



Dear Confrere:

The Federal Association's Admissions Committee commends your sponsorship of an applicant to the Order of Malta. There are a number of considerations and responsibilities of sponsors that we would like to bring to your attention early in the process.

As a sponsor, you should have a personal or professional relationship with the applicant and be able to affirm that the individual meets the three most important criteria for membership in the Order:

- The applicant is a lay man or woman, an active and practicing Catholic in good standing, who has consistently supported the teachings of the Catholic Church on all matters of faith and morals.
- The applicant should have a history of dedicated service to the Church and community and be ready and willing to become involved in the hands-on works and ministries that serve the sick and the poor and/or defend the Faith.
- The applicant should be respected by his or her peers in public, professional, social, and civic activities.

Please be sure, early in the process, that the applicant has read and studied the [Constitution and Code](#), and [Regulations and Commentary](#) of the Order, especially the chapters I through VII. Be certain that the applicant knows that he or she is applying to become a member of a religious and Hospitaller order. Membership in the Order of Malta will require a commitment to develop one's personal spirituality in a community of members who are dedicated to providing personal and hands-on service, whenever practicable, to the poor and sick.

Please ensure that the individual knows the full financial obligation of membership: passage fee, robes/capes, annual dues obligation, and annual stewardship appeal contribution. Additionally, the sponsor should discuss the costs associated with participating in the pilgrimages to Lourdes and Our Lady of Good Help, as well as other activities of the Federal Association.

Please forward this application to the applicant via e-mail. The applicant is required to type in all of the responses on his/her computer. Once all required fields are completed, the applicant must print out the document, sign pages 12 and 14, and circulate the application for original signatures from both sponsors and the Regional Hospitaller. Thereafter, the applicant must send the application and all supporting materials to the Federal Association office by **Friday, November 5, 2021**. Thank you again for your assistance and support of the admissions process. You will find the application included with this letter.

If you have any questions about an applicant's qualifications, please email me at admissions@orderofmalta-federal.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clarion Johnson, KM

Chairman, Admissions Committee



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

General Criteria:

- The applicant is a lay man or woman (at least 25 years old) who is an active and practicing Roman Catholic in good standing and supports the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in all matters of faith and morals.
- The applicant has a record of service to the Catholic Church and to Catholic-related causes by lending professional expertise and “hands-on” volunteer service to the poor and sick.
- The applicant should be respected by his or her peers in public, professional, social, and civic activities.

Note:

- Generally applicants should not be members of or have a substantial commitment to another religious order.
- Ordinarily applicants – excluding judges – should not currently hold an elected political office. Any member desiring to propose an applicant holding an elected political office or who is a figure associated with public policy must first request permission from the President to propose such a person for membership.
- Applicants may not possess a felony record, or have been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.
- Applicants may not have publicly taken positions contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, unless they have publicly renounced those positions. This would include membership in organizations that are directly and unequivocally at odds with the catechism of the Catholic Church, e.g. Freemasons.

SPONSORSHIP

- Applicants must be sponsored by two members unrelated to the applicant or to each other. Only Knights or Dames of the Federal Association may sponsor an applicant. In general, sponsors should not propose more than two applicants, and sponsors should be a member of the Order for at least 2 years before sponsorship. The sponsors and applicant should discuss all the criteria for admission before completing an application. In addition to the criteria listed above, this discussion should include the Formation program, participation in spiritual and service programs, and the various financial requirements involved with membership in the Order. To avoid possible embarrassment, in general, at least one of the sponsors must know the applicant for more than a year to affirm that he or she satisfies all of these criteria. The sponsors must review the application and supporting materials prior to it being sent to the Federal Association Executive Office and affix their original signatures to it.
- If the applicant is accepted into the Formation program both sponsors understand that they will actively mentor their candidate through the formation process. **At least one sponsor should attend the two-day, "Day of Formation" program with the candidate in Washington, DC in March 2022 (exact dates TBA).**
- **Sponsor Letter** - Both sponsors must submit an original signed letter of recommendation (no scan or e-mail) with this application. The sponsor's letter must state how the applicant is known to the sponsor and it should show *personal knowledge and insight* about the individual and attest to the person's qualifications to become a member of the Order of Malta.
- **Letter from current Pastor** - The applicant's current Pastor must submit an original letter of recommendation with this application. The letter should state that the applicant is a practicing Catholic in good standing, indicate how long he or she has been a member of the parish, and provide examples of the applicant's service to the parish.
- **Regional Hospitaller** - Every applicant must meet with the Regional Hospitaller (the coordinator of Order of Malta – Federal Association activities in that area) before submitting this application to the Admissions Committee. This meeting will allow the applicant to learn more about the volunteer projects and spiritual activities of that region. The completed and signed application must also be reviewed and signed by the Regional Hospitaller.

