



Pentecost 2020

SAINT LAZARUS®

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Editor

The past three months have been shocking to all of us. Lockdown has worked but has brought with it problems of loneliness and isolation which are alien to our society. Those affected by one of the thirty strains of COVID-19 have suffered from a variety of nasty health issues which, in too many cases, have been fatal. The virus is no respecter of persons, ages or ethnic backgrounds, as we have seen all too clearly.

While we are nowhere near the end of this pandemic, there is growing light at the end of the tunnel as we proceed through it. In many countries the lockdown restrictions are being relaxed and businesses and individuals are beginning to face a return to normality – whatever that may mean - during the coming months.

The responses from Jurisdictions and members across the world have been heart-warming, generous and varied. Many are highlighted in this edition. There are more which we cannot print but which are posted on the website. Truly, this pandemic has returned us to our roots as a caring, hospitaller Order and shown us how much we can do which is relevant to help to alleviate current circumstances.

The challenge we face is whether this will be a blip after which we return to ‘normal’ or whether our new-found practical, caring activities will become the new ‘norm’. It is only if we embrace the new ‘norm’ that our Order will regain its momentum and flourish locally, nationally and internationally. The Green Cross is once again seen actively alongside the Red Cross and the white cross of St John, forming a trinity of caring organisations.

So, let us commit to retaining our position within this trinity and show the world the power of the love and compassion which our Lord calls us to spread abroad. As the Pentecost Mass says, “The love of God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” It is this which sets the basis for our daily living.

Atavis et Armis!

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

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This issue of the international newsletter aims to highlight as many as possible of the amazing projects being undertaken by jurisdictions around the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and follows on from the reports in our previous edition.

Many thanks to our 4 Regional Communications Officers - John Bullock and Miroslav Kůzl (Europe), Will Carter (Southern Hemisphere) and Ed Yaz (Americas) and all the national Communications Officers for their assistance in compiling this information.

Although we have not been able to include in full all the information and photographs received, the complete texts will shortly be available on the international website.

The 2020-2021 Hospitaller Flagship Project

The Grand Chancellor writes:

“As mentioned in the Grand Master’s April 2020 letter to the jurisdictions, the 2020-2021 Hospitaller Flagship Project will be COVID-19 relief efforts. In this exceptional situation, the base consolidated fund for these efforts was €10,000 from the Order’s Hospitaller Fund and €10,000 from the Order’s General Reserve Fund. A campaign will be promoted through social media, the website and other media to raise donations for worldwide projects. Locations with people in the most need will be targeted to provide medical facilities with supplies and equipment that are currently not available to them.

The initial project funded by the Order was awarded to the Ávila Healthcare Complex in Ávila, Spain. The Order provided much needed coronavirus diagnostic tests and supplies to treat those infected with the virus. Items were also provided to increase the safety of hospital staff in direct contact with COVID-19 patients.”

Face masks of every colour of the rainbow, from every corner of the world



Corsica



South Africa



Czech Republic



Hawaii



The Americas

Grand Priory of America

Across the USA, a range of new initiatives has been set up by Commanderies and individual members, alongside ongoing charitable activity.

When the Commandery of the West was made aware of an urgent need for basic infrared thermometers to take temperatures of potential COVID-19 patients at the St. Anthony's Foundation clinic in San Francisco, they responded immediately with a substantial grant. The clinic cares for the primarily homeless individuals residing in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. The foundation provides up to 2,000 meals daily, clothing, social services resources, and provides basic medical care in the clinic.

The Hawaii Cadre has been particularly active in supporting programmes to feed and care for the homeless, especially in Waikiki, as well as providing essential equipment such as facemasks and hand sanitiser for those in need.

A donation from the Grand Commandery of the South has provided funds to purchase food supplies to feed the staff of West Jefferson General Hospital for at least a week, through *Resque*. This organisation's purpose is to feed first responders in the wake of natural disasters along the Gulf Coast, such as hurricanes and floods. They believe the COVID-19 pandemic crisis meets their objectives.

In the Midwest, the local Commandery has made grants to several local charities which provide services to those negatively impacted by economic loss. The Women's Care Center provides counselling to pregnant women and offers education classes and other support. The Tree House is committed to supporting victims and survivors of sexual and physical abuse, services which will be needed more than ever after the pandemic, while Walworth County Food and Diaper Bank is in emergency mode serving more people than ever.

Southwest Commandery is supporting the Houston Food Bank, and offering practical support to elderly residents as well as providing prepared food to local hospitals and first responder stations, while the Atlantic Commandery is focussing on support for St. Patrick's Cathedral Fund's Community Outreach Ministries Fund in NYC.

