



The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem The Grand Priory of Finland

1 / 25

NEWSLETTER



Ritaripäivät Tampereella 14.-16.11.2025

The Autumn gathering and Investiture of the Grand Priory of Finland were held in Tampere in 2025. Practical arrangements were handled by the Commandery of the Holy Cross.

The weekend started on Friday, 14 November, at Funkkistalo in Sastamala, where a pleasant group of participants gathered in the Holy Cross Room. During the evening, Kirsi-Marja Nieminen recounted the story of Funkkistalo. The group also heard about the cultural life of Sastamala and the Sastamala Gregoriana Festival, and enjoyed music performed by local musicians.

On Saturday, the ecumenical service was held at Tampere Cathedral. During the investiture, ten new members were received, three were promoted, and two were awarded. Dinner was served in the historic Hotel Tammer. The events featured a rich variety of musical performances. In the cathedral, Kotkan pojat accompanied the procession with trumpets, and the Händel Choir's performances enhanced the solemn atmosphere. At dinner, the virtuoso ensemble Finngips amazed the audience with its skill, and at the end of the evening, the renowned entertainer Seppo Hovi delighted everyone with a brief performance.

In her address, Grand Prior Helena Pesola emphasized that no member is merely a number in statistics, but a person whose skills and personality enrich our work. Our mission is built on human-sized challenges, and the demand for our charitable efforts continues to grow in a fast-changing world. We need courage to take action, sensitivity to perceive another person's need and suffering, and strength to turn our intentions into good deeds. In the end, helping is an act of caring and genuine presence.

The Spring gathering and investiture will be held in Lappeenranta 18.-19.4.2026

Contact person: Elina Tiainen CLJ, Herold, Regional Public Relations Officer (Nordics), ketiainen@gmail.com

New member

Delegation of St Jacob

Kai Luoma MLJ

Delegation of St Margaret

Johanna Julku MLJ ja Tomi Lantto MLJ

Commandery of St Mary

Jermu Laine MLJ

Delegation of St Nicholas

Antti Hietaranta MLJ

Commandery of Holy Cross

Aija AChLJ ja Vesa Aurén AChLJ

Päivi ja Jussi Kaikkonen MLJ

Eeva Torppa-Saarinen MLJ

Promotions

Jari Paasikivi KLJ

Timo Hoikka CLJ

Jukka Kangas OLJ

Awards

Pekka Lehmuskallio CMLJ

Kullervo Lehtonen OMLJ

The Grand Prior has ordered Chevalier Marko Savolainen as the Commander of the Commandery of St. Lawrence starting from 1.1.2026