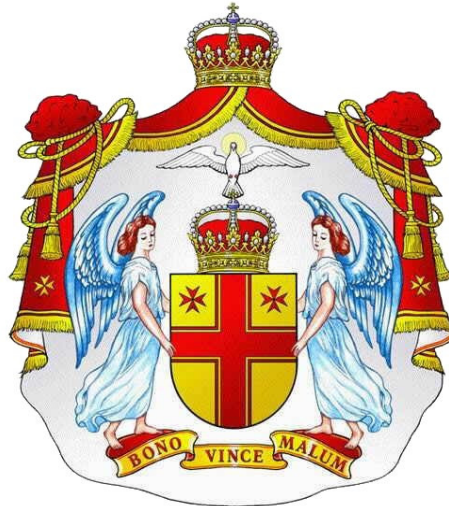


# The Articles, Bylaws and Constitution of The Order of St. Isidore of Seville



Founded ~ 2000 Anno Domini  
In the country of the United Kingdom  
Articles introduced and made into law (27 April 2009 Anno Domini)  
*“O Blessed St. Isidore, Lead Us to our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.”*

## **Decree of Implementation**

A Decree Motu Proprio of the Governor General and Grand Master:

We, Joshua Copeland, Governor General, and Knight of the Collar of the Order of St. Isidore of Seville, do, by these Presents, Establish, Ordain and Decree the following Articles, Bylaws and the Constitutional Charter of the said Sovereign Order given under Our Sign, Seal and Manual, on the, this day of 27 April, 2009 Anno Domini.

## **Article of the First**

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### **Of The Bylaws and the Constitution**

These Bylaws and the Constitution of the Confraternity, herewith is established the Order of St. Isidore of Seville with the official name being "The Order of Saint Isidore of Seville".

## **Article of the Second**

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### **Of the Mottoes of the Order**

In recognition of the fact that the Founders of the Order are principally English Templar Knights, a normative Motto of the Confraternity of the Order shall continue to be English.

***"Overcome Evil with Good"***

These said four cardinal principles of Skill, Loyalty, Generosity and Gallantry shall form the whole basis of the aims and purposes of the Order, of the work of the Members and of the life of the Confraternity.

There shall also be a Motto in Latin on the official badge and decorations, thus uniting this Order with all other Orders of the same Chivalric tradition and purpose through the words,

***"Bono Vince Mallum"***

These said Pillars of "overcoming Evil" shall be the watchwords of the Officers and of the Members in all their endeavours.

## **Article of the Third**

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### **Of the Aims and Purposes of the Order**

The Aims and Purposes of the Order are and shall be

- To affirm a belief in One Supreme Creator, God Almighty, and in the saving Power of the Cross and of His Son, Our Lord and Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, and in the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete to honor the Holy Memory of the Blessed St. Isidore, Teacher and Doctor, and to celebrate his Feast Day annually.

- On the 4th of April to uphold the spirit of Nobility and Chivalry in the World and to continue the Chivalric Traditions of the Medieval Crusading and other Military Orders to bring about greater Understanding between all Peoples and Nations of the World by the inclusion in the Order - in an auxiliary capacity when necessary.

- Of representatives of various Countries and Creeds, thus establishing a Universal Fraternity of Nobility to always affirm and uphold the absolute right of Freedom of Conscience and Religious belief and to resist racism and prejudice at all times to uphold the absolute equality as to Right and Dignity of all male and female persons to encourage support of the Works of Charity and Humanitarian Endeavors by its Members and to reward where applicable Services rendered to Humanity in all Fields of Achievement.

- To encourage responsible use of the Internet and educate members of the order and the public at large about the dangers of improper and immoral use of the web. And wherever possible to direct them towards resources that will help them avoid temptation and improper use.