Mexican Delegation

The Mexican Delegation has been working hard to support the two leprosy clinics of Morelia and Irapuato and the associated convent of nuns who provide clinical services to patients. With the help of delegation members, a supply of medication used to treat



Chronic Upper Respiratory Disease was delivered to the clinics in case it was needed to augment clinical care due to COVID-19 infections. Also, a large van of cleaning supplies was donated to the centres.

The Mexican Delegation Commander's spouse has been making and selling jewellery to support the purchase of food, cleaning supplies, cloth masks and other needed domestic consumable materials. To date, over 200 packages of materials for the leprosarium patients have been purchased.

Finally, the nuns in Morelia have been making masks for children and families in their communities to help slow the spread of the virus in the community.



Southern Hemisphere

Grand Priory of Australia

As winter approaches in the Southern hemisphere, members of the Grand Priory of Australia have been working with local and national charities to address a wide range of needs related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Support for the homeless, jobless and vulnerable has been a particular focus, with both South Australia Commandery and Tasmania Commandery opting to support the work of Anglicare, amongst other projects.

Queensland Commandery has continued its regular support for the Mission for Seafarers, who have been providing packages containing donated personal hygiene items, individual entertainment (such as board games, puzzles, books, writing materials), clothing, and snack foods to seamen prohibited from ship disembarkation.

The Green Cross Project Inc. is a semi-independent charitable arm of the Order of St Lazarus in Victoria. Many of the Victorian Commandery members are also involved with the charitable work of the Green Cross Project. In the midst of the emerging coronavirus crisis (March 2020) the charity formally launched its third charitable outreach bus with a new health services partner - Monash Health. Some of the existing buses (which are converted former Metro vehicles) are being used as mobile GP clinics, which provide COVID-19 testing for disadvantaged people in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.



The Commandery in Western Australia has provided assistance to Just Manna Incorporated, a charitable body and outreach service, during the COVID-19 crisis. Just Manna is a not-for-profit organisation, which has been in operation since 2006. Originally it was set up to serve refugees newly arrived in Australia and has expanded to serve all those in need in the broader Australian community. Just Manna aims to provide direct relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, disability or helplessness including financial and non-financial assistance to people in Australia.



Grand Bailiwick of South Africa — Western Cape Commandery

In line with the Order's centuries-old mandate as Hospitallers, the Western Cape Commandery has allocated significant funding and has had a direct hands-on involvement (insofar as legislation allows) to provide desperately-needed humanitarian aid in the form of protective masks and food parcels to people made vulnerable to the pandemic or its devastating backlash on already impoverished communities.



"I'm aware that many of our members are individually also doing what they can to alleviate these most urgent problems in whatever way possible," said Grand Bailiff in South Africa, Tamra Capstick-Dale. "The Western Cape Commandery, however, decided to dig deeply into its fund reserves to work with partner donors and a major wholly transparent distribution network to ensure that every cent is wisely used and will get maximum benefit to those most in need in these troubled times."

The masks are being made and distributed in partnership with a company producing these from excellent quality cloth offcuts previously destined for landfill. For every mask bought by the Commandery, another is given to an exposed child or elderly person in one of Cape Town's many disadvantaged communities.

The hundreds of food parcels being distributed are designed to feed a family of four for a month.

Priory of Zimbabwe

We are encouraged to learn that despite the Priory of Zimbabwe being woefully short of members through a significant number who were not being able to return to the country after an international lockdown, the remaining few have managed to hold 'social distanced' prayer meetings and also to distribute food parcels to elderly folk.

"In a country seriously afflicted with political uncertainties, ongoing factional violence, a shattered economy, widespread poverty and unemployment as well as one of the few leper sanatoria left in Africa, the challenges of undertaking meaningful humanitarian work are enormous," says Prior Brian Heathcote.

But true to their vows, the few members of the Order currently in Zimbabwe soldier on to do what they can and are to be commended for their efforts.



Europe

Grand Priory of Spain

The Grand Priory of Spain is currently working on a national food bank which will distribute non-perishable food and basic hygiene products to people who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The name of the campaign is “Comer es lo primero” (Eating comes first). The national food bank will be located at the back office of the Grand Priory of Spain, where the Magistral Seat is located.



The goal of the campaign is to keep the food bank open for at least a three-year period. After that, the feasibility of keeping it open will depend on social needs and the donations of sponsors. The Foundation of the Spanish jurisdiction is already receiving donations and recruiting volunteers to buy, classify, prepare and

distribute the food delivered at our premises.

The San Lázaro Foundation has also arranged a donation of 9,000 blankets from the airline supply company, Kaelis Group. The blankets have been distributed in different lots that have been donated to various recipients in Madrid, Valencia and Málaga.

The Andalusian Commandery is also managing the purchase of medical supplies for the Costa del Sol Hospital in Marbella, for the Carlos Castilla del Pino De Córdoba Health Center and for the Health Delegation of Málaga, to be distributed to the emergency department in Málaga.

