



A message from the Grand Master

Welcome to the Order of Saint Lazarus. I hope you find this leaflet helpful in learning more about the Order.

We have been around for nearly 950 years during which we have continuously cared for those suffering from Hansen's Disease and others nearer home who are socially or economically excluded. The recent COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has called for us to step up our caring concern within our local communities and members of the Order have risen to that challenge magnificently.

Membership is open to Christians of all denominations and I hope that this short leaflet will have whetted your appetite to get to know more about us and to consider becoming a member. Please use the contact details below and your enquiry will be passed to the relevant national jurisdiction who will be in touch to tell you more about what is happening where you live.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Order.

Atavis et Armis!

H.E. Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg GCLJ

For further information about the Order of St Lazarus and its activities, please see our website at www.st-lazarus.net

or email us at info.iprcc@st-lazarus.net.

July 2020

Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

Grand Master: H.E. Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg GCLJ



An introduction

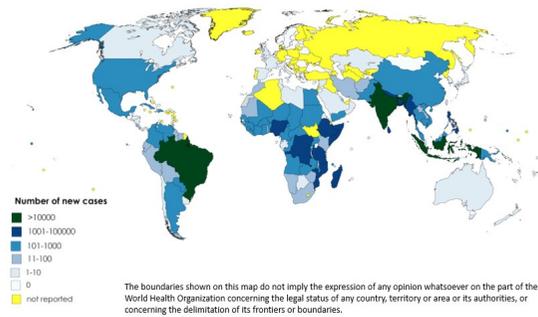
O God, who has chosen us to be an Order of Knights under the blessed protection of Saint Lazarus, grant that we, in full devotion to you and abounding in neighbourly charity, may show ourselves invincible against the enemies of the Cross, remaining faithful unto death, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus is an ecumenical organization of Christian hospitallers whose spirit goes back to the Holy Land and the Crusades. It is named in honour of St Lazarus, who is generally recognised as the patron saint of lepers.



The Order is one of the smallest of the chivalric orders with a membership numbering approximately 4,500 members in Grand Priories, Grand Bailiwicks, Priories, Bailiwicks, and Delegations in the five continents.



Reflecting its historic origins, the charitable work of the Order across the world focuses especially on the relief of leprosy, but its activities today have extended to other fields supporting various medical missions in the

developing world, as well as offering practical support for those in need more locally.

The Order's work is overseen from its headquarters in Madrid by its Grand Master, HE Don Francisco de Borbon, Graf von Hardenberg. Its Spiritual Protector is the Melkite Patriarch, His Beatitude Youssef Absi.



In common with other Christian Orders of chivalry founded during the Crusades, such as the Venerable Order of St John and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, the Order of St Lazarus still aims to defend Christianity while expecting its members to practise the Christian tenets of protecting the weak, helping the sick, and promoting justice. A solemn undertaking to maintain this code of conduct is made before God and the assembled congregation on formal admission to the Order.

Membership entails an ongoing commitment to sustain and promote the Order's aims through prayer, annual oblations, regular charitable giving and, as far as possible, by helping to organise and participating in its charitable events.



A variety of local and national functions take place each year, which members are expected to support. As in all chivalric orders membership is an honour, and promotion is never solicited. It is awarded to reflect experience, service and commitment to charitable work.

Members of St Lazarus form a spiritual fellowship. The ceremonies of the Vigil and Investiture, the wearing of the mantle and the green Maltese cross are the outward symbols of fraternity and dedication to Christianity. The pursuit of unity is shown by respecting the other Christian confessions represented in the Order, each member living as faithfully as possible in their own tradition, whilst working and praying together for true unity.