

July 2019



SAINT LAZARUS[®]

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

A Hospitaller and Military Order

Our Order was established with the dual aims of protecting Jerusalem (military) and caring for lepers around the city (hospitaller). With the end of the Crusades the former role became diminished and now is evidenced residually in our uniforms and decorations. The latter has become the major focus of the Order which raises €2.5 million each year for humanitarian causes, including leprosy and those suffering from it.

Unfortunately, sometimes we are tempted to focus on the 'bling' of medals, uniforms and decorations to the detriment of our ongoing charitable and hospitaller work. On the other hand, a visit to France, Germany or the UK reveals historic sites set up and run by our Order for centuries. We hope to be able to catalogue many of these over the next five years as they are a visual *aide memoire* of the continuous hospitaller work of the Order.

While leprosy is now treatable and containable there are still far too many people affected and maimed by it. The task is never complete. In Europe leprosy has reared its head again in a number of countries. But, containment is only the beginning of the work of our Order.

There is so much more that we could do, and you can read about some of the projects already under way in this newsletter, as well as on our website. But in order to continue and expand these projects we need your commitment to help with and fund them. This is our 21st century challenge: to keep our Order at the forefront of caring for those whom others pass by. Please help us!

Atavis et Armis!

Norman Hunter Rose

Editor



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Inside this issue:

Charity and
hospitaller overview 2

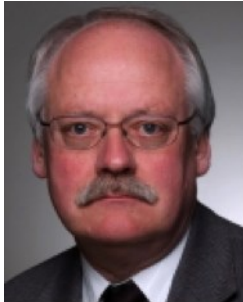
Our Order in
Southern Africa 3

The Spiritual
Advisory Council 4

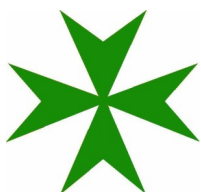
An interview with
the Grand Master 5

The Spiritual
Protector visits Paris 5

Hospitaller history 6



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From the Grand Hospitaller

An overview of the charitable and hospitaller work of the Order

Through its 4,000 members across the world the Order gives around €2 million annually. The projects supported by these funds fall into 5 main categories:

- * Relief of leprosy
- * International aid activities
- * Emergency care
- * Food and support for the poor, homeless and vulnerable
- * Community service

These broad categories cover a vast array of projects across the world.

Some of these activities are performed by members of the Order within their jurisdictions. The majority are provided by specialist organisations to which donations are made. In addition to the historic commitment to provision of support for people suffering from leprosy, members in jurisdictions are engaged with children’s care, support for the disadvantaged and disabled, hospice and palliative care, community service, food campaigns and raising the awareness of the great need for and benefits of organ transplants. A new area of support and engagement is in the area of telemedicine, particularly in relation to eye disease. Details of these engagements can be found in the Hospitaller Report for 2018 which can be found on the international website.

Leprosy continues to be prevalent in many countries, including across Europe, and new and innovative means are being developed to ensure that those affected are aware of how easily it can be stopped in its tracks and how to assist those suffering from it to become active contributors to the local economy, including the provision of prosthetics using 3-D printing.

Telemedicine is important where there is no local medical infrastructure but satellite communication permits surgery to be overseen from a hospital. In relation to eye surgery the Order supports the Orbis Flying Eye hospital which takes its mobile operating theatre



to remote areas, and has sponsored the provision of new equipment enabling cataract operations to take place more quickly and cheaply.

Many jurisdictions are actively engaged in the provision of services to local, poor communities and individuals. These include provision of transport, furniture, redecoration, clothing and food as well as well as the provision of Christmas presents

for children who, otherwise, would have none.

In addition to these activities, those of the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe and Lazarus Hilfswerk have been incorporated into the German Healthcare System where it is involved in the management of homes for the elderly and those requiring nursing care as well as providing ambulances for the handicapped. Its annual turnover is in excess of €10 million.

The large sums raised by the Order are only made possible by the multitude of small donations made by you as members of the Order. Without the commitment of members of the Order none of the local activities which ameliorate loneliness, poverty and isolation could be carried out. Thank you to you all.

Brett Delahunt GCLJ
Grand Hospitaller



Our Order in Southern Africa

Two jurisdictions – the **Grand Priory of Zimbabwe** and the **Grand Bailiwick of South Africa** – are active in the region and face similar yet widely disparate challenges.

In once thriving Zimbabwe, with electricity supply down to an irregular four hours a day, an economy in freefall, motor fuel rationing severe and even basic foodstuffs like bread becoming hard to find, the few members left in the Grand Priory battle to survive, much less work to help those in more desperate straits. Yet despite this, members continue to support at least for a little while longer, the 42 people at Mtemwa Leprosy Mission and the charity shop run by Zimbabwe Aged Concern (Zane).

