

April 2019



SAINT LAZARUS[®]

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

'Something old-fashioned, something new' - the International Newsletter

The launch of a new product is always exciting. Today we combine 'slow mail' and 'email' in our first International Newsletter which will be distributed to jurisdictions by email and which each jurisdiction can then circulate to its members either by email or printed copies – or both.

This quarterly publication will seek to identify matters of importance and interest to members of the Order in all its jurisdictions and to update members on what is happening and who is who. Working in the centre it is all too easy to forget that the Order is a network of some 40 jurisdictions, all of which share the same common purpose. On the other hand, living in and belonging to a national jurisdiction can provide a limited view of the work of the Order across the world and a sense of insularity. The truth is that we are all 'in it together' and the sum of the whole is greater than that of the parts in isolation from each other.

In this new Newsletter we seek to bridge these gaps and to provide a window into this bigger picture.

In his acceptance speech in Madrid last year our new Grand Master focussed on the necessity of good communications. This Newsletter is one small step towards the implementation of that goal.

With warmest confraternal greetings

Norman Hunter Rose

Editor



Public Relations and Communications Committee

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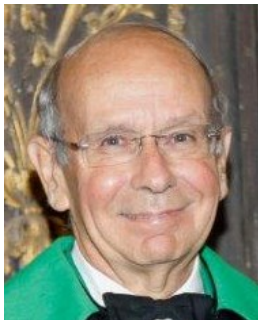
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“Our vision remains to help humanity and work towards social cohesion, improving health and reducing poverty”



News from the Grand Commander

With the installation of our new Grand Master and his extensive Jurisdiction visits over past 8 months, we hope many of you feel our Order is adapting to an era of quick and current communications. This process has been long but is near completion and our expectation is that members will have a better understanding of the goals and initiatives of St. Lazarus.

In October 2019 the St Lazarus Academy will present learned papers and scholarship reports on Crusader Orders. The event will be in Malta. Additionally, it is expected that dates and location for our biannual Lazarus pilgrimage in Europe will be finalized over the next month, to occur in May 2020. Finally, please note our Grand Hospitaller HE the Chev. Brett Delahunt is presenting the first of our St. Lazarus financial awards to the Hospital St Louis. The hospital is in Jerusalem and the award is being made in late April. All members will benefit by attending any or all of these events.



St Louis Hospital, Jerusalem

In our troubled world, there are many opportunities for our Order to initiate action and/or partner with multiple like-minded organizations. Our vision remains to help humanity and work towards social cohesion, improving health and reducing poverty. Our guide of course is that of Christian principles in a spirit of ecumenism.

We are pleased to announce that as a result of rapid growth our delegation in Sicily is currently being upgraded to the status of a full Jurisdiction. This additional growth in membership is affirmation of our values and efforts to effect positive change. Many thanks to all members for your continuing efforts in the name of St. Lazarus.

With every good wish over the Easter season

Atavis et Armis!

Ted White GCLJ
Grand Commander

Forthcoming events

- 26-27 April Grand Priory of England & Wales National Investiture, Cardiff
- 10-11 May Grand Bailiwick of Scotland National Investiture, Dundee
- 24-25 May Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic National Investiture, Hradec Kralove

(including installation of the new Grand Bailiff, Chev. Ondrej Farka KLJ)
- 24-26 October International conference of the International Academy of St Lazarus, Malta



**“Easter greetings
are more than
just devout
thinking.”**

An Easter message from our Ecclesiastical Grand Prior, the Archbishop of Monreale

On the occasion of this upcoming Easter I wish to offer my most cordial greetings to all the members of The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem with the hope that the light of Christ resurrected will bestow serenity and peace upon them.

Christ’s victory in Easter creates a sovereignty in the love of God which wins over death: slavery that becomes freedom, sadness that becomes joy.

Christ allows us to make peace with God our Father who is merciful, with our neighbour, with the world and we are called upon to respect and value the resources that are given to mankind.

