in full uniform at all Pilgrimage functions, which include Processions, Masses, Stations of the Cross, and trips to the Baths. The cape may be removed at non-official functions in the event that the weather turns hot. However, sweaters and veils **MUST** be worn at all times.



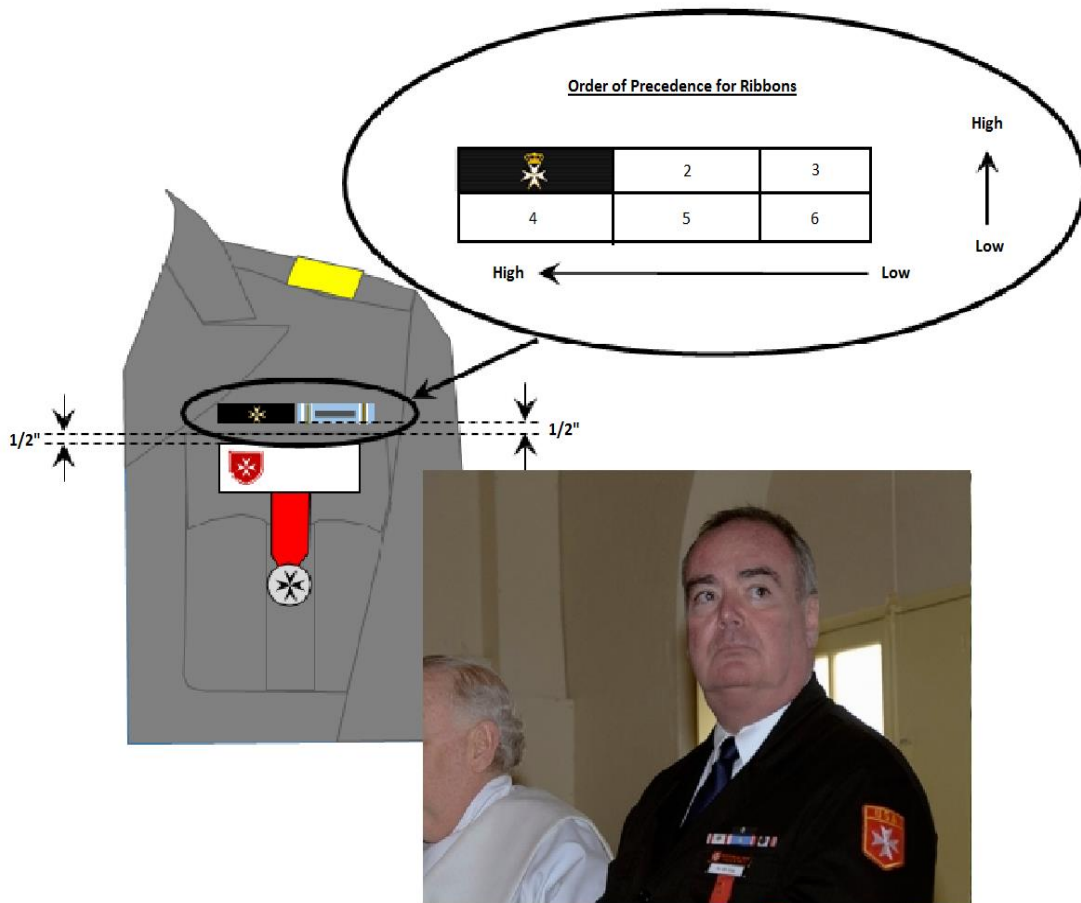
The Placement of Ribbons

Ribbons are placed about half an inch above the left pocket on the men's work uniform. (Dames are currently not provided with ribbons.) The ribbons are centered above the name tag.

There is an order of precedence for the ribbons in the case where there is more than one – see below.

Knights all have a black ribbon on account of their membership in the Order. This ribbon is always of first precedence and always appears in the upper left-hand corner of any group of ribbons.

Other service ribbons are placed in slots of lower precedence. You may notice that some Knights have a ribbon that commemorates their volunteer service for Katrina disaster relief. Another ribbon commemorates the 150 anniversary of Lourdes. Yet another commemorates the 900 anniversary of the Order itself.