## **Article the Fourth**

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### **Of Entry into and of Departure and Dismissal from the Order**

Entry into the Order is based upon:

- The demonstration of appropriate Merit, Good Character, Service to Humanity, Gallantry and adherence to the rules of chivalry to the satisfaction of the Governor General.
- Attained the age of twenty for Full Membership as a Knight or Dame or eighteen for Squires or Ladies-in-Waiting.
- Accept and acknowledge the Christian beliefs as contained in the Nicene Creed
- Acceptance of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.

- Respect the right of other Christian Churches to worship according to their own doctrines.
- Swearing of an Oath of Fealty to the Order.

There is no Investiture Fee, however donations or purchases from the Order for goods are intended to defray the costs of the Orders use of services of the Internet.

Instruments of entry – There is in no way a purchase of Honors.

The promotion for each Rank shall be deemed by the Grand Council signed by the Governor General or his Designate Officer in the Grand Magistry. The Investiture certificate to the Order shall be signed and dated by the Designated Officer and electronically delivered to the Member before the conferral of Honors and shall be according to the Form and Substance prescribed in these, the Articles, Bylaws and the Constitution of the Order.

The Spouse of a successful Applicant is not automatically ennobled at the same Rank of membership, and is not entitled to any of the same Rights and Privileges thereof, nor is automatically a member of the order. Knighthood in this Order is not inheritable. Persons wishing to depart from the Order shall inform the Governor General or his Designated Officer in the Grand Magistry in writing of their Resignation. Dismissal from the Order shall be invoked only for the gravest Cause and for the most recalcitrant dishonoring of the Oath of Fealty and of the Aims and Purposes of the Order.

Dismissal shall always be preceded by intervention with the Member concerned by the Governor General or his Designated Officer in the Grand Magistry, to attempt to resolve the Matters at Issue.

If, after informal efforts have been unsuccessful, it is determined that Dismissal is appropriate, the Member concerned shall be informed of the Dismissal by written Notice. Should the Member concerned request a Hearing before the Grand Magistry, such a Hearing will be convened at a place and time of reasonable convenience - and a Motion of Dismissal shall then be made by the Chief Justiciar after which the member concerned shall be provided with an opportunity to answer.

Once the Motion and the Answer have been heard, the Grand Magistry shall vote upon the Motion of Dismissal - and a majority vote shall decide the Issue.

## **Article of the Fifth**

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### **Of the Governance of the Order**

The Supreme Governing Authority of the Order shall be the personal autocracy of the Governor General acting upon the advice of the Grand Magistry.

In a case where Dereliction of duty is alleged against any Officer, informal efforts to reach a resolution will always precede a Dismissal by the Grand Magistry. Dismissal itself, cannot occur until the Officer concerned has been presented with the case alleged and has then been given a reasonable opportunity to make an answer.

As Officers of Grand Magistry serve at the pleasure of the Governor General, the immediately foregoing procedure assumes that the Governor General has determined not to dismiss an Officer about whom there is concern.

Normally, the Order shall be led and Administered by the Governor General, whom is of Rank equal with all other Governor Generals and/or Grand Masters.

Should circumstances warrant, an appointee may serve in the place of the Governor General and will be so designated by him in writing.

The Governor General shall suggest a Grand Magistry. The Grand Magistry shall assist in administering the Affairs and Activities of the Confraternity of the Order, in accordance with the Description of the Offices in these, the Articles and Bylaws of the Order and the Constitution and voted on by the GC, or other members.

Each Officer of the Grand Magistry, including the Governor General, shall have one vote. Meetings of the Grand Magistry shall ordinarily be chaired by The Governor General or in his absence by his personal designate, and tie votes shall be decided by the inclusiveness of the Grand Council.

The Pories of the Order around the World shall constitute as an Advisory Council to the Governor General the Grand Magistry and to the Grand Council.

## **Article of the Sixth**

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### **Of the Titles of the Officers of the Order**

To administer its Affairs and to carry out its worthy Purposes, the Governance of the Order - in the Person of the Governor General - shall, from time to time - appoint to Office some or all of the following Officers, who acting together with the Governor General, shall constitute and shall form a Grand Magistry.