The news of Christ’s resurrection has broadened our horizons on our present and future and the meaning of our lives and the destiny of our universe. We need to give up our sadness and resignation and open ourselves to the courage of hope.

Let’s not search for answers in those who have died but those that are present with us. Let’s live our lives in the light of the resurrection of Christ , let’s sing joyful songs that reflect the joy of Easter, let’s transform our hearts of stone into real hearts, a beating heart for mankind - a mankind which understands that even through an absurd and painful death lies eternal life.

Easter greetings are more than just devout thinking. They expound the belief in the victory of Christ resurrected as our very own victory through prayer in church, asking our Father “to be renewed in the Spirit and reborn in the light of the risen Saviour.”

+ *Michele Pennisi*



The Lazarus mosaic, Monreale Cathedral, Sicily

From our Spiritual Protector, His Beatitude Youssef Absi

بِطَرْنَ كِسْتَا
 أَنْطَاكِيَّةَ وَسَاكَا الْمَشْرِقِ
 لَلرُّومِ الْمَلِكِيَّةِ الْكَاثُولِيَّةِ

Damascus, 12 April 2019



TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

It gives me great pleasure to address this message to all the members of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem on the occasion of the publication of the first international newsletter.

As we just celebrated the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is only fitting to remind ourselves of the meaning of the most important fact of our faith: *“if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith”* (1 Corinthians 14, 15). This is why, dear all, it is our duty as witnesses to His Resurrection to speak and act in accordance with this fact. We are the sons and daughters of the Resurrection as were called the first communities of Christians. This designation cannot be merely an honorary title but rather one that involves our entire being. Our thoughts and actions have to bear fruits, just as the Lord Himself said: *“make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit”* (Matthew 12, 33).

Because of the turmoil that is destabilizing the Middle-East, I have not yet had the chance to meet as many of you as I aspired to. Hopefully, during this upcoming year, we will have the occasion to meet one another and get to know one another. It is important that you know the facts about the situation of Middle Eastern Christians whether in the Holy Land or in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt where immigration is threatening to uproot our entire millennial presence in our ancestral land. Your attachment to the Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarchate is of key significance because our people need to know that they have friends in different parts of the world and that this friendship is steadfast and reliable.

I would like to express my joy about the idea of this new international newsletter for it will bring more unity between the different jurisdictions of the Order and will allow all to work for Christian unity, a theme that is dear and close to the heart of the Order. It is not possible in today's world to not be connected with one another. This is why I encourage you to know each other more and to unify your efforts to achieve the aims and principles of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

Last but not least, I would like to invite each and every one of you esteemed members to remember, when you pray for the wellbeing of the Order, the Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarchate in your supplication with one special intention: peace to all inhabitants of the Middle East. With these thoughts, we ask for you and your families the most abundant blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

+ جوزيف العبيد

+ YOUSSEF

Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch of Antioch and All the East of Alexandria and Jerusalem



**“If Christ has not
 been raised, our
 preaching is useless
 and so is your faith”**

The Order of St Lazarus in the Americas

In North America, there are two main jurisdictions of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem: the Grand Priory of America and the Grand Priory in Canada. Mexican membership is represented as a Delegation in the Grand Priory of America.

In addition to Mexico, there are six Commanderies and one Delegation as sub-jurisdictions in the Grand Priory of America. The focus of charitable work is organ donation awareness and leprosy and but other charitable work is also being conducted in addition to activities to promote Christian unity. This year, the Grand Priory is sponsoring a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on May 6-16, 2019, which will include visits to many Holy sites for Christians as well as Crusader sites which are of historical significance to our membership. The annual Grand Prioral Council meeting will be held on October 17-20, 2019 in Los Cabos to be hosted by the Mexican Delegation.



