



SAINT LAZARUS[®]

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

Communication is the name of the game

The past year has taught us much about the value of communication and the variety of ways in which it can be achieved. In addition to our 'slow' communication through the Newsletter, we now have three online communications media – Facebook, Twitter and Vimeo videos.

We have had a Facebook account for ten years and decided last year to revitalise it under the ownership of the PRC. We now have nearly 500 members signed up and are aiming for 1,000 by the end of the year. If you have not already signed up, you can do so at www.facebook/groups/st.lazarus. It is being well used to publicise national events and to comment on current developments.

Earlier this year we introduced a series of quarterly videos featuring personal messages from senior international officers. These short snapshots aim to keep members across the world in touch with our leaders and to highlight major themes on which the Order is focused. We hope that they will help to maintain the international camaraderie which is embedded within our Order.

We also have a popular Twitter account (@MHOSLJ) run by our Webmaster, Chev. Andreas Schoenberg. This is yet another way in which we can keep in touch with members in other countries and publicise national events.

For those who wish to engage in more serious and academic discussions, we are setting up a new LinkedIn group. This will allow us to address larger issues than are appropriate on Facebook or Twitter, such as the history of the Order, its emblems and its several Jurisdictions.

These modern channels of communication enable us to increase our interjurisdictional cross-fertilisation of ideas, opinions and experiences. We hope that as many members as possible will sign up and play an active part in supporting them.

Inside this issue:	
Turning 60	2
Normal service is resuming!	3
From the Editor	4
Reflections on the history of the Order	5
A new feast day for St Lazarus	6



Public Relations and Communications Committee

Chair: Chev. Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

chair.iprcc@st-lazarus.net

Vice Chair: Dame Val Hiscock DCLJ

editor.iprcc@st-lazarus.net

Website: www.st-lazarus.net



Turning 60... A milestone to be celebrated

The Grand Priory in Canada came into being in 1962 through the good graces of the Grand Master of the time inviting the Honourable J. Keiller Mackay to invest 20 knights, dames and commanders. Letters Patent issued by the Secretary of State ensured our place as a charitable corporation in Canada and

we have continued to meet the ideals and objectives of the Order since that first gathering.



SAINT LAZARUS
C A N A D A

By all accounts, that gathering in 1962 was a truly splendid affair. Glittering in terms of its décor, location, the people in attendance and its splendour.

Our history tells of good deeds, care for our fellow Canadians and many charitable works. There are also tales of some really great parties.

The world has changed since 1962 and we have grown since that first ceremony. We now have a membership that lives in all ten provinces, one of three territories, spans 6 time zones and three ocean coasts. We take our work in hospice and palliative care, the promotion of ecumenism and the treatment and eradication of leprosy seriously. We've grown too in terms of the dollars we raise and the impact we have as a result of the Home Care Givers Support Programme, A Caregiver's Guide, our small acts of kindness and the ecumenical bursaries we offer. But we still like to party.

COVID has prevented us from gathering in person in 2020 and will likely mean only local gatherings in 2021. We've met virtually, we've continued our good works, we've adopted technology and we've worn our masks. We've had happy hours, online ceremonies and lots of email conversations.



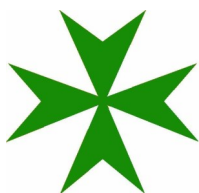
So how will our 60th year be celebrated?
With a party of course!

Niagara Falls will be our venue and the members of the Western Ontario Commandery will be our guides. The Order in Canada will be formally commissioning its new processional cross, the new commandery flags and celebrating 60 years of service. We welcome one and all to share with us as we worship, learn, celebrate our postulants, recognize achievements and enjoy the company of others.

Our diamond anniversary will be an event to remember and like 1962 a truly splendid event.

Jane Anema GCLJ, Grand Prior

*"How will our 60th year be celebrated?
With a party of course!"*



Normal service is resuming!

The Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands hopes to celebrate a Vigil and Investiture on Friday 20, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 August 2021 at the beautiful monastery hotel of Willibrordhaeghe in Deurne (The Netherlands). Full details will be published on the international website as soon as they are available but pre-registration is already possible.



The Grand Bailiwick of Germany plans to hold its postponed Lazarus Days 2021 in Potsdam from 25-27 June. The weekend's events will include the formal installation of the new Bailiff, Chev. Prof. Dr. Ingo Reichard, and a ceremonial farewell to the Bailiff Emeritus, as well as a Pontifical Mass and a festive dinner. A full programme of events is now available on the website.

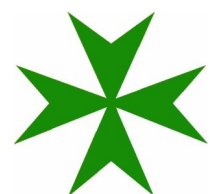


Plans for the National Chapter Meeting of **the Grand Priory of Australia** (13 - 16 May 2021) are also being revived. Members of the Victorian Commandery are delighted to be hosting at Pullman Albert Park. Arrangements have been made to visit the Yarra Valley on Thursday 13 May and various other social activities will be arranged. On Friday and Saturday (14 and 15 May), Committee meetings and National Council meetings will be held in a COVID-19 safe way, and the Victorian

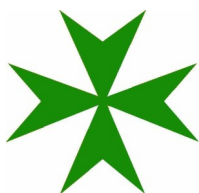


Commandery is exploring some new innovations for those who might not be able to attend in person.