FORMATION PROGRAM

- If an applicant is recommended by the Admissions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, he or she will be required to participate in the Association's Formation program. **Every candidate must attend the two-day "Day of Formation" program in Washington, DC in March 2022 (exact dates TBA).**
- During the “Year of Formation” the candidate will be required to attend at least two of the Association's spiritual activities and participate as a volunteer at two of the Association's personal service projects.
- If the candidate successfully completes this program, he or she will be reviewed for approval by the Formation Committee and the Federal Association's President in the spring of 2023. If approved, his or her name will then be submitted to the Sovereign Council for final approval, and if approved, the candidate will be invested into the Order in the autumn of 2023.

FINANCIAL

- In the year of Investiture, every candidate will be required to pay an initiation fee, known as "Passage Fees." The Passage Fee for the Class of 2021 is currently \$4,500 for candidates age 40+, \$4,100 for candidates age 35-39, and \$2,900 for candidates under age 35. A candidate's payment age is determined by his or her age on December 31 in the year of approval by the Sovereign Council. If the application is unexpectedly not approved by the Sovereign Council, the Passage Fee is fully refunded to the candidate. Candidates should be aware that Passage Fees are subject to change.
- Beginning in the first full year of membership following approval by the Sovereign Council, all members pay Annual Dues. Currently, the 2021 Annual Dues are \$1,650 per year. Members under the age of 40 pay one half of Annual Dues, or \$825 in 2021. Candidates should know that Dues are subject to change.
- Members are requested and expected to contribute to the Federal Association's Annual Stewardship Appeal.

Address Suite/Office # City State ZIP

Business Phone Business Email

Education

Undergraduate Degree

Graduate Degree

Additional Education Degree

Additional Education Degree

Additional Education Degree/Certificate

Spouse Information (if applicable)

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Title | Last Name | First Name | Middle Name |
| <hr/> | | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Maiden Name/Birth Name | Birthplace | Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) |
| <hr/> | | |

Is your spouse also applying for membership in the Order of Malta in the candidate Class of 2023?

- Yes
- No

Please note: If your spouse is also applying for membership in the Class of 2023, s/he must submit a separate application. You may leave the rest of the Spouse Information fields blank if your spouse is completing a separate application.

Home Address (please leave blank if same as that of applicant)

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|-----|
| Street | Apartment/Suite # | |
| <hr/> | | |
| City | State | ZIP |
| <hr/> | | |

Personal Contact Information

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Home Phone | Mobile Phone |
| <hr/> | |
| Primary Email Address | |
| <hr/> | |

Professional Information

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Professional Title | Employer |
| <hr/> | |

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------|------|-------|-----|
| Address | Suite/Office # | City | State | ZIP |
| <hr/> | | | | |

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Business Phone | Business Email |
| <hr/> | |

Education

Undergraduate

Degree

Graduate

Degree

Additional Education

Degree

Additional Education

Degree

Additional Education

Degree/Certificate

Religious Information

Parish

Pastor

Diocese

Bishop

If you became Roman Catholic as an adult (i.e., RCIA), in what year did you become a Roman Catholic?

Have you ever made public statements, either written or verbal, that could be interpreted as critical of or opposed to the teachings of the Catholic Church on matters of faith or morals; or have you been quoted or cited in the media as having taken such positions?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain:

Are you a member of any other Catholic Orders, religious institutions, or communities?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the level of your involvement with those orders:

Is your spouse a member of any other Catholic Orders, religious institutions or communities? (if applicable)

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the level of his or her involvement with those orders:

Can you state that the Order of Malta will be your “spiritual home”?