For more information regarding the Grand Priory of America, visit their website on <https://www.st-lazarus.us>

The Grand Priory in Canada has thirteen commanderies. The focus of charitable support includes end of life care, eradication of leprosy and support of Christian unity as well as other local causes. This year, the annual meeting, Chapter General of the Grand Priory will be held on May 23-26, 2019 at Digby Pines Golf Resort and Spa in Digby Nova Scotia. You can find more information on the Grand Priory in Canada on their website www.stlazarus.ca.



Chev. Ed Yaz
Regional Communications Officer, the Americas

Election of the Grand Master—DVD is now available

The 50th Grand Master of the Order, HE The Chevalier Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg GCLJ was elected and installed in Madrid in May 2018. It was a special and memorable occasion attended by around 300 members of the Order from almost every jurisdiction worldwide. On behalf of the Public Relations and Communications Committee, HE the Chevalier Klaus-Peter Pokolm GCLJ arranged for a video of the proceedings to be shot and for an interview with the new Grand Master to be included.



The DVD is now available for purchase as a memento of this event. The cost is €13.60 including postage and packing. To reserve your copy please contact Klaus-Peter at klaus-peter@pokolm.net



Public Relations and Communications Committee

The Committee has gone through a number of emanations over the last 30 years. The latest took place at the beginning of this year when a new Secretary was appointed to the Committee – Chev. Andre Lienhard, GP Switzerland.

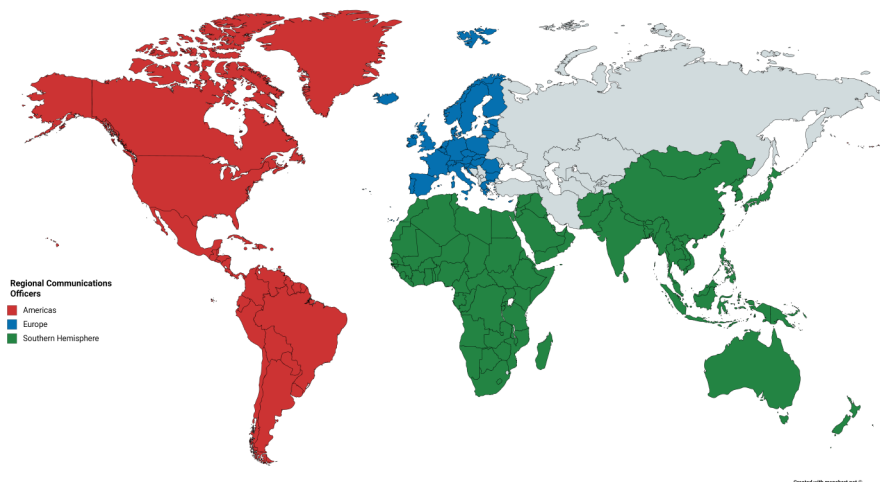
In 2015 a network of national Communications Officers was established. They act as a conduit for news and events which are posted on the international website. It was felt that this network was too disparate to work effectively and so a smaller group of three Regional Communications Officers has been established to provide more of a personal touch –

Europe Chev. John Bullock, GP England & Wales

Americas Chev. Ed Yaz, GP America

Southern Hemisphere Confreere Will Carter, GP South Africa

They will act as mentors and enablers to local Communications Officers and will give a clearer focus within the Committee on what is happening in their areas. Their guidance to the Committee on what COs in their regions feel we could do to assist them will be invaluable.



Dame Val Hiscock remains our Editor but, as Vice Chair, has also assumed the coordinating role for the Regional COs.

The Committee exists for two purposes. The first is to improve internal communications between jurisdictions. For this we rely on the cooperation of national COs to tell us what is going on in their areas. This we can then publish on the website so the wider membership is better informed about the wide-ranging activities undertaken by jurisdictions across the world. The other is to improve external communications with the media, churches and local communities. Many jurisdictions already do this but we need to do more so that the existence, goals, objectives and achievements of the Order receive greater awareness. Some of this can be done centrally, but we need the support of local COs to give a worldwide impact.

Atavis et Armis!

Chev. Norman Hunter Rose

Chair