Some or all Offices shall be for a term determined appropriate. If the need arises, more than one Office may be combined and held by one Member - but care shall always be taken not to concentrate too much responsibility in one single Officer on an ongoing basis.

The Offices comprising the Grand Magistry shall be some or all of the following-

The Governor General and Grand Master

The Chancellor

The Chief Justiciar

The Marshall of Arms

The Commissioner

The Chaplain General

The Vice Governor Generals

The Vice Chaplain Generals

The Secretary/ Registrar and Vice Chancellors

All Other Knights of the Collar

Only an honorable Knight or Dame, holding the Rank of Knight of the Collar or Knight Grand Cross may normally be appointed to serve as an Officer of Grand Magistry.

Whilst a period of Office may be pre-determined, Officers of Grand Magistry serve at the pleasure of the Governor General.

## **Article the Seventh**

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### **Of the Office of the Governor General**

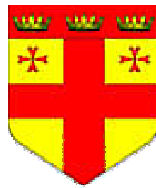
The Governor General is the Juridical Head of the Confraternity of the Order. The Governor General becomes a Judge of Rank immediately upon Succession to Office. It is the Office of the Governor General which Names and appoints all Dignitaries and Officers of the Order. All Diplomas of Appointment are released either Motu Proprio or de jure.

The Governor General will be a rank no less than Knight of the Collar.

Upon the recommendation of the requisite Jurisdictional Officer. This Office also encompasses that of the Chancellor of the Order's Court of Honor. As the Order is sovereign and Independent, its Head may establish Diplomatic and Ambassadorial relations with other Orders, Sovereign Powers and Nations. The Governor General is primarily responsible for the continuation and successful Conduct of the Order while alive.

The Governor General also acts as the Ambassador for the Order, to other orders regarding relations. It is also the responsibility of the Governor General to ensure that a Successor - or a Regent awaiting the majority of the Successor - stands ready in the Confraternity of the Order to assume Office at the time of the present occupant's death, until such a time that a permanent Governor General can be voted on.

The Coat of Arms for the office of Governor General is shown below:



## **Article of the Eighth**

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### **Of the Chancellor**

The Grand Chancellor is the Head of the Chancellery of the Order and the chief Administrator. The Chancellor is second in Command to the Governor General and is normally considered the Heir Presumptive to the Office until such a vote is deemed for a permanent Governor General.

This Office carries out Special Duties assigned from time to time by the Governor General, including representing the Governor General at functions which the Governor General cannot attend, or in the event of there being no sitting Governor General. This Office also acts in the Stead of the Governor General in the judicial administration of the Affairs of the Order when the Governor General is prevented from doing so by illness or some other serious Cause. This Office may also include Vice Chancellors in other parts of the world to be the authority thereof and report only to the Grand Chancellor or his delegates.

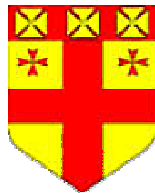
Ordinarily, the Grand Chancellor should have obtained professional training in business management, or other such like skills. The duties of the Grand Chancellor and Lord Privy Seal may include some or all of the following:

- To advise the Governor General on Appointments of Members to the Grand Magistry, when requested to do so.
- To register and implement the Decisions of the Grand Magistry
- To maintain the good order and proper upkeep of the Records of the Order
- To be the Custodian of the Great Seal of the Governor General and of the Great Magisterial Seal of the Grand Magistry and the seal of the Order
- To stand at the right hand of the Governor General during all Ceremonies of the Order
- To prepare a Budget for the Chancellery and to submit the same to the Grand Magistry for approval and to be the Historian of the Order

This Office may be filled by either a Lay or Ecclesiastical membership.

The Chancellor will be a rank no less then Knight of the Collar.

The Coat of Arms for the office of Chancellor is shown below:





## **Article of the Ninth**

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### **Of the Chief Justiciar**

The Chief Justiciar is the chief Legal Officer of the Order. When circumstances require, additional Justiciars may be appointed to assist the Advocate. Ordinarily, the Chief Justiciar should have received scholastic training in Law - and should generally be familiar with Medieval Law and Codes of Chivalry.

