

STATEMENT BY THE NOBLE ORDER OF  
KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF MARSHALL ON THE  
INCOMPATIBILITY OF FREEMASONRY WITH THE CATHOLIC FAITH

In recent times, the issue of whether one can be a Catholic and a Freemason at the same time has been discussed extensively on the social media. Various Catholic episcopal conferences and individual Catholic bishops and archbishops have made it abundantly clear, that one cannot be a Catholic and a Freemason at the same time. This is because Freemasonry is a religion in its own right and incompatible with the Catholic Faith.

Against this background, the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall, strongly supports the Church's position of the incompatibility of Freemasonry with the Catholic Faith. We are aware of the condemnation of Freemasonry by as many as eleven popes since its inception. It was also condemned by the Declaration on Masonic Associations issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1983, under the Prefecture of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. Further, as recently as 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, a new statement was issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith following a meeting on Freemasonry with a bishop from the Philippines. The document that was released following that meeting, reiterates the same position: one cannot be a Catholic and a Freemason at the same time. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2025, a statement on the issue of incompatibility of the Catholic Faith and Freemasonry from the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference was read in all Catholic Churches in Ghana.

In the light of the above, the Noble Order of the Knights and Ladies of Marshall in Ghana, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and the United Kingdom, pledge to abide by the position of the Church on the incompatibility of the Catholic Faith and Freemasonry. We also pledge to continue with an ongoing catechesis and education of our members on the Church's position.

Additionally, we pledge as a last resort, to expel from the Noble Order any member who flouts this position and report that person to the appropriate ecclesiastical authorities for guidance, counselling, penance and sanctions (if necessary).

We further find recent media statements by some personalities equating the Noble Order to Freemasons quite unfortunate, mischievous and a misrepresentation of the vision and mission of the Noble Order. We wish to

emphatically state that, the Noble Order of Knights and Ladies of Marshall is a Catholic religious, fraternal, educational and charitable organization of noble men and women engaged in the noble works of friendship, education, relief and disaster management, service to mankind and charity.

We are a committed and knowledgeable body of Catholic Men and Women imbued with unalloyed Catholic faith and ever determined to play our individual and collective roles at the highest level towards the realization of the universal sacrament of salvation. (***Universales Salutatis Sacramentum***) Signed:



Sir Kt. Bro. Richard Ayih-Akakpo  
Supreme Knight  
Knights of Marshall



MRL Sis. Patricia Dunenye  
Grand Lady  
Ladies of Marshall

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025