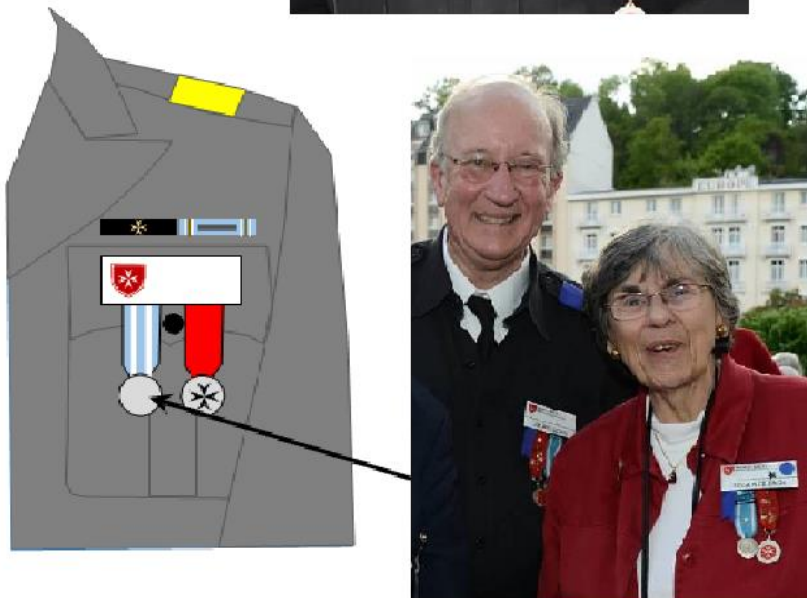


Variations

You will see two additional decorations, as follows.



The first is the Medical Pin, which is worn by all members of the medical team. This pin is large, white and blue with a cross in the middle. The pin is provided by the International Medical Association of Lourdes. Medical professionals on their first pilgrimage should contact the pilgrimage medical director to obtain a medical pin upon their arrival in Lourdes.



The second variation is the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes medal, which is blue with white vertical stripes and is worn alongside the red Lourdes service medal. This medal is worn by members of "Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes" who have contributed at least one week of service to Lourdes per year working in the Domaine aside from our pilgrimage for at least five years and have committed to continue this service for as long as they are able. This service is not restricted to Knights and Dames of the Order. The cross is intentionally upside down on the ribbon.

More Formal Occasions

There will be two occasions in Lourdes where we are more formal. The first is Eucharistic Procession and the second is the Pontifical Mass in the Pius X Basilica.

On both of these occasions, the Knights wear their Church Robes. Note, however, that for the Pontifical Mass, the Church Robes are **not worn until inside the basilica**. In contrast, robes are worn outside for the Eucharistic Procession. **Knights in Church Robes should not pull carts during the procession**. Note that no headgear is worn when Knights are in their Church Robes.



During the Pontifical Mass and Eucharistic Procession, the cape, worn as the Lourdes work uniform by women, **becomes the Dames' Church Robe** and, accordingly, **no name tags, ribbons, or medals** are to be worn during these events other than the Cross of the Order for Dames (see below). Also, as with the Knights, **only members of the Order wear Church Robes** during the formal occasions in Lourdes.



Good Examples



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Am I required to wear a work uniform? *The answer is “yes” for Knights, Dames, candidates in formation, and members of the auxiliary and medical teams.*
2. When must I wear the uniform? *All week, with the exception of travel days and dinner on the last evening. If you are an Auxiliary you may be required to wear the uniform in the airports.*
3. Are commemorative pins allowed on the uniform? *Yes, but only if they are approximately the size of a normal lapel pin. Please be discrete and limit the number of pins. Less is more. Also, women have the option to wear the pins on their sweater inside their cape and are encouraged to do so. Unfortunately, the men have no such option for downplaying the pins.*
4. Are women allowed to wear name tags, service ribbons, and Lourdes medals on their capes? *Yes, except when the cape is functioning as a Dame’s formal Church Robe.*
5. When do women wear their capes? *Throughout the week whenever the work uniforms are worn. However, during the Eucharistic Procession and the Pontifical Mass, the cape becomes the formal Church Robe for Dames.*
6. When do women wear their sweater and veil? *Anytime they are not in their hotel.*
7. Are there laundry facilities available at the hotel? *No. Please pack accordingly.*
8. Are black baseball caps or cowboy hats with the Order of Malta Emblem acceptable? *No.*
9. Is any other type of headgear for men other than the beret acceptable? *No.*
10. Is it acceptable to wear the beret during Mass? *No. This guideline includes the Grotto Mass.*
11. What should I do with my beret when I take it off? *It should be tucked under the left epaulet.*
12. What is the difference between a medal and a ribbon? *Ribbons signify that one is a member of the Order of Malta or commemorate some service to the Order. They are rectangular and are about 1.375 inches long by about 0.375 inches wide. They are worn above the nametag. Medals are what you would normally consider a medal to be – a circular, imprinted piece of metal at the end of a one-inch-wide ribbon that is several inches long. They are worn below the nametag.*
13. What medals should be worn on the uniform? *Just the red Lourdes service medal. The blue Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes medal also is acceptable (for the relatively few people who have it). No other medals are worn.*
14. What are those “stars” on the red Lourdes service medal? *Those “stars” actually are small Malta crosses that indicate the number of times the wearer has attended the Order of Malta’s Lourdes pilgrimage. A small silver cross represents one pilgrimage, whereas a gold cross represents five.*
15. Is it acceptable to wear insignia or ribbons from other Catholic Orders or fraternal organizations (e.g., Holy Sepulchre, St. Gregory, Knights of Columbus)? *No.*
16. What happens if I make a mistake and do not wear the uniform correctly? *You do not want to find out...the uniform police!*