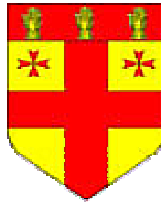
This Office is the Custodian of the Bylaws and the Constitution of the Order and is the Authority, under the Governor General and the Grand Magistry, by which they are carried out.

The Chief Justiciar is also the Protector of the Order.

This Office may be filled by either a Lay or Ecclesiastical membership.

The Chief Justiciar will be a rank no less than Knight Grand Cross.

The Coat of Arms for the office Chief Justiciar is shown below:



## **Article of the Tenth**

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### **Of the Marshall of Arms**

The Grand Marshall is the chief Ceremonial Functionary of the Order and is the head of the College of Arms (see the COA bylaws). This Office is in charge of the arranging and the carrying out of Formal Ceremonies, if any.

This Office heads the College of Arms of the Order and reports directly to the Governor General or his delegates of appointment.

The Marshall of Arms shall normally be schooled in Heraldry.

The College of Heralds - if there is a need for one - is appointed by and assists the Marshall of Arms. The Authority for the Design of all Flags, Banners, Arms, Dress and Insignia of the Order also resides in this Office.

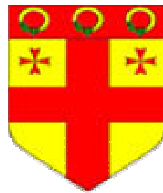
The Marshall of Arms stands to the left of the Governor General during Ceremonies. It is the Marshall of Arms who judges the appropriateness of all Arms borne by Knights and Dames of the Order and formally registers their Design.

Archives pertaining to Arms and Insignia are also the responsibility of the Marshall of Arms.

This Office may be filled by either a Lay or Ecclesiastical membership.

The Marshall of Arms will be a rank no less than Knight Grand Cross.

The Coat of Arms for the office of Marshall of Arms is shown below:



### **Article the Eleventh**

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#### **Of Commissioner of the Exchequer**

This Office encompasses the duties of Treasurer and chief Financial Officer of the Order. Ordinarily, it shall be held by an individual who has received professional training and certification in Accountancy and such like subjects, especially if the order decides to become a non-profit organization.

The Commissioner of the Exchequer shall also receive and disperse such monies as are destined for specific Charitable Purposes, as directed by the Governor General and the Grand Magistracy. Any monies not distributed by the Commissioner for charitable purposes will be held in an account with a reputable and ethical Bank in the country of residence of the Commissioner.

Such a bank account may include the use and issuing of cheques, but not the use or issue of a debit or credit card. It is the preferred option that members are reimbursed by the

Commissioner, for any expenses, by the use of cheque, money order or “PayPal” money transfer rather than using the Order’s bank account directly.

This Office may be filled by either a Lay or Ecclesiastical membership.

The Commissioner of the Exchequer will be a rank no less than Knight Grand Cross.

The Coat of Arms for the office of Commissioner of the Exchequer is shown below:

\*one to be devised

## **Article the Twelfth**

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### **Of the Chaplain General**

The Prelate is responsible for the Religious Observances and the performance of appropriate Ceremonial Rites on the Days of the Feasts.

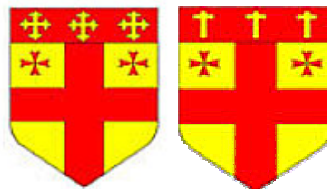
This specifically includes the Feast of St. Isidore - on 4th of April - which shall be the High Feast of the Order.

Ordinarily, the Chaplain General shall be an ordained Christian Ecclesiastic. There may be a Vice Chaplain General, if circumstances require, who, similarly, should be an ordained Christian Ecclesiastic.

This Office **MUST** be filled by an Ecclesiastical member.

The Chaplain General will be a rank no less than Knight of the Collar and the Vice Chaplain General will be a rank no less than Knight Grand Cross.

