



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

EMBASSY IN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

**Speech by Ambassador Niels Carl A. Lorijn on the occasion  
of the Opening of the Photographic Exhibition  
at the Sjem of the Republic of Poland  
15 October 2025**

Honourable Marshal of the Sejm,

Your Excellencies, distinguished Ambassadors, members of the Senate and the Sejm, members of Government, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you at the opening of this photographic exhibition marking the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Republic of Poland.

I would first like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Marshal of the Sejm for his kind invitation to host this exhibition in this historic and distinguished institution - a fitting venue to celebrate the longstanding friendship between Poland and the Order of Malta.

As you will see on the panels that surround us, the ties that bind the Order of Malta and Poland date back many centuries. After being banned for forty-five years, the Order of Malta returned to Poland in 1990 with renewed energy and purpose.

Today, the medical and social programmes managed by our Polish Association reach the most vulnerable across the country - the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the homeless, refugees, single mothers, and families in need.

In recent years, our cooperation with consecutive Polish governments has also grown stronger and more effective, extending beyond Poland's borders.

Together with the Polish Government:

- we delivered humanitarian assistance to internally displaced Ukrainians as far back as 2015;
- we provided rescue training and equipment to firefighters in Moldova;
- we established a first aid & rescue volunteer system across 10 regions in Ukraine;
- we provided training and equipment during the COVID pandemic; and
- we delivered over 7,000 tons of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian population during the first two years of the war.

Last month, we jointly launched a comprehensive food aid program for IDPs and refugees in Lebanon and, as part of the framework agreement that we signed last May, we are looking to expand our partnership to other areas such as mental health, trauma support and prosthetics in both Poland and Ukraine.



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

EMBASSY IN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Our bilateral relations rest upon a foundation of shared values that transcend politics and are the universal cornerstones of our humanity: protection of human life, respect for human rights, adherence to international law, and a commitment to multilateralism.

Today, as we witness immense civilian suffering and blatant disregard for humanitarian principles in so many parts of the world, these values are more important than ever.

On behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the Polish authorities for their friendship and their unwavering support to our diplomacy and advocacy on the international stage, and to our humanitarian efforts on the ground.

I hope that this exhibition will help explain what the Order of Malta is about, remind us all of the rich history that we share, the achievements that we have made together, and the promise of what still lies ahead as we look forward to the next 35 years of bilateral relations.

Thank you very much for joining us today. I hope you will enjoy the exhibition.

\*\*\*\*\*