At the same time, the Hospital of Ávila made an urgent appeal to our Grand Master. In response, the Saint Lazarus Hospitaller International Foundation was able to provide a large number of COVID-19 detection tests.



Hereditary Commandery of Rurich

The St. Lazarus Hereditary Commandery of Rurich e.V. bought around 20,000 hospital face masks and donated 50% of them to people in need in Germany, Italy and Spain at the beginning of April. These masks mainly went to childrens’ hospitals and institutions for the elderly.

The other 50% are still available for whenever they may be needed.



Grand Priory of France

Across the country, members of the Order have been encouraged to respond to the call for blood donation issued by the French Blood Establishment. Both clergy and lay members have also made themselves available to listen to single or sick people who find it difficult to bear the current situation of confinement and to whom they offer help and advice. Each commandery has also undertaken specific local projects.

The OSLJ's Charities Association of the Grand Priory of Alsace donated 900 litres of hydroalcoholic gel to the Obernai and Sélestat Hospital Group. Count Christian d'Andlau-Hombourg, Grand Prior, personally handed over the bottles of gel to the medical team at the hospital in Obernai.

Faced with the shortage of medical equipment in Corsica, members of the Commandery there undertook to have protective masks made at the rate of about sixty per day, by a friend of the Order. To date, 800 masks have been distributed free of charge to those who wished to receive them, including the staff of the "Alzheimer's Consultation" in Ajaccio.

Also noteworthy is the initiative relayed by many media, notably the France 2 television news, of Father Georges Nicoli, priest of the church of Notre-Dame de Lourdes in Bastia and Chaplain of the Commandery of Corsica, who displayed, on each of the now empty seats of his church, a photograph of each of his parishioners.



Under the banner of the Order of Saint Lazarus in Strasbourg a number of students have become "Squires of Charity, Hope and Faith". They have been going to meet homeless people in the street to give them a parcel with a meal that they themselves have prepared (Charity), sharing a little of their story (Hope), and speaking to them about God (Faith) by giving them a cross or a medal, with only a mask and gloves as weapons.

Humanitarian Grand Priory Europe (GPEU)

The GPEU has acted on a clear message - "Wear masks and protect others - Then the others will protect you!"

With this in mind, they have distributed and published a description of how to manufacture a protective hood for nursing staff and emergency medical workers against coronavirus infection. The volunteers of the CoroNO-team wrote the document with drawings and measurements in German and at the same time had an international version created in English. The description was prepared to be viewed on the publicly accessible Internet pages of the Order and made available for free download.



All Lazarus homes of the Lazarus-Hilfswerk (GP-EU) (in care and support facilities and retirement homes) have remained free of the virus, through early introduction of infection control measures - shortly after the first coronavirus cases in Germany became known.



Grand Priory of England & Wales

In common with others around the world, the members of the Grand Priory of England & Wales have been active in a variety of ways during the current lockdown. Commandery chaplains have arranged on line liturgies; members have acted as NHS Responders; housebound members have offered their services as administrators for local charities; almoners have spoken by phone or Skype to members confined at home during the lockdown. In many areas, links with local hospices and other charities for those affected in one way or another by the wider impact of the pandemic have been strengthened in response to local needs.

Over and above all this local activity, commanderies have continued with their regular charitable activities, both in the UK and overseas, and several larger projects have been undertaken in response to clinical appeals.



The Commandery of Wales has raised funds to provide a second 3-D printer and consumables for a PPE face shield project run by the Cardiff High School PTA. To date 8,100 face shields have been fabricated and distributed to NHS front line staff and care homes. The second phase of the Commandery of Wales PPE appeal helped fund 'Scrubs for All'. Red Dragon Flagmakers of Swansea have redeployed their flag making skills to fabricate clinical scrubs for doctors, nurses and care home workers. The Commandery has funded the supply of PPE face shields and scrubs for the Nazareth House Care Home in Cardiff. King Offa Commandery has provided similar PPE kit for the Nazareth House Care Home in Northampton.

In London, the Commandery of London & Westminster is supporting an appeal from the Little Sisters of the Poor, who run 2 care homes in the capital. The funds raised will enable the provision of oxygen concentrators to help support breathing in those with COVID-19 who are in the home and not hospitalised. The Commandery is also supporting the work of Solidarity Britannia Food Bank. Based in East London, the food bank has been set up to help those who are especially vulnerable at this time.

Grand Priory of Finland

A state of emergency has been in force for more than two months in Finland, but restrictive measures are gradually being relaxed.

About half of the members of the Grand Priory are over 70 years of age, so it has been a priority in Commanderies and Delegations to ensure that their safety nets are in order and to provide assistance if necessary. An important thing for the elderly and lonely members has been emotional and spiritual nearness and encouragement as well as the opportunity to talk to someone. They have been grateful for these opportunities – we need each other and personal contacts are important to everyone.