The Coat of Arms for the office of Chaplain General and Vice Chaplain General are shown below:



## **Article of the Thirteenth**

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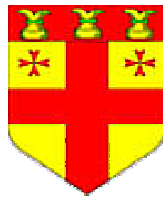
### **Of the Secretary, Registrar and Vice Chancellor**

This Office forms a part of the Chancellery of the Order and reports to the Chancellor and Privy Seal. Responsibilities of the Secretary and Vice Chancellor include the maintenance of a Register of the addresses and other contact information for each of the Knights and Dames of the Order. The Secretary also manages the Archives of the Order at the direction of the Chancellor – and the Heraldic Archives, which are the province of the Marshall of Arms, as the Registrar.

This Office may be filled by either a Lay or Ecclesiastical membership.

The Vice Chancellor will be a rank no less than Knight Grand Cross.

The Coat of Arms for the office of Vice Chancellor is shown below:



## **Article of the Fourteenth**

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### **Of the Grand Council**

The Grand Council is made up of members of the rank no lower than Grand Officer and are the priory leaders or other persons designated by the Grand Magistry. Duties are to include the maintenance of the priories, regular contact with its members, voting where applicable and may be lay or ecclesiastical, and are associate members to the Grand Magistry.

The Grand Magistry and the Grand Council may appoint offices of appointment to any and all ranks within the Order without promotion of rank thereby establishing work within the Order to promote good works, examples being minor heralds, admissions officers, newsletter journalists and Editors, etc.

## **Article of the Fifteenth**

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### **Of the Ranks of Membership and Insignia**

All of the Ranks of Members and the Commanderies and Pories, Grand Council and Grand Magistry of the Order together form and constitute a Confraternity. For both Gentlemen and Ladies, there are five Ranks of Membership as either Lay or four for Ecclesiastical, these are not overseen as a separate entity but rather maintained on a Grand Magisterial level.

#### **For Gentlemen, these are:**

Knight (KStI)  
Knight Commander (KCStI)  
Knight Grand Officer (KGOSTI)  
Knight Grand Cross (KGCStI)  
Knight of the Collar (KCCStI)

#### **For Ladies, these are:**

Dame (DStI)  
Dame Commander (DCStI)  
Dame Grand Officer (DGOSTI)  
Dame Grand Cross (DGCStI)  
Dame of the Collar (DCCStI)

#### **For Ecclesiastical serving as a Chaplain within the Order:**

Chaplain Commander (CHCStI)  
Chaplain Grand Officer (CHGOSTI)  
Chaplain Grand Cross (CHGCStI)  
Chaplain of the Collar (CHCCStI)

#### **Additional Ranks**

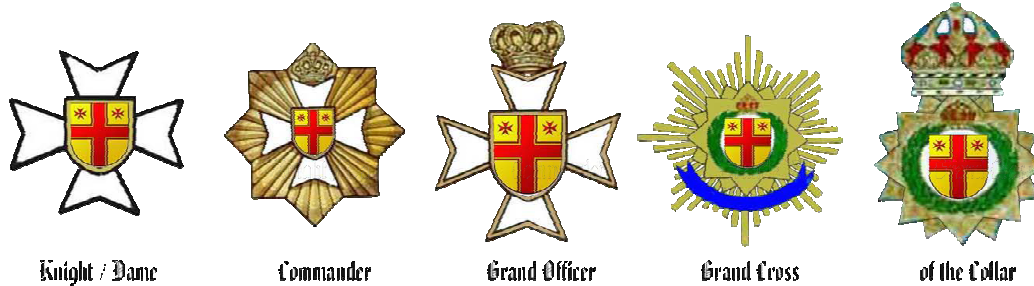
Members reaching the age of Seventy-Five years who wish to obtain the Title of "Knight Venerable" or "Dame Venerable" shall provide a certified copy of their birth document to the Governor General or to his Designate Officer in the Grand Magistry.

Lesser Ranks - such as that of Squire - with attendant Conditions of Entry, etc., may be Decreed by the Governor General and Grand Magistry to meet the needs of the Order.

