



December 2019

SAINT LAZARUS®

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Grand Master

As 2019 comes to an end, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment and support throughout the year. It has been an honour and pleasure to visit many jurisdictions and experience first-hand all the good that our members do around the world. I feel truly blessed to serve as Grand Master to such an amazing group of people united in our hospitaller efforts and in our Christian faith.

Last month in Madrid we had excellent meetings of the Grand Magistral Council and Heads of Jurisdiction. The initiatives adopted in relation to social media and membership will transform the Order in the most positive way. They will provide us with a new interactive social media platform on which to communicate with each other and the outside world and will facilitate the recruitment of new members.

I would also like to thank our Heads of Jurisdiction for their incredible job retaining members and gaining new ones while encouraging local Commanderies to engage with their communities and spreading Christian ideals.

The season of Advent reminds us of new beginnings as the Christian church across the world starts its new liturgical year. It is also a time for reflection on the gift of God and a time to give back to those less fortunate.

The Feast of St Nicholas on December 6 draws our attention to children, especially those in poverty and need for whom we can make Christmas truly happy by providing presents and care. Social exclusion is today's 'leprosy' and, as we have cared for those suffering from leprosy for over 900 years, I hope that you will open your hearts to those in need as our members have done throughout the history of the Order.

In this spirit, I wish everyone a merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Atavis et Armis!

HE the Chevalier Don Francisco de Borbon, Graf von Hardenberg GCLJ



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Grand Magistral Council Meeting report

The Grand Magistral Council (GMC) met on Friday, 1 November 2019 in the Madrid Chancery Office.



The Chev. Sergio Fernández de Córdoba, KCLJ (Grand Priory of Spain), our Grand Information Officer, is responsible for coordinating all media, communication and a protocol for social media postings. A major effort is underway for the completion of the Order's new website. Following extensive

testing by members, some redesign has been required to meet the needs and expectations of our jurisdictions.

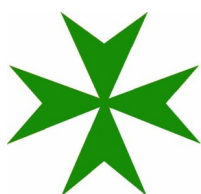
The 2019 Hospitaller Report has been published, and includes charitable activities from all 38 jurisdictions of our Order. The report also includes information on the Order's first Hospitaller flagship project, the St. Louis Hospital in Jerusalem, which will be mainly supported by funds donated to the Hospitaller flagship project. A summary hospitaller report has been prepared and circulated. Work has begun on identifying a second Hospitaller flagship project, and our Grand Hospitaller is in the process of organizing this effort.

As a result of legal action in two European countries regarding our use of the green cross, the MHOSLJ Foundation applied to the European Union Intellectual Property Office to register our green cross in the European Union. An objection to our application was filed by the German branch of the protestant Johanniter Order acting collectively with the German branch of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which uses a white eight-pointed cross. This matter was discussed by both the GMC and the Heads of Jurisdictions, both of whom agreed it is important to protect the Order's name, arms and use of the green cross. Our Legal Committee is working with a European lawyer to defend the use of our primary symbol.

Earlier this year, our Patriarch and Spiritual Protector, H.B. Youssef Absi, joined members of the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic for their investiture. His presence for the events was thoroughly appreciated by our members. Our Patriarch's representative, H.E. Archimandrite Chihade Abboud, joined our members in Sicily for the installation of the new Grand Bailiwick of Sicily and was one of 32 new members invested.

A major effort is underway for the completion of the Order's new website.

Work has begun on identifying a second Hospitaller flagship project.



Excellent feedback was obtained to advance the Order and finalize a membership strategy

Two new members were appointed to the Order's Spiritual Advisory Council (SAC), and sincere thanks given to retiring member H.E. The Right Rev. Archimandrite George Appleyard for his long and dedicated service. The SAC has several projects underway, such as a prayer book for the Order and prayers for World Leprosy Day on 26 January 2020. The SAC's emphasis is on implementing more spiritual activities for the Order.

