

## **UNIFORMS FOR KNIGHTS, DAMES, AUXILIARY, ASSOCIATES, MEDICAL, STUDENTS & VOLUNTEERS**

During the Pilgrimage all Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and Volunteers of the Order of Malta wear 'service uniforms'. These uniforms are important for several 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 amongst the uniforms of the various Associations show how we are part of one global Order, one community with the Grand Master as our leader and religious superior. The slight differences in uniforms and 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 signal to the Malades that those who are serving them are organized and disciplined, that they are in good hands. Also, the uniforms make 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 and expects all Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, Associates and Volunteers to adhere to these during the Pilgrimage. These 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.

By now you should have received the detailed uniform guidelines and purchased any needed items. Please take the uniforms seriously, do not improvise, and follow the lead of your Team Captains and our Lourdes "veterans."

One side benefit of taking the uniforms seriously is that you will look the better for it!

## MEN'S SERVICE UNIFORM

All Knights, Year of Formation Candidates, Auxiliary, Associates, Student Nurses, Medical Team, and Volunteers are to wear the work uniform throughout the Pilgrimage.

When	Knights	YOF Candidates, Medical Team, Student Nurses, Auxiliary, Associates & Volunteers	Malades & Caregivers
Ordinary days, evenings, and at the candlelight procession	Work Uniform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name tag</li> <li>• Service ribbon</li> <li>• Black beret with patch</li> <li>• Black trousers (no cargo trousers)</li> <li>• Black shirt with patch</li> <li>• Black tie</li> <li>• White dress shirt (worn under black shirt)</li> <li>• Black belt</li> <li>• Black comfortable water-proof shoes</li> <li>• Black socks</li> </ul>	Work Uniform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name tag</li> <li>• Black beret with patch</li> <li>• Black trousers (no cargo trousers)</li> <li>• Black shirt with patch</li> <li>• Black tie</li> <li>• White dress shirt (worn under black shirt)</li> <li>• Black Belt</li> <li>• Black comfortable water-proof shoes</li> <li>• Black Socks</li> </ul>	Warm and comfortable clothes.  Bring layers for warmth or to remove on warm days.
Sunday International Mass & Eucharistic Procession	Malta robe with large Malta decoration.  ** Robes are not to be worn in the street.	Same as above.	Same as above.  Same as above – no jeans or shorts please.

## ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

- **Black Beret with Order of Malta emblem** - Please see pictures on page 10. The Malta emblem should be aligned with your heart.
- **Black Trousers** - These should be un-pleated with no cuffs. Cargo trousers are prohibited.
- **White Dress Shirt** - The shirt is to be worn underneath the black work shirt. It is suggested to have at least one for each day as laundry facilities are not available.
- **Black Tie** - The tie should be solid black with no pattern, stripes, or other designs. The wearing of Order of Malta ties purchased from the Auxiliary or other associations is prohibited.
- **Black Belt** - The belt should be solid black leather with no pattern, stripes, or other designs. Cloth or patterned Order of Malta belts purchased from the Auxiliary or other associations is prohibited.
- **Black Shoes** - Two pairs of comfortable, broken-in, and waterproof shoes are required. Sneakers are prohibited.
- **Foul Weather Gear** - Long underwear, warm clothing, and rain gear is optional but may be very handy. If utilized, fleeces, coats, scarves, gloves, etc. should be black and not have logo's that aren't associated with the Order of Malta.

- **Jewelry** - A simple watch and ring are acceptable. The wearing of excessive pins received on prior pilgrimages or purchased from Malta groups is prohibited. Members of the medical team should wear their medical pin at all times.
- **Nametag** - Nametags will be provided by the American Association and must be worn at all times (except when in church robe). See pictures on page 11 for proper placement on the black shirt.
- **Decorations & Ribbons** - The service bar received with your medal at Investiture and any other Order of Malta awarded ribbons may be worn in Lourdes. Ribbons awarded for military service or from other organizations are prohibited. There is an order of precedence for the ribbons in the case where there is more than one (see page 9).

Ribbons are placed about half an inch above the left pocket on the men's black shirt. (Dames are currently not provided with ribbons.) The ribbons are centered above the name tag. This Order of Malta ribbon (black with medallion in center; issued with decoration at Investiture) 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.

The large decoration is worn only with church robe for the International Mass and Eucharistic Procession. Ribbons, nametags, pins, and medals are ALL worn on the LEFT side of the uniform.

The Red Pilgrimage Service Medal (silver medallion and red ribbon) is worn below the nametag. If you are a first-time pilgrim, you will receive this in Lourdes.

Members of the medical team are issued the Medical Pin. This pin is large, white and blue with a cross in the middle and is worn above the nametag. 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.

Some members of the Order have been awarded the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes medal, which is blue with white vertical stripes and is worn alongside the red Lourdes service medal. The cross is intentionally upside down on the ribbon. This medal is awarded to those who have contributed at least one week of service to Lourdes per year working in the Domain aside from our Pilgrimage for at least five years and have committed to continue this service for as long as they are able. This medal is worn by members of "Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes".