Companion - A Companion is a member that has no obligations what so ever, can cast no vote, but holds the purposes of the order at hand.

Regarding promotions- Promotions are voted on by the Grand Council on a basis of continued participation, works, involvement, etc.

Insignia for each rank will be a Badge as shown below:



### **Article of the Sixteenth**

#### **Of the Order of Merit**

The Order of Merit is awarded at the discretion of the Grand Magistry. In all cases, a vote will be taken though the Governor General would have the final say.

All nominations should be made through the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor should then present these to the Grand Commander/Governor General and the Grand Council. All awards should be catalogued and recorded and should be made publicly through the general announcements board including a full 'citation' detailing the reasons for this award. A record should also be made publicly on the Order's website unless the citation contains sensitive information, in which case only the level and date of award along with the name of the recipient should be published.

Awards of an OM should be made where a promotion as a reward is not appropriate or possible. In all cases, if someone has been promoted for their work they should not be rewarded with an OM as well unless the deeds are truly exceptional

The Order of Merit will be displayed as either a Medal suspended from a Ribbon or just the Ribbon.



The award confers upon the recipient the entitlement to use the post-nominal designations OMStI (III), OMStI (II) or OMStI(I) dependant on the class awarded. This award confers no other titles or privileges.

The order of wear for awards should conform to the following guidelines unless they conflict with the member's military or civil rules & regulations for the wearing of orders and decorations:

From Right to Left, on the wearers left breast – OMStI (I), (II), (III). These are worn after any membership medals that are worn on the left breast.

Subsequent awards of an OM shall be recognized by an Oak Leaf Cluster or other such emblem as directed by the Grand Magistrty

**For Award of:**

**Class III**

This award serves as recognition for low-level efforts, which have a positive effect on the Order in various ways.

**Criteria for award of Class III**

This level of award is purely at the discretion of the Grand Magistrty and is available to members and non-members of the Order.

Examples of suitable causes would be:

- If donations are made on behalf of the Order to outside charitable organizations (proof required), as a guide a total figure of \$300+ would be the level of donations expected.
- When work carried out for the Order where a promotion would not be appropriate.

- If service is undertaken over a period of time within a community such as chaplaincy, emergency response, etc. This should be over a period of years and proof would be required.
- If members who put effort into various aspects of the Order's activities, but not one particular aspect.

## **Class II**

This Award is designed to be a more specific award for particular efforts within the Order and is only awarded to members.

### **Criteria for award of Class II**

This level of award is for recognition of significant efforts on behalf of the Order or in Chivalric endeavours

Examples of suitable cause would be:

- Members of the Order who bring money into the Order, through their work on behalf of the Order or through an outside agency, as a guide a total figure of \$500+ would be the level of donations expected.
- Members that significantly donate to charities on behalf of the Order, and can prove documentation as a guide a total figure of \$300+ per year would be the level of donations expected..
- Members who donate their time and effort to particular areas of the Order, for example, the College of Arms or the newsletter.

## **Class I**

This Award is the highest level and is awarded for works far and away above that of Class II and is only awarded to members.

### **Criteria for award of Class I**

Significant work within or for The Order of St. Isidore of Seville. This can be of any description, from running part of the website, organizing aspects of the Order; etc., the point is that the work should be significant and/or sustained.

*or*

Significant work with a wide-ranging effect to the glory of God outside the Order.



## **Article the Seventeenth**

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### **Of the Form of Address of the Members**

Gentlemen Members, of all Ranks, being Knights, may be addressed by the Title of "Chevalier" (abr. Chev.) and their First or Christian name, in both written and oral situations.

The Title, "Dame" and their first or Christian name, in both written and oral situations, may address Lady Members, of all Ranks, being Dame's.

Officers of the Order having the Rank of Officer of the Grand Magistry shall be given the right of the style His or Her Excellency (abr. H.E). Officers retain these Titles for Life - even after retiring from Office - unless they are removed for Dereliction.