The Grand Bailiwick of Scotland manages independent charitable projects in this embattled country.

In neighbouring South Africa, despite a severely challenged economy, unemployment of at least 45% and a fractured society, particularly the Western Cape Commandery has been able in recent times to grow its membership, increase its fundraising impetus and offer a greater level of aid to beneficiaries.

Key here has been to think bigger, bringing in lay and commercial partners to significantly extend value and importantly, to keep up momentum. “Members who don’t stay actively involved tend to lose interest, which is why we try and involve each and every member in our activities throughout the year,” said Grand Bailiff, Tamra Capstick-Dale DCLJ, who also chairs the Order’s International Membership Committee.

Current beneficiaries are a home for abandoned, orphaned or abused children under six and a large shelter for terminally ill indigent elderly folk in one of the country’s poorest communities. Other similar entities are from time to time assisted on an ad hoc basis. The Commandery also helps beneficiaries to raise their own funding.

In just the last year, this Commandery has – with much public involvement – ‘hosted’ a huge fund-raising Burns Dinner, walked a one day inner-city pilgrimage, run a charity fete stall, donated many boxes of medication, piles of clothing and mountains of nappies, truckloads of wheelchairs, walkers, bath chairs and the like, painted and furnished rooms, sold hundreds of tartan teddies, sailed on pilgrimage to the leper church on Robben Island, supported parish outreach programmes, held a quiz, spent Hospitaller funds wisely, had a lot of fun and a whole lot more.

The Grand Bailiwick of South Africa is thinking through how they can best help the Grand Priory of Zimbabwe.

Will Carter CLJ

Regional Communications Officer, Southern Hemisphere

The Spiritual Advisory Council: Who, What, and Service

H.E. The Revd Eric Dyck, GCLJ, KMLJ, Deputy Ecclesiastical Grand Prior, introduces us to the work of the Spiritual Advisory Council

At the time of the re-unification of the Order, the Spiritual Advisory Council was formed as an advisory body for the Grand Master, under the leadership of the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior. For those accustomed to the Paris Obedience, the role of the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior was a new international office, but one which serves as an important focus for spiritual questions and matters pertaining to chaplains of the Order. As with most new structures, there has been a process of growing into its role of service to the Grand Master, along with the Grand Magistral Council, together with the leadership of the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior. The council is privileged to have as the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior His Grace, Archbishop Michele Pennisi of Monreale, Sicily, who in June of 2017 graciously hosted the Order to a pilgrimage at the cathedral in Monreale and the shrine of King St. Louis IX. Pastor Eric Dyck (Grand Priory in Canada) serves as Deputy Ecclesiastical Grand Prior.

The membership of the Council seeks to reflect denominational and jurisdictional diversity, as well as including both chaplains and lay members. Since the Council's formation there have been several changes and adjustments in membership. Current members, from jurisdictions in Italy, Canada, USA, Scotland, Germany, Spain, England and the Czech Republic, are drawn from the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Ukrainian Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Old Catholic churches. Most recently the Council met in the summers of 2017 and 2018, as well as continuing with various projects by electronic means.

An important document which the Council has produced is a list of recommendations for the consideration of the Grand Master and the Grand Magistral Council. Upon the pleasure of the Grand Master, these will be shared with the jurisdictions as aids to prioritising and fulfilling the ecumenical and spiritual missions of the Order. The Council is engaged in discussion around the spiritual revitalisation of the Order and the foundational example we share in the caring for human need demonstrated in the Gospel parable of poor Lazarus and the rich man.

The Council is keen on the unique ecumenical dimension which our Order reflects amongst orders of chivalry and we proudly join with Jesus in praying "that they may be one" (Consider Jesus to be the original ecumenist!) There is also work being done on a prayer book, liturgical guidelines (co-ordinated with the ceremonial guidelines already in existence from the Grand Marshal) for Vigil and Investiture services, and a religious calendar for the guidance of jurisdictions. It is also the desire of the Council to foster the Order's relationship with the Spiritual Protector (as of 2017), His Beatitude Youssef Absi, Greek-Melkite Patriarch.

The year ahead will be active and the Council hopes to share many helpful advisements and guidelines in the name of the Grand Master and the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior.