Members have also been in contact with war veterans, and the national Prelate sent a message to all members in early May.

Sadly, one member of the Grand Priory has died as a result of coronavirus.



Grand Bailiwick of Germany

The Grand Bailiwick of Germany has continued to support its long-term international projects in China, India and Kenya, where coronavirus is having a serious impact on daily life and on the ability of medical professionals to care for leprosy patients.

From the beginning of January 2020, it was no longer possible for project partners in the village of Ngaisai, near Guangdōng, to provide special leprosy wound treatment. Foreigners had to meet special requirements during this period. They were no longer allowed to leave their village, and in the meantime they devoted themselves to other tasks. They tested new materials for specially made shoes and prostheses for leprosy patients, carried out maintenance work in the leprosy workshop and at water sources, and renovated kitchens, roads and paths. Necessary additional hygiene equipment in this time of coronavirus could be procured only through donations from Germany.



The situation in Maharashtra State is characterised by the highest number of COVID-19 positive cases, approaching five thousand. The situation in the capital Mumbai is extremely worrisome. With its slums, the megalopolis of Mumbai has become a hotspot of the corona pandemic in India. Since the end of March, strict measures have been in place to limit the spread of the virus. The treatment services of the Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP) were nevertheless continued by the leprosy centre initiated and supported by the Grand Bailiwick of Germany, in order to prevent interruption of the leprosy treatments as far as possible.

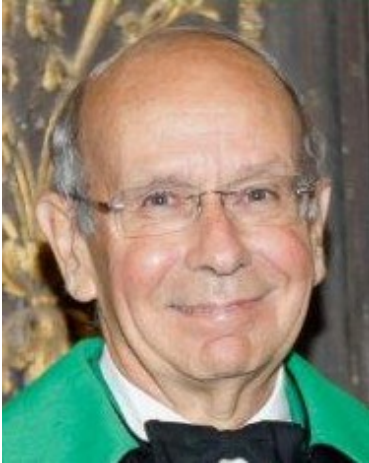
In Kenya, the government has instructed hospitals to expand isolation and intensive care units as a precautionary measure against the further spread of the disease. However, this also means that other patients are more likely to stay at home and present only in case of emergency. Fewer patient numbers mean less income for the daily operation of the St. Matia Mulumba Mission Hospital in Thika. The hospital, expanded with HDZ funds in recent years, has once more received donations from the Grand Bailiwick in order to be able to purchase additional protective equipment for the hospital staff during the coronavirus period.

“Education instead of deportation” is a humanitarian imperative and the association *Ausbildung statt Abschiebung (AsA)* in Bonn has been financially supported by the Grand Bailiwick for many years. From mid-March on, AsA has had to keep its doors closed in order to protect the health of its young clients, and its volunteers and employees. Nevertheless, the top priority remains: to support all of the 186 registered underage refugees via telephone calls with and without video, chats and other social media. A large proportion of these are connected via digital learning formats, especially since quite a few are about to take an examination – for the school leaving certificate or the completion of a vocational qualification.



Grand Master awards Grand Commander the Grand Collar of the Order

Our Grand Master was very pleased to bestow the Grand Collar of the Order on H.E. The Chevalier Edward B. White, GCLJ in recognition of his accomplishments on behalf of the Order. Receipt of this highest award of the Order is an exceptional honour. It can only be held by a maximum of twelve living individuals at one time.



A member of the Order since 1989, Ted White has been a member of the Grand Priory in Canada, serving on the executive council of the Ottawa Commandery. In 2002, he was appointed to the national Canadian executive council as Vice Chancellor/Secretary General, before being appointed Chancellor in 2007 and Prior of the Order in Canada in 2010. In 2011, he was appointed Grand Chancellor of the Order and a Knight Grand Cross. In 2016, he received the award of the Gold Cross of Merit and in 2018 the Knight Grand Cross in the Companiate of Merit. On 4 May 2018, the Grand Master appointed him Grand Commander of the Order. The Grand Commander is a member of the Grand Magistral

Council and the Governance Working Committee, and he serves as a Trustee of the Saint Lazarus Foundation.

Ted White lives in Toronto with his wife, and they have a married daughter and three grandchildren. He serves on the President's Council of Victoria University and received the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto.

Pilgrimage 2021

Although the current pandemic has prevented the organisers of the pilgrimage from visiting Velehrad as they had planned, to meet the local co-ordinators, the pilgrimage working group is busy preparing the pilgrimage programme, invitation and other documents. They hope to be able to travel to Velehrad as soon as travel restrictions are lifted, and we look forward to hearing more in due course.



In the mean time, please make sure that the all-important dates of 9-11 April 2021 are firmly in your diaries!

Teddies face up to COVID-19

We were pleased to see that a number of the well-loved Western Cape Commandery fundraising tartan teddies have equipped themselves in the correct protective gear to face the pandemic.

