

SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Editor

Birthdays and anniversaries are times for celebration. This year we have celebrated a number of notable milestones in the history and development of the Order, notably the 800th anniversary of the Order in Germany, 80 years in the Czech Republic and the 50th anniversary of the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe. There may be others which I have not noticed. Many other Investitures and events have also taken place during the first half of this year with more to follow in the fall.

These remind us of the breadth of our Order across the world and of the commitment of members of the Order to caring for those with leprosy, helping those in all kinds of need and the variety of good deeds being undertaken by members at local levels. This has not changed since the foundation of the Order although the areas of activity have expanded greatly.

This is in line with the Vision, Mission, Values and Objectives agreed by the GMC last year.

These now need to be followed through at local, national and international levels by practical implementation and generous giving in order to be meaningful drivers for change. This newsletter focuses on some examples.

The IPRCC has decided to remodel its structure to address these principles and to help promote their delivery. Our intention is to highlight those activities which jurisdictions feel might be helpful to others in identifying both traditional and innovative ways of moving forward the Order and its members. A series of Working Groups will be set up comprising representatives from different geographic areas to coordinate these efforts and to assist in supporting new initiatives.

One initiative, strongly supported by the Grand Master, aims to engage with younger members of the Order (21 - 35 years old) across the continents and to discuss with them how the Order can adapt to become more relevant to them, how they can help to raise its profile and how we can attract potential new members in that age group. More about this in the next issue.

Meantime, I wish everyone a happy and restful summer and hope you return energised to expand the delivery of good deeds and charitable giving within your Jurisdiction.

Atavis et Armis!

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ
Deputy Grand Information Officer, & Chair, IPRCC

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The first 3 months—the Grand Commander reflects

Our Editor, Chev. Norman Rose, has been posing some questions to the Grand Commander, HE the Chev. Ken Moritsugu, inviting him to reflect on his first impressions in his new role.

What are your first impressions after 3 months in the role of Grand Commander?

My initial impressions after three months in the role of Grand Commander of the Order are that with our global reach with nearly forty jurisdictions, we have an incredible diversity of organizations, members, and charitable activities. All these jurisdictions are linked through our International Order, and our strategic approach to carrying out our humanitarian assistance, on an individual, organizational, and regional basis. , on institutions supporting these people, and on several targeted diseases and conditions.

Have you had the opportunity to visit many jurisdictions yet?

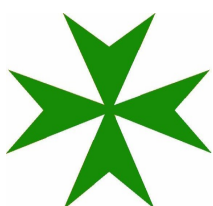
In the initial months of my tenure, I have had the opportunity to visit with the Grand Priory in Canada, the Grand Priory of America, and the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe. Each was in a different setting and for a different purpose, each was memorable.



The Grand Priory in Canada held its Chapter General in Kingston, Ontario, in March. With our long-standing relationship between the two North American jurisdictions, I participated in their Vesper Service and their investiture, promotion, and awards ceremony.

The Grand Priory of America conducted its mid-year meeting of senior officers, during which they discussed issues of internal organization and administration, as well as external activities and the impact of their charitable programs. I was privileged to participate in their deliberations. An intriguing aspect of this meeting was a branding exercise, during which the participants worked to identify key elements of the Order of St. Lazarus brand: its Identity, its Name, its Promise, and its Architecture. More on this later.

“We have an incredible diversity of organizations, members, and charitable activities.... We have an impact on people in need”





At the beginning of February, the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe celebrated the 50th Jubilee of its establishment, with a Vigil in a crypt chapel, an investiture, and a gala dinner. I represented the Grand Master in presenting the Gold Cross of the Order to the HGPE in the name of its recently deceased Grand Prior Emeritus, HE the Chevalier Klaus Peter Pokholm, who also observed his 50 year membership in our Order.

I took advantage of these visits to listen to members and leaders within our jurisdictions, and to engage in dialog regarding issues that are of concern to them. I plan to continue to visit more jurisdictions to hear from our membership, to learn best practices, and to bring back to the Grand Magistral Council and to the Grand Master issues, questions, and compliments.

What challenges does the Order face over the next 6 months?

Over the next six months, internally, the Order will focus on creating increased transparency in its administration and operational policies, and enhancing its regular communication with the several jurisdictions. While we have a robust constitution and by-laws, we need to better standardize and promulgate policies and procedures where appropriate, such as guidance regarding awards, membership, ceremonies and promotions, and our hospitaller activities.

Externally, we will focus on developing and implementing visibility and recruitment strategy, to increase our worldwide membership, to identify global opportunities for humanitarian efforts, and to develop strategies to obtain the resources necessary to implement those humanitarian efforts.

Do you have a message to share with Members as we look to the future?