*The
Ecclesiastical
Grand Prior*

Forthcoming events

- 27 September** Grand Priory of Hungary National Investiture, Budapest
- 27-29 September** Grand Bailiwick of Germany, Lazarus Days 2019, Heilsbronn
- 17-20 October** Grand Priory of America, Grand Prioral Council, Los Cabos, Mexico
- 19 October** Grand Bailiwick of Switzerland National Investiture, Gfenn
- 24-26 October** International conference of the International Academy of St Lazarus, 3rd Academic meeting, Malta

An interview with the Grand Master

Our Grand Master, HE the Chevalier Don Francisco de Borbon, Graf von Hardenberg, has had a busy time since his Investiture in May 2018. He has taken time out of his hectic schedule to reflect on all that has happened.

How have you enjoyed your first year as Grand Master?

I have very much enjoyed my first year and a half, but at the same time it has been very demanding. It wasn't till I travelled so much that I realized the magnitude of our order.

How many jurisdictions have you visited and what have you learned from these visits?

I have visited Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Slovakia, USA, Austria, Malta, Portugal and attended events in Spain. I learnt that the Order is full of kind, amusing and intelligent people and so much more can be achieved if we just try and organize ourselves a bit better.



On 4 May 2019, the Grand Master travelled to Lubovna to take part in the celebrations for the 83rd anniversary of the Grand Priory of Slovakia

What are your goals for the next 12 months based on getting to know the Order better?
To connect, to create and to inspire.

We look forward to hearing more about the Grand Master's schedule for the coming months, as he travels to other jurisdictions and develops his plans for the future of the Order.

The Spiritual Protector visits Paris

In December 2018, Msgr Maalouf, the official representative of our Spiritual Protector, His Beatitude Youssef Absi, and Rector of the church of Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre in Paris, was admitted to the Order in the Grand Bailiwick of France in the rank of Ecclesiastical Commander.



At the beginning of May, the Patriarch himself paid an official pastoral visit to France and members of the Grand Bailiwick were invited to attend various functions.

On Thursday 9th May, the Patriarch gave a talk at the Catholic University of Paris. The following day, there was a private dinner with the Patriarch at Le Procope, the oldest restaurant in Paris, and on Saturday, Solemn Pontifical Vespers at Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre. On the Sunday, His Beatitude celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Saint-Sulpice (the church that temporarily functions as cathedral of Paris after the fire in Notre-Dame) in the presence of the

Archbishop of Paris, Msgr Aupetit. Finally, on Tuesday, 14th May, there was a concert at Saint-Julien-le-Pauvre when no less than eight pieces composed by the Patriarch were performed.

You can read more about his visit on the website of the Grand Bailiwick of France at <https://saint-lazare-france.fr/actualite-ordre-saint-lazare/>



The Hospitaller function of the Order of St Lazarus

- a short history

As we consider the current hospitaller activities of our Order, it is interesting to look back and see how it all began. We are grateful to HE the Chev. Charles Savona-Ventura GCLJ for this brief overview

The Order of St Lazarus saw its origins in the early fifth century as an establishment sited outside the walls of Jerusalem serving the needs of victims of leprosy. The establishment became a formal monastic hospitaller order after the First Crusade of 1099. This hospitaller function persisted through the 12-13th centuries expanding its role throughout Christian Europe. The statutes of the Order during this period mentions that in 'the Jerusalem monastery there shall be fifty-two Brothers in the service of at least an equal number of the sick, not including those brothers of the order and invalids who are incapable of earning their livelihood.'

The 14th century Black Death epidemics saw an apparent decline in the number of lepers. Together with a changing attitude towards lepers, this led to a decrease in the number of leproseria institutions needed. In England, St Giles leprosarium at Holborn housed 40 inmates when transferred to the Order's management. By 1345, the staff of eight carers were catering for 14 lepers, and by 1402 was catering for only four victims. However, the hospitaller activities expanded to outside the leproseria supporting lepers in the community. In 1479 at Burton Lazars in England, the establishment was obliged to support 14 lepers who if not institutionalized were supported by paying them 'a weekly sum of money for the necessities of life'.



The modern church at Burton Lazars



The St Lazarus chapel at Noyers, Loire

The political turmoil of 16th century saw the Order split up into regional components with loyalties to the local rulers. It also gradually assumed a more military role to become by the end of the 16th century an honorific order of chivalry awarded for services rendered by the French king. An attempt was made by the French king in 1722 to strengthen the hospitaller function of the Order and place all the hospitals in the realm under the Order's management. The French Revolution put philanthropy on the backburner. However, following the Bourbon restoration and the loss of Royal protection in 1830, the French Order assumed a new hospitaller role supporting philanthropic activities in the Holy Land – a raison d'être eventually entrenched in the 1910 statutes. In the aftermath of the Second World War, the Order expanded its activities to an international perspective with unlimited scope.