The third International Academic Meeting on the history of the Order of Saint Lazarus was held in Malta. Thirteen presentations were made on topics such as the *fons honorum* of the Order and the Capuan possessions of the Order in the 16th century. Participants had the opportunity to join a guided tour of Valletta to further their historical knowledge of the region.

The Financial Accounts 2018 of the Order were discussed and, also considering the report of the Grand Custodian, approved in the GMC meeting.

In response to a recently distributed survey from the Order's Membership Committee, 736 responses were received. Excellent feedback was obtained to advance the Order and finalize a membership strategy, which was received and is currently being evaluated.

A number of new appointments were made by the Grand Master of officers, deputies and other appointed positions reporting to the GMC. These are listed in full on the international website.

Vision 2020: actions not words

In the world of optometry 2020 vision is perfect.

As we approach 2020 what is our vision for our Order? The Grand Master has highlighted charity which has been fundamental to the Order since its inception. While working to alleviate the effects of leprosy remains our primary focus, social exclusion from society must be a close runner-up at local level in all our Commanderies. We cannot pass by on the other side and remain true to the promises we made when we became members.

Alongside this we need to communicate better within our Jurisdictions and across them. We have so much to learn from each other and so much to give to each other from our local experiences which can open new avenues of service to others.

Our rituals, uniforms and medals are only the "guinea stamp" on our active engagement with our communities, our care and concern for others and our commitment to raising money to help those suffering from debilitating diseases. In these ways we shall attract new members, who see us going about doing good, and be able to raise the profile of our noble Order.

These are themes which have formed the basis of discussions and plans of action at the recent meetings of the GMC and Heads of Jurisdiction. Now it is up to us to take up the challenge for the benefit of those who need and seek our help.

The Heads of Jurisdiction meeting : 2 November 2019

The Grand Commander welcomed everyone and thanked Heads of Jurisdiction for what they do. There would be major presentations on Communications and Technology. He highlighted the formation of the new Grand Bailiwick of Sicily which already has 36 members. Finally, he highlighted one of the main findings of the recent Membership Survey which showed that more than 2/3rds of respondents wished more spiritual activity within the Order.

The Grand Chancellor reported that she now had three deputies, in the USA (New York), Europe (Madrid) and Australia. She reminded those present that 90 days' notice must be given to the Grand Chancery of all national Investitures and that Brevets must be sent as early as possible to avoid delays for postulants or promotees.

The Grand Hospitaller reminded attendees that his 2018 Report was now on line. It takes 3 months to compile and produce and he exhorted Heads of Jurisdiction to ask their Hospitallers to 'read the instructions' for submitting their national reports and to ensure that these were submitted within the stipulated time frame.

Charitable giving rose by 20% in 2018/19 for which Jurisdictions were to be congratulated. The Flagship project at the St. Louis Hospital in Jerusalem will be continued for another 2 years: an initial donation of Au\$5,000 has already been received from the Grand Priory of Australia.

The Vice Grand Chancellor (Finance) reported a \$6k decrease in oblations this year.

The Chair of the Membership Committee presented the results of the Membership Survey and the interim conclusions of the GMC. This will be highlighted in the February issue of the International Newsletter.

The Grand Information Officer outlined his proposals to improve the online presence of the Order. The new website would be available by Easter 2020 which would radically improve potential communication between members. This will also be a highlight of the February issue of the International Newsletter.

The Chairman of the IPRCC submitted a report on the work of the Committee and its future plans which has already been circulated to Heads of Jurisdiction. The work of the Committee is coordinated through 3 Regional Communications Officers for Europe, the Americas and the Southern Hemisphere.

The Grand Justiciar reminded those present that his team is there to help Jurisdictions. There are major legal issues in Europe over the 'Green Cross' which will be expensive to resolve.

The Grand Historian reported on the recent International conference and other issues around the history of the Order.

On behalf of the Spiritual Advisory Council the Deputy Vice Grand Chancellor (Administration) reported briefly on the recent meeting of the Council and its recommendations to the GMC - (see separate report). She highlighted the role of the IPRCC in helping to raise the profile of clergy. Discussions were underway regarding the next triennial Pilgrimage with several locations under consideration. Ongoing information would be provided through the International Newsletter.