The Grand Priory of England & Wales is busy preparing for a very special event later this year. Working in cooperation with The Leprosy Mission, members of the Grand Priory have been invited to design and produce a float for the City of London's most ancient and historic pageant, the Lord Mayor's Show. First held in 1215, the parade celebrates the election of the new Lord Mayor each November. This year, Alderman HE Chevalier Vincent Keaveny GCLJ will be formally elected as Lord Mayor 'for the year ensuing' and he has invited the Order to be represented in the procession. The focus of the float will be on the international work of St Lazarus and TLM in the relief of leprosy worldwide.



“We shall not resume from where we left off because we have moved forward”



From Chronos to Kairos

Some reflections from the Editor

Over the past 12 months we have experienced and explored the resilience of our Order. Its hidden depth has been plumbed and the Order has proved that it is ‘fit for purpose’. We have realised that the Order stays together even without regular national and international events and gatherings, and has in fact become stronger. We have proved that *“They serve him best who only stand and wait”* (John Milton, *On his blindness*), even for those of us for whom patience is not a well-known virtue.

We have explored different ways in which we can connect with and enrich society and help those in need, knowing that in so doing we follow the injunction of our Lord that in caring for those, his children, who can give nothing back in return, we care for Him.

Spring is always an exciting time as we look around us for signs of growth and life. Things have been happening underground and now green shoots appear, heralding the flowering of plants and bulbs. Animals and birds give birth to offspring and the whole of creation and society appears to come to life again. So with our Order. Events are once more being planned and we hope that the Order will be fully functional again by the end of the year. What a different perspective from 3 months ago!

The season of Lent helps us to prepare for Easter as we have time to re-examine ourselves and our lives. Easter is a time of joy, resurrection, thanksgiving and looking forward. *“All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”* (Julian of Norwich). It is with this assurance that we prepare for the resumption of activities within the Order. We shall not resume from where we left off because we have moved forward in the interim. We know more about ourselves and our Order and this knowledge will be the driving force behind our new objectives.

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ



Reflections on the history of the Order

In an effort to maintain the social cohesion of the Lazarite community in the face of the social distancing impositions brought about by the pandemic, the International Academy of the Order of Saint Lazarus in collaboration with the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands organized a series of eight pre-narrated video-lectures covering the history of the Order from its early times to the modern day. The lectures were uploaded on the Facebook page of the International Order at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/st.lazarus> and the Facebook page of the Grand Priory at <https://www.facebook.com/LazarusMalta>. The lectures were very well received both locally and internationally. It is envisaged that the presentations will be amalgamated into a DVD to be made available to all those who are interested. The lecture titles included:

- ◆ *A hospitali infirmorum sancti Lazari de Jerusalem* before the First Crusade
- ◆ The Brethren of Saint Lazarus during the Crusader Period
- ◆ The Brethren of Saint Lazarus during the 14-15th centuries
- ◆ 16th century developments
- ◆ 17-18th century developments – the Savoyan branch
- ◆ 17-18th century developments – the French branch
- ◆ 19th century developments
- ◆ 20th century developments

The Covid-19 pandemic has, like the 14th century Black Plague pandemic, brought about conditions that threaten to break down the social cohesion of the Lazarite community on a local and international stage. Fortunately, modern media have made available tools that promote social contact at a distance. The Order must embrace these tools and utilize them to the full, not only to inform members about activities being organized in various jurisdictions, but also facilitate their meeting and discussing issues online.

For this reason, the Grand Priory, for the occasion of St Lazarus Day, organized an online symposium using Zoom[®] entitled “Who was Saint Lazarus?” Topics were presented by three speakers who reviewed what is known about the life of the patron Saint of the Order. This also was very well received locally and internationally. The use of Zoom[®] enabled a dynamic meeting where attendees viewed each other on video and could contribute to the discussion.

In the words of the early 19th century theologian William Ellery Channing:

*“Difficulties are meant to rouse, not
discourage. The human spirit is to grow
strong by conflict.”*



Knight of St. Lazarus



A new feast day for St. Lazarus

On February 2, it was announced from the Vatican that Pope Francis has added the memorial of Saints Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to the General Roman Calendar, giving the siblings the combined feast day of July 29.

A **decree** from the Congregation for Divine Worship said that Pope Francis had included the three saints in the General Roman Calendar “considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life.”

Signed by Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Divine Worship congregation, the Pope’s decree said that “in the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, and for this reason, the Gospel of John states that he loved them.”

The General Roman Calendar is the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church, which denotes the dates of holy days and the feast days of saints commemorated annually. The July 29 feast day of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus will now appear in the Church’s calendars and liturgical texts as a memorial.

[Memorials rank third in the classification of feast days on the Catholic Church’s liturgical calendar. The memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus will be an obligatory memorial, which means it must be observed]



The Grand Hospitaller [interim] thanks all those jurisdictions who have sent in their philanthropic hospitaller’s annual report for 2020.

Jurisdictions who have yet to forward their report are urged to do so at their earliest convenience.