As we look to the future, I share the directive the Grand Master entrusted to me, to grow the Order. This includes growing in numbers through increasing our membership; growing in impact, by working with individual jurisdictions to further develop our humanitarian activities at the local, national, and international levels; and growing the resources available to accomplish this. We will address this by listening to the various jurisdictions and developing, in conjunction with these jurisdictions, plans and programs to achieve this growth. To this end, I will be reaching out to the various jurisdictions in listening and strategy sessions, to glean the accumulated knowledge and experience from our membership, and to synthesize a plan forward.

“As we look to the future, I share the directive the Grand Master entrusted to me, to grow the Order.”



Ukraine Aid update

The Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe has been collecting humanitarian aid for Ukraine since 2020. The attack on Ukraine in 2022 significantly exacerbated the need in the country and there is still a considerable need for support. However, after the great willingness to donate in 2022, it is currently becoming increasingly difficult to find supporters and donations in kind. Nevertheless, we were able to collect more than 260



cubic metres of relief supplies last year and hand them over to our partner organisation for transport to Ukraine. In addition, John Byrnes (Grand Priory of America), Dirk Augustin (Humanitarian Grand Priory Europe) and Matthias Kiene (Volunteer) carried out an aid delivery with a Lazarus vehicle to Berdychiv, a town around 400 km from the Polish border, in September 2023.

This year, we are also continuing to collect donations in kind to send on to Ukraine. In addition to medical supplies, new T-shirts, boxer shorts and socks for men are also very helpful to support the wounded during their stay in hospital.

We will be organising two direct transports to the Ukraine, including close to the front line. One transport will take us to Luzk, where we have been supporting a soup kitchen and a kindergarten for more than a year together with the Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands and the Stiftung Hilfswerk Deutscher Zahnärzte, which is run by members of the Grand Bailiwick of Germany. Another transport will be financed and organised in cooperation with the Grand Priory of America and the Grand Priory of Canada. In addition to a digital X-ray machine for a dental clinic in Cherkassy, the delivery of Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK) to a civilian aid organisation in Kiev and to soldiers on the front line is also planned. The IFAK provide fast and professional help for the wounded.



We, the jurisdictions involved in the aid deliveries, would be very pleased if you would support our activities financially and solicit donations. We also ask you to include us in your prayers.



For further information, please contact Dirk Augustin at chancellor@st-lazarus.eu and he will be happy to put you in touch with the other participating jurisdictions.

First Call for Regular Membership of the International Academy

Following the Academic Meeting held in Malta last February, the Board of Directors of the International Academy of the Order of Saint Lazarus is launching its first call for Regular Membership.



The objectives of the Academy include the promotion of historical knowledge related to the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, and other related Crusader and orders of chivalry. Historical research of the Academy may relate to the hierarchy, traditions, their laws and ancient history, as well as their relations with Christian Churches. The Academy is based in Malta, and is a registered NGO [VO/1969].

According to our International Academy's Statute, there will be three classes of members: Regular Members, Corresponding Members and Honorary Members.

At present, this call by the Board of Directors is to attract prospective Regular Members of the Academy. Full details of the criteria for membership and an application form may be found on the international website at [Sancti Lazari Ordinis Academia Internationalis - first call for the Academy's Regular Membership | The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem \(st-lazarus.net\)](http://SanctiLazariOrdinisAcademiaInternationalis-firstcallfortheAcademy'sRegularMembership|TheMilitaryandHospitallerOrderofSaintLazarusofJerusalem(st-lazarus.net))

H.E. The Chevalier Klaus-Peter Pokolm GCLJ, GCMLJ

We were all saddened to learn of the death of our confrere HE the Chevalier Klaus-Peter Pokolm on 22 April 2024, after a long illness. His funeral took place on April 29 2024 at St. Katharina's Church in Alt-Hürth.

Klaus-Peter joined the Order of Saint Lazarus in 1971, and during his many years of service to the Order, he held a number of key roles, both in Germany and internationally.

Most notably, he was Grand Prior (and later Grand Prior Emeritus) of the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe, and also the Managing Director of Lazarus Hilfswerk in Deutschland e.V. (from 1973 to 2001). After his retirement he remained an advisor to subsequent board members and managing directors, through his activities as Grand Prior of the GPEU.



He was a recipient of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, recipient of the Pontifical Order Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice and other high awards.

In the field of communications, Klaus-Peter established and chaired the Public Relations Committee of the Order and set up our international website, laying the foundations for the work of the current IPRCC.

Most of all, Klaus-Peter was a loyal and dedicated member of the Order and a valued friend to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere, eternam habeat requiem.



Diary 2024-25

2024			
26 - 28 July	GB of Germany	St Lazarus Days	Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg, Germany
10-15 September	GP of Hungary	Spiritual