Mosta Rotunda elevated to the
significance of minor basilica

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News that the Mosta Rotunda was elevated to the canonical privileges of a minor basilica by Pope Francis last May has sparked a series of festivities, joy and gratitude among the parishes of this populous locality.

Historically, the sanctuary basilica of the Assumption assumed a restricted group of churches during the 17th century, including one in Malta and one in France, each dedicated to St John the Baptist. These churches were granted the title of basilica minor.

Some clergymen considered minor basilicas to be the result of a dispensation given to the Assumption basilica on Vatican St Peter's Square. These churches had important titles as the papal chapel and were used only by the pope during the Holy Jubilee Years.

In a canonical sense, the sanctuary basilica of the Assumption was elevated to the title of minor basilica in 1966, along with its obligations and privileges.

The new status is also linked to the designation of Mosta Rotunda to be the sacred basilica of the Assumption. The title of basilica minor is awarded to churches that stand out in size, historical, architectural and spiritual aspects.

Dignitaries, clergy and laypeople are invited to participate in the canonical elevation through a special Mass and liturgy.

The Mosta Rotunda is one of the long-standing churches in Malta, with a long history of devotion to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The dedication of the basilica minor will be a significant event for the parishioners and the Maltese community.

The Mosta Rotunda Basilica is situated in the heart of Mosta and is one of the most important religious sites in Malta. The elevation to basilica minor status is a recognition of its historical and spiritual significance.

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