Members who Resign or are dismissed from the Order also lose all claims to Title, and to the Rights and Privileges that attach thereto.

Knights and Dames may use these respective Titles both inside and outside of the Order - when Titles are employed outside the Order, some measure of discretion is encouraged.

## **Article of the Eighteenth**

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### **Of the Lives and Devotion of the Knights and Dames**

The Knights and Dames of the Order shall be guided in their day-to-day lives by the Mottoes of the Order - and should remember always that the meaning of the word "Overcome".

They shall strive to keep the Pledge of their Oath of Fealty.

They shall also render due Service and respect to the Governor General.

Members of the Order are encouraged to make a special effort to study Chivalric Tradition, to acquaint themselves with Literature on the subject - and to always act in a Courtly manner both to fellow Members and to those outside of the Confraternity.

They should also make an important place for some form of Morning and Evening Prayer in their lives, remembering the Governor General and the needs of the Order before Almighty God - and should read a portion of the Holy Scripture daily if at all possible as well as other works of Devotion and the Life of our Patron Saint.

## **Article the Nineteenth**

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### **Of the Works of Charity and of Voluntary Donations**

The Members of the Order, of all Ranks, are expected to devote themselves to some form of Charitable or Humanitarian Service in the World or in the Community in which they reside - and to serve in a local Commandery of the Order, if one exists.

Where there is a particular charity named within the order, all members are expected to participate in some form or capacity. The Knights and Dames shall also have an especial care for the needs of Gentle folk of limited means in the maintenance of their Dignity and Station. They shall further, when the means to do so permit, provide donations of Books dealing with Religious/chivalrous subjects to appropriate Libraries and Institutions – or donate such like reading matter to Gentle folk of limited means who would benefit thereby.

Yearly, by the Fourth of April, the Members and the Commanderies and Pories shall report their Charitable and other Activities in turn to the Governor General, on the participating member boards, or his Designate Officer and Grand Magistry, the Grand Council or the National appointments- and selected such reports may appear in the Monthly "Newsletter." Also, from time to time, the Governor General, the Commissioner of the Exchequer or other Designate Officer in Grand Magistry or the Grand Council may bring a specific charitable need to the attention of the Members for their serious and prayerful consideration.

While no annual Fee is required of Members, those Members of considerable financial means may, from time to time, wish to make a Donation to the Order for its Maintenance and Good Works. In the case of a substantial Donation, Letters of Receipt and of Appreciation may be requested from the Governor General or his Designate Officer in Grand Magistry or the Grand Council.

## **Article of the Twentieth**

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### **Of the Arms and Insignia of the Order**

The Blazon of Arms of the Order of St. Isidore of Seville:

“Or, a Cross Gules, two Maltese Crosses Gules in Chief.”

The official colors of the Order shall be Red and Gold - and shall feature prominently in all insignia thereof.

The insignia shall consist of, but not be limited to, the following:

- The Membership Medal of St. Isidore, each with Neck Ribband named the Collarette
- The Breast Stars
- The Sash with Badge
- The pins crosses

The Marshall of Arms may also authorize additional Insignia, Arms, Dress, etc., from time to time - with the approval of the Governor General, Grand Magistry and the Grand Council.

The Order's arms were granted by, and are registered with, the Collegium Heraldicae Russiae.

### **Article of the Twenty-First**

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#### **Of the Oath of Fealty**

No person may be admitted into the Confraternity of the Order unless he or she has first sworn the Oath as follows, as well as agreed to the Nicene Creed –

**"I swear by my Honour to uphold all Chivalrous Ideals and by all my Actions to add Lustre to the Sovereign and Independent Order of St. Isidore of Seville so help me God."**

### **Article of the Twenty-Second**

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#### **Of the Official Language of Communication**

The official language of the Order is English - with a preference for traditional British spellings and style (For example honour, rather than honor.)

This practice is established for convenience and efficiency only - and shall not be interpreted by anyone as suggesting that all human languages are not equally Worthy.