In response to a question from the floor, it was agreed to compile a calendar of national Investitures.



The Spiritual Advisory Council

The main focus of the Spiritual Advisory Council is to revitalise the spiritual life of the Order. Gospel values of love, mercy and justice should be the characteristics of each member. These should also guide the decisions of national Executive Councils on which the national Chaplain-General sits, percolating down to Commanderies through their Commandery chaplains.

The SAC is currently updating the list of Chaplains of all ranks across the Order to gain sight of the ecumenical breadth and resources of the Order internationally.

Each Jurisdiction holds at least two services annually – a Vigil and an Investiture – and the liturgy for both of these is being reviewed to ensure that these important events are celebrated in a manner meaningful to the Order. To assist the spiritual life of each member of the Order a Prayer Book common to all jurisdictions is currently under development, building on the jurisdictional prayer books already in use in some jurisdictions. It is hoped that this will be a further means of enabling members to pray similarly each day.

Gospel values of love, mercy and justice should be the characteristics of each member

Don't forget about World Leprosy Day!

World Leprosy Day 2020 falls on Sunday 26 January. It is hoped that all members of the Order will make this day a focus for their prayers, as well as for fund-raising activities.

A short liturgy has been prepared, and will be published on the international website

Loving God, you have compassion for your whole creation.

We give thanks that you joined our humanity in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

In baptism you called us to be disciples and continue the ministry of Jesus.

In our commitments to the Order of St. Lazarus, you inspire us to act with the same compassion you demonstrated in Jesus.

As the world acknowledges that the ancient disease of Leprosy has not yet been eradicated,

we pray to be faithful members of our Order and disciples of Jesus working to end Leprosy.

We pray to be faithful members of our Order and disciples of Jesus working to end Leprosy



A new jurisdiction—the Grand Bailiwick of Sicily

Saturday September 29, 2019 was a special day for the Order and for Italy as the newest Jurisdiction of the Order was inaugurated in Monreale. The Ecclesiastical Grand Prior, Archbishop Mgr. Michele Pennisi, presided and the Grand Master Emeritus, HRH the Duke of Seville, installed the new Grand Bailiff, HE Chev. Pino Zingale.

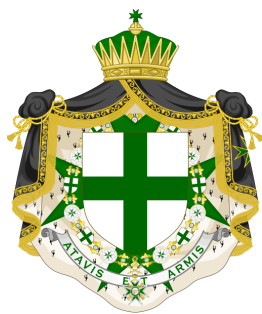
The ceremony was preceded by a Vigil the previous evening for the 32 postulants joining the Order.

The Investiture took place in La Chiesa Capitolare Lazzarita del Sancto Cuore after which those present



processed to the Cathedral for a Pontifical High Mass at which the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior was the celebrant. Among the international guests were the Anglican Bishop of Christ the Redeemer, the Apocrisario of the Spiritual Protector, His Beatitude Patriarch Youssef Absi, Dom Nicola Gaglio, Vicar of the Cathedral, the Grand Commander, HE Chev. Ted White, the Grand Chancellor HE Dame Marny Gilluly and the Grand Marshal HE CW Gilluly, the Grand Prior of Italy, HE General Basilo Veola and the Grand Commander of the Castello of Malta, HE Chev. Dr Carmel Bonello.

Further details together with the names of the officers of the Grand Bailiwick can be found at <http://www.sanlazzarosicilia.it>



Diary dates

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|-------------------|---|
| 13 December 2019 | Grand Priory of Europe, Advent celebrations, Frechen-Buschbell |
| 26 January 2020 | World Leprosy Day |
| 25 April 2020 | Grand Priory of England & Wales National Investiture, London |
| 28-31 May 2020 | Grand Priory of Canada, Chapter-General, Niagara Falls, Ontario |
| 11 September 2020 | Grand Magistral Council meeting in Madrid |
| April 2021 | Pilgrimage of the Order (details to follow shortly) |
| April 2021 | Hospitallers meeting (held in conjunction with the Pilgrimage) |