## WOMENS SERVICE UNIFORM

All Dames, Year of Formation Candidates, Auxiliary, Associates, Student Nurses, Medical Team, and Volunteers are to wear the work uniform throughout the Pilgrimage.

When	Dames	YOF Candidates, Medical Team, Student Nurses, Auxiliary, Associates & Volunteers	Malades & Caregivers
Ordinary days, evenings, and at the candlelight procession	Work Uniform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malta cape</li> <li>• Small Malta cross</li> <li>• White veil with shield</li> <li>• White dress or skirt (no trousers)</li> <li>• White blouse</li> <li>• Red cardigan sweater</li> <li>• Nude stockings (optional)</li> <li>• Black shoes with black soles (no sneakers)</li> </ul>	Work Uniform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malta cape **</li> <li>• Black raincoat (used in the event a cape is available)</li> <li>• White veil with shield</li> <li>• White dress or skirt (no trousers)</li> <li>• White blouse</li> <li>• Red cardigan sweater</li> <li>• Nude stockings (optional)</li> <li>• Black shoes with black soles (no sneakers)</li> </ul>	Warm and comfortable clothes.  Bring layers for warmth or to remove on warm days.  Trousers are acceptable.
Sunday International Mass & Eucharistic Procession	Same as above with large Malta decoration	Same as above.	Same as above – no jeans or shorts please.

\*\* 'Loaner' capes are available for YOF, Auxiliary, Medical Tea, Student Nurses and Volunteers. They will be placed in your hotel room. Instructions on returning them before departing Lourdes will be provided during the Pilgrimage.

### Additional Guidelines:

- **Cape** - For Dames, the cape received during the Investiture is worn for the Pilgrimage. A limited number of capes is available for YOF, Auxiliary, Associates, Medical Team, Student Nurses and Volunteers; these will be distributed in Lourdes. Please bring a solid, long black raincoat in the event that a cape is unavailable. During the International Mass and Eucharistic Procession, the cape, worn as the Lourdes work uniform by women, becomes the Dames' Church Robe.
- **Dress/Skirt and Blouse** - The dress/skirt should be plain white knee length. The shirt should be plain white and not have ruffles, eyelet, or horizontal stripes. Turtlenecks, polo shirts, and t-shirts are prohibited. Due to limited laundry service, we suggest bringing several white skirts and blouses.
- **Shoes** - Shoes must be black leather with black soles. Sneakers are prohibited. Given the extent of walking and that some walkways may be uneven, high heels are discouraged.
- **Stockings** - Stockings are optional. If you decide to wear stockings, they should be 'nude' in color; black or white are prohibited.
- **Red Cardigan Sweater** - Cardigan sweaters should button up the front. A red fleece or vest with minimal commercial logos may be worn over the sweater under the cape in cold weather.

- **Jewelry** - A simple watch, earrings, and rings are acceptable. The wearing of excessive pins received on prior pilgrimages or purchased from Malta groups is prohibited. Members of the medical team should wear their medical pin at all times.
- **Nametag** - Nametags will be provided by the American Association and must be worn at all times (except when in church robe). Nametags are worn on the left side of the cape. See pictures on page 9 for proper placement.
- **Decorations & Ribbons** - The large decoration is worn only for the International Mass and Eucharistic. When worn, this is placed on the left-hand side of the cape. No nametags, ribbons or medals are to be worn on the cape during these events only.

Service ribbons are not worn on capes.

The Red Pilgrimage Service Medal (silver medallion and red ribbon) is worn below the nametag. If you are a first-time pilgrim, you will receive this in Lourdes.

Members of the medical team are issued the Medical Pin. This pin is large, white and blue with a cross in the middle and is worn above the nametag. 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.

Some members of the Order have been awarded the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes medal, which is blue with white vertical stripes and is worn alongside the red Lourdes service medal. The cross is intentionally upside down on the ribbon. This medal is awarded to those who have contributed at least one week of service to Lourdes per year working in the Domain aside from our Pilgrimage for at least five years and have committed to continue this service for as long as they are able. This medal is worn by members of “Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes”.

## UNIFORM PHOTOS



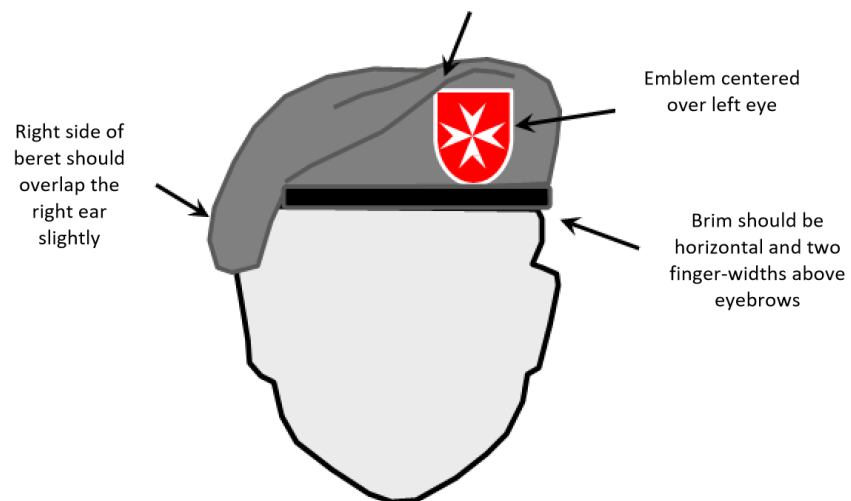
### The Proper Wearing Of Berets:

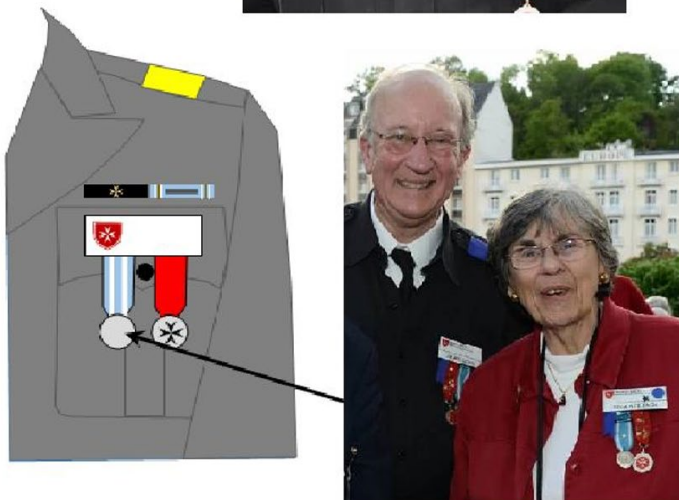
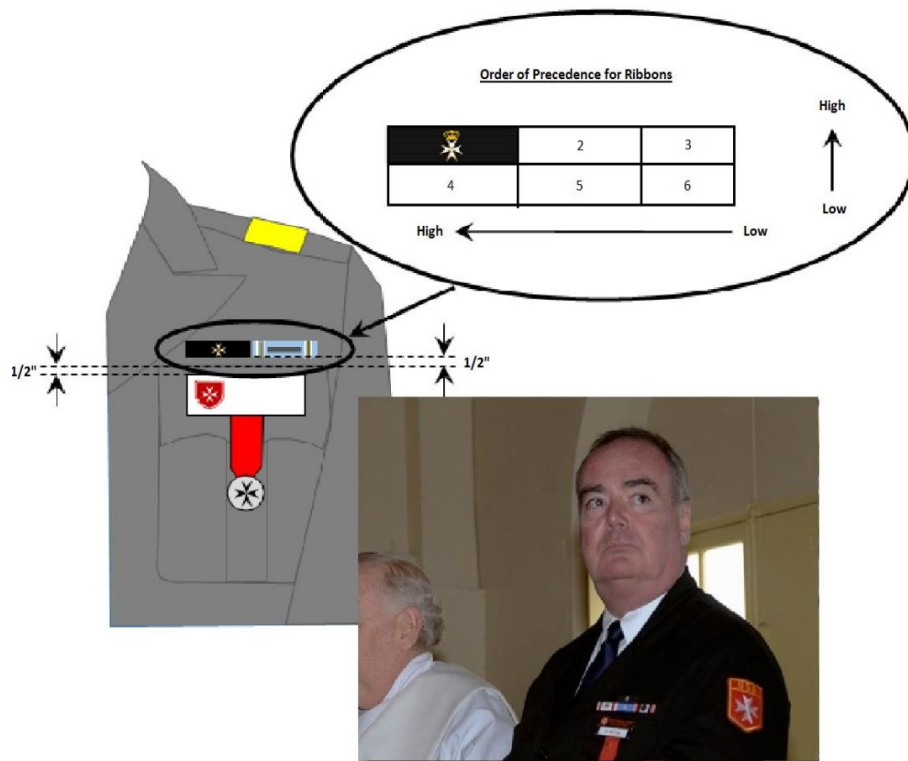
1. The Emblem on the beret should be centered over the left eye.
2. The brim of the beret should be horizontal and two finger-widths above both eyebrows.
3. The right side of the beret should overlap the right ear slightly.
4. The crease on top should extend forward, in front of the stiff flashing on 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.

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





## UNIFORM FAQ'S

- **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.

- **When must I wear the uniform?**

All week, except for travel days and dinner on the last evening. If you are an Affiliates you may be required to wear the uniform in the airports.

- **Are commemorative pins allowed on the uniform?**

Yes, but only if they are approximately the size of a normal lapel pin. Please be discreet 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.

- **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. Service ribbons are not worn by women.

- **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.

- **When do women wear their sweater and veil?**

Anytime they are not in their hotel.

- **Are there laundry facilities available at the hotel?**

No. Please pack accordingly.

- **Are black baseball caps or cowboy hats with the Order of Malta Emblem acceptable?**

No.

- **Is any other type of headgear for men other than the beret acceptable?**

No.

- **Is it acceptable to wear the beret during Mass?**

No. This guideline includes the Grotto Mass.

- **What should I do with my beret when I take it off?**

It should be tucked under the left epaulet.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.