## **Article of the Twenty Third**

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### **Of the Formation and the Governance of the Commanderies and the Priors**

#### **Priors**

One Priory is automatically formed upon membership of at least 5 Knights or Dames of the Order residing within the Country. The Priors will oversee all Commanderies within their jurisdiction and represent them on the Grand Council.

As membership grows in any one country, the initial Priory may be divided as geographically suited. This process may be directed by the Grand Council or recommended by the Officers of the Initial Priory and approved by the Grand Council.

#### **Commanderies**

Each State within the United States or equivalent outside of the United States will automatically form a Commandery subordinate to its respective Priory if at least five Knights and Dames of the Order reside within the location and a State Chaplain and a State Lieutenant may be appointed upon approval of the Grand Magistry.

Each Commandery shall have a Council to administer its Affairs. This Council may consist of a Lieutenant and State Chaplain of as appointed by the Members and approved by the Priory of the Country or Country Division as well as the Grand Council

#### **Keeps**

Any additional locality where at least 5 Knights and Dames of the Order reside, a Keep subordinate to its local Commandery may be formed.

The Keeps, Commanderies, and Priors shall carry out Charitable and Social activities for the Good of the Order, its members and of Society within their local Jurisdiction. This is how the order is divided in order to assume officers and local correspondences. Local officers hold the care not the command of them.

## **Article of the Twenty-Fourth**

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### **Of Order of Precedence**

Within the Order the following is the Order of Precedence. The only exception is when the person holds a particular office is of a rank higher than that office. In that instance they fall in the grouping of their rank by seniority.

#### **Knights/Dames of the Collar**

Governor General  
Chancellor  
Chaplain-General  
Other Knights/Dames of the Collar (by seniority)

#### **Knights/Dames Grand Cross**

Vice Governor-Generals (by date of appointment)  
Vice Chancellor  
Vice Chaplain-Generals (by date of appointment)  
Chief Justiciar  
Commissioner of the Exchequer  
Marshall of Arms  
Other Knights/Dames Grand Cross (by seniority)

#### **Knight/Dame Grand Officers**

Magisterial Delegates (by date of appointment)  
National Lieutenants (by date of appointment)  
National Chaplains (by date of appointment)  
Principal Herald/Registrar CoA  
Other Knight/Dame Grand Officers (by seniority)

#### **Knight/Dame Commanders**

State Lieutenants (by date of appointment)  
State Chaplains (by date of appointment)  
Congregational Chaplains (by date of appointment)  
Herald Extraordinary  
Other Knight/Dame Commanders (by seniority)

#### **Knights/Dames**

Seville/Jerusalem Pursuivants  
Other Knights/Dames (by seniority)

#### **Squires/Ladies-in-Waiting**

By Seniority

#### **Companions**

All are Equal

## **Article of the Twenty-Fifth**

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### **Of Amendments to These Articles of the Bylaws and Constitutions.**

Amendments of Substance to these, the Articles of Bylaws and the Constitution of the Order, may be made only upon a majority vote of the Grand Magistry.

The Governor General or his Designate Officer in the Grand Magistry may authorize Minor housekeeping and amendments, by means of a **motu proprio** Decree, issued by the Governor General.

Amendments may be introduced and invented and annexed by the members of the Grand Magistry or the Grand Council by vote on such later amendments voted in, they will be annexed or numbered next in the series the of Articles.

## **Article of the Twenty-Sixth**

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### **Of the ‘Knights Award’**

The ‘Knights’ Award’ is given by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Grand Council to reward those members who exemplify the virtues expected of them as outlined in the ‘Chivalric Code’ a copy of which can be found on the Order’s website. The member need not have participated in any great act but would be expected to have shown themselves to be a defender of the weak, courteous, strong enough to overcome adversity and lived as much as possible by the commands laid down in the Bible.

The award is made in the form of an electronic certificate, provided in a .pdf format, which can be displayed as the recipient sees fit. This award confers no post-nominal letters or additional title.