- Yes
- No

Family Information

Marital Status: Please check all that apply:

Single, never married

Engaged to be married - Date of expected marriage: _____

Married in the Catholic Church

Married civilly and convalidated by the Catholic Church

Widowed

Divorced, marriage annulled

Divorced, marriage not annulled

Date of Roman Catholic wedding/convalidation

Location of wedding (parish, city, state)

Additional information for consideration:

Children (age 18 and under)

| Name | Date of Birth | Religious Affiliation | Baptized Catholic? |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| | | | <input type="radio"/> No |

| Name | Date of Birth | Religious Affiliation | Baptized Catholic? |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| | | | <input type="radio"/> No |

| Name | Date of Birth | Religious Affiliation | Baptized Catholic? |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="radio"/> Yes |
| | | | <input type="radio"/> No |

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Date of Birth | Religious Affiliation | Baptized Catholic? |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Date of Birth | Religious Affiliation | Baptized Catholic? |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |

| | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| Name | Date of Birth | Religious Affiliation | Baptized Catholic? |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |

Additional information for consideration:

Order of Malta – Federal Association, U.S.A. Involvement and Sponsorship

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sponsor 1 | Relationship to Applicant | Number of years known |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Sponsor 2 | Relationship to Applicant | Number of years known |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Regional Hospitaller | Region | |
| _____ | _____ | |

I have participated in the following Order of Malta spiritual and service activities:

Service to the Church: Please describe 2 important and recent examples of your service to the Church or to Catholic-related organizations. Please list dates and, if applicable, positions held. Do NOT cite examples of financial support.

1.

2.

Community Service to the Poor and Sick: Please describe 2 important and recent examples of other service to the community or involvement in volunteer service to the poor. Please list dates and, if applicable, positions held. Do NOT cite examples of financial support.

1.

2.

Why do you desire to become a member of the Order of Malta?

I hereby **confirm** that I have read and studied the [Constitution and Code](#), and [Regulations and Commentary](#) of the Order, especially the chapters I to VII of the *Regulations and Commentary*.

I hereby **confirm** that I have fulfilled the obligations set out in Code Art. 109 and *Regulations* Chapter VI 2 and 3, especially I confirm that I am required to participate in an introductory course of two continuous days or at least three single days in the first half of my preparatory year and that I am conscious of the spirituality, history and traditions of the Order of Malta and that I intend firmly to participate in the Hospitaller work of the Order regularly.

I hereby **confirm** that I am not part of any Organization which is hostile or considered to be hostile to the Catholic Church or the Order (i.e. the freemasonry).

I hereby **certify** that the above information is complete and true, and I will promptly advise any future changes to the content of this form.

Place, Date

Applicant's Original Signature

Required Supporting Documents

The following required documents must be submitted as part of your application:

1. **Certificate of Baptism** – issued within the last six months, with a raised seal, signed by a priest including front and/or back notations. Please contact the parish in which you were baptized to obtain this document.
 - If you are a convert to the Catholic faith, please provide a new signed original copy of your Christian baptismal certificate (if baptized into another denomination) AND a new sacramental certificate issued within the last six months, with a raised seal, signed by a priest that indicates your reception into full communion with the Catholic Church.
2. **Certificate of Catholic Marriage** (if applicable) – issued within the last six months, with a raised seal, signed by a priest. Please contact the parish where you were married to obtain this document.
 - If you were married in a non-Catholic ceremony, please submit a Certificate of Convalidation/Rescript of Radical Sanation that is signed by a Catholic priest.
 - If you have received an Annulment, please provide a signed copy of the Decree of Nullity with a raised seal, issued by the Tribunal.
 - **Please do not submit a copy of your state-issued marriage license/certificate. This is not sufficient to establish a valid Catholic marriage.**
3. **Letters from both Sponsors** – Hard-Copy with original signatures
4. **Letter from current Pastor** – Hard-Copy with an original signature
5. **Curriculum Vitae** – maximum length two pages
6. **Photo ID** – copy of the biographical page of your valid passport. If you do not have a valid passport, you may provide a copy of your driver's license or other state-issued photo identification.

Applications with incomplete documentation will not be considered by the Admissions Committee. Please call Annalice Mollica at the Federal Association Executive Office (202-331-2494) with any questions.

Signatures

Sponsors – I have met with the applicant, reviewed this application, and approve it being submitted for the consideration of the Admissions Committee.

Name Original Signature Date

Name Original Signature Date

Regional Hospitaller – I have met with the applicant, reviewed this application, and approve it being submitted for the consideration of the Admissions Committee.

Name Original Signature Date

Submitting the Application – It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit a complete application package to the Federal Association by **November 5, 2021**.

My Sponsors have reviewed all of my application materials including required documents, and I attest that all of the information and statements contained and attached herein are true.

Signed: _____
Applicant's Original Signature

Date: _____

All materials must be received in the Federal Association office by **Friday, November 5, 2021**.

Mail to –
Order of Malta - Federal Association, U.S.A.
Attention: Admissions Committee
1730 M Street, NW Suite 403
Washington, D.C. 20036