



March 2020

# SAINT LAZARUS®

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

## The International Newsletter

### From the desk of the Grand Commander

*“The only person who welcomes change is a baby with a wet diaper” Mark Twain*

What really characterizes our membership in the Order of Saint Lazarus? We are an historic chivalric Order that has stood a test of time in many Jurisdictions over many centuries. In origin our activities involved real passion in military actions, a robust defence of Christian belief and spiritual adherence to humanistic values.

In modern times, it is more accurate to describe our collective activities as a vocation. Resilience and adaption to the rapid social and economic changes of this 21<sup>st</sup> century are axiomatic as we move ahead with our agenda. A recent Heads of Jurisdiction meeting in Madrid in November 2019 addressed some of these issues directly.

Our public profile is below the radar in many Jurisdictions. Members can actively raise this profile with targeted public audiences. This includes key personnel in government and charitable agencies both national and international. Inviting elected or appointed officials to social events has been shown as an effective outreach initiative.

We need to develop and articulate a long-term activity plan, which is financially achievable and demonstrates vibrancy and relevance to specific defined needs within the community. The use of our recently published International Hospitaller Report is an optimal tool in demonstrating the vital and important activities of Saint Lazarus around the world. A short summary version is available which can easily be printed and distributed by members.

It is truly important that our own members must be full participants in our ongoing activities. Planned meetings or social events up to 4-6 times annually with invited guests foster the fellowship for which we are so well known. New members in particular welcome specific and meaningful opportunities to participate.

Shakespeare once wrote “Tis no sin for a man to labour at his vocation”. The foregoing are just a few suggestions you may wish to consider over this next year. I thank you for your consideration and active engagement in our shared vocation.

***Atavis et Armis!***

***Edward (Ted) White***

### Inside this issue:

Membership report 2

A 30 year partnership 3

International academic meeting 4

From the desk of the Grand Commander 5

News and diary 6



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## The Membership Committee

The work of the Membership Committee has brought us into contact with the entire Order worldwide, in an effort to understand how each of the Bailiwicks and Priors works, how they approach membership and marketing, and what their views are on how to grow our Order.

I chaired the Committee, which comprised a multi-jurisdictional team from the corners of the globe. The members who contributed their time and expertise were Richard Payatt (US), Todd Skilton (New Zealand), Daniel Senn (Switzerland), Michelle Kwong (US) and Garreth Bloor (Canada).

Our work began with a wide-ranging online survey of members, with an eventual return rate of 736 responses, and thus one of the most comprehensive completed to date. Space doesn't permit a summary of the findings, but a few highlights would include the fact that we are an Order which is predominantly male, and mostly over the age of 55. These findings alone provide opportunity for membership growth. Well over two thirds of members said that there were either no opportunities for youth participation in their Jurisdiction or Commandery, or if there were, they didn't know about them.

In respect of membership growth, almost two thirds of members want to us forge closer ties to other like-minded organisations as a means for growth. Interestingly, only 6.5% of members said active marketing and events were used to attract new members. 72% of members were in favour of using social media as a marketing tool, most of them making the point that someone would need to actively manage such media for it to be effective.

Once the findings were complete, an analysis of the research was done and then presented to the GMC. Following this, a full membership strategy was drawn up and presented to both the GMC and the Heads of Jurisdictions in Madrid in November last year. This strategy was then put into tactical implementation steps and decisions, and these are currently under review by the Working Group.

It was not only an enjoyable exercise on the part of the Membership Committee, but an extraordinarily worthwhile one that allowed both a deep understanding of the views of members, and the ability to plan for the future.



*Dame Tamra Capstick-Dale GCLJ*

*Chairman: Membership Committee*

*Member without Portfolio: Grand Magistral Council*

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## Australian Capital Territory Commandery and L'Arche Foundation – a 30 year partnership

The seven Commanderies of the Grand Priory of Australia operate independently in their charitable efforts and choose the activities they support. The Australian Capital Territory Commandery selected the L'Arche organisation over thirty years ago as their main charitable work. It is one of a number of St Lazarus jurisdictions/sub jurisdictions, who have chosen to support the L'Arche organisation. L'Arche provides community accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities, known as core members, and their carers.



The ACT Commandery is based in the Australian national capital, Canberra, but also draws Commandery members from nearby areas in New South Wales. The feature event for L'Arche is the annual fundraising dinner, which provides much needed financial support. In 2018 profits from the dinner were used to furnish two houses. In 2019 the profits helped to purchase a car, which L'Arche uses to transport core members and staff.



But the ACT Commandery does not limit itself merely to fund raising. Over this long period Commandery members have also supported L'Arche in a “hands-on” way by attending their prayer meetings and discussion groups. The Commandery also hosts the entire L'Arche community at a barbecue lunch each Southern spring in one of Canberra's many beautiful parks. The lunch is followed by another typically Australian activity, a cricket match. By some strange coincidence the L'Arche players always win the trophy!

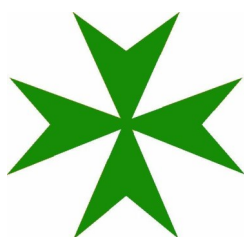
The Saint Lazarus and L'Arche relationship is cherished by both groups.

*Elizabeth Scrivener OAM, CLJ*

*Commandery President*



*“a forum for interested academics to present their research findings”*



## International Academic Meeting on the History of the Order October 2019

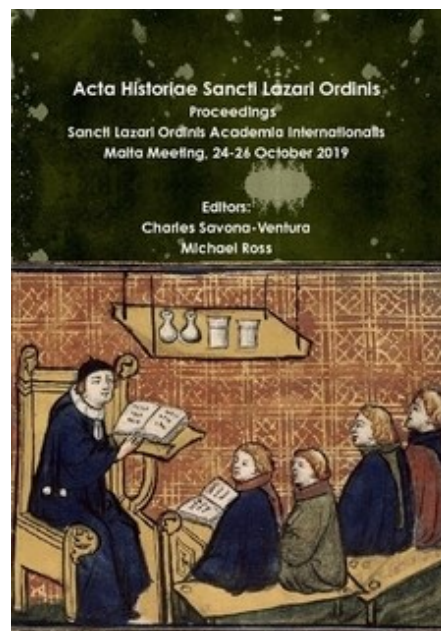
The International Academy of the Order of Saint Lazarus organized an academic meeting in Malta in October last year. The aim of the meeting was to provide a forum for interested academics to present their research findings. A number of papers were presented.

The meeting opened with a short background to the history of the academic arms of the Order reviewing the 18th century post of *historiographe* and the establishment of the 1930s *Association de la Chevalerie*. The subsequent academic programme included a discussion of the oft misquoted 1319 Papal Bull *Ioannes Episcopus Servus*, the historical evidence of a nation-wide leprosaria network in France involved with the 1321 Leper’s Plot and a discussion based on a translation from Latin of the 1418 Statutes of the Order regulating the houses in Gfenn and Seedorf.

Other presentations looked at the medieval history of the Order in Central Europe, the late 16<sup>th</sup> century attempt by the then Capuan Grandmaster of the Order to sell his holdings to the Order of St John, the role of viticulture in the economic endeavours of the Order, and the place of women in the Order throughout the ages.

Presentations also looked at modern aspects of the Order’s history including the statutory meaning of expressions of Lazarite identity, the development of the green cap in the crown within the arms of the Order, and the true status of the Grand Commandery of Boigny in respect to the Grand Priory of France.

The proceedings of the meeting have been published and are obtainable directly from the printers at <http://www.lulu.com/shop/charles-savona-ventura-and-michael-ross/acta-historiae-sancti-lazari-ordinis-proceedings-sancti-lazari-ordinis-academia-internationalis-volume-3/paperback/product-24376233.html>.



***Chev. Professor Charles Savona-Ventura, GCLJ  
Grand Archivist and Historian***

## Charity, Christianity and Pageantry

In this season of Lent it is appropriate to remember the honourable history of our Order in assisting those afflicted by Hansen's disease (Leprosy) from our earliest days in the Second Crusade. Recently I attended a reception in the House of Lords in London on behalf of LEPRO, a UK-based charity. I was astounded to learn of the continued spread of leprosy across the world and the lack of funding to address this. Clearly, our work is still not complete in this area and we need to increase our funding for those organisations which supply the experts to address the disease and its consequences.

The basis for our existence and mission is our Christian faith. This has always been the case. Our compassion and care is based on the love of God which shines into our lives and governs our actions. The 'untouchables' are equal objects of his love whatever their personal religion or lack of it and we are the eyes, hands and feet of our Lord in sharing and delivering that love with and to them.



*The Lord Mayor's procession*

The excellent work done by Richard Payatt in producing the new Handbook illustrates the significance of the uniform of the Order, while at a basic level our mantles proclaim who we are. In November these will be on display as we form part of the Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London where HE Alderman Vincent Keaveny GCLJ will take the salute as the newly installed Lord Mayor. This occasion is unique in our history and I hope that members from across the globe may wish to travel to London to witness the event and to support our eminent confrere who brings such honour to our noble Order.

And so, may we continue to keep our Order active, relevant, recognisable and highly regarded and honoured.

***Norman Hunter Rose***

***Editor***

*"The basis for our existence and mission is our Christian faith"*



**International pilgrimage 2021**  
**Velehrad, Czech Republic, 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2021**



It has recently been confirmed that the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic will host the next international pilgrimage of the Order at Velehrad, an 800 year old site full of history and spiritual meaning, which is recognised as one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Moravia and Central Europe.



The official pilgrimage route with twenty stone stations connects Velehrad and the former Veligrad – Staré Město. The pilgrimage will consist of a symbolic walk through the Sanctuary's main sites.

Velehrad is 280 km. from Prague and 160 km. from Vienna, and bus transportation will be arranged from the airports of Prague and Vienna.

Further details can be found on the international website ([www.st-lazarus.net](http://www.st-lazarus.net)) and registration forms and other organisational details will be available soon.

Please save the dates in your diaries now – we hope to see many of you there!



**Her Excellency Dame Cristina Elena de Borbón von Hardenberg DGCLJ**

We report with great sadness the passing away of Her Excellency Mrs. Cristina Elena de Borbón von Hardenberg, Dame Grand Cross of Justice of The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, sister of the L. Grand Master and daughter of the Grand Master Emeritus, His Excellency the Duke of Seville.

Cristina was 44 years old. She was devoted to the Order and participated in several activities in Marbella and Madrid. She was a brilliant student and entrepreneur who developed her own catering business. She loved animals and inherited a powerful artistic vein from her mother, HE Beatrice von Hardenberg zu Fürstenberg.

The funeral will be held on March 19 at 8.30 p.m. at the monastery of Santo Domingo el Real, Claudio Coello Street no.112 in Madrid (Spain).

**For your diary**

**2020**

- 25 April Grand Priory of England & Wales, National Investiture, London
- 28-31 May Grand Priory in Canada, Chapter General, Niagara Falls, Ontario
- 16-17 October Grand Priory of Spain, National Investiture, Madrid

**2021**

- 9-11 April 2021 International Pilgrimage, Velehrad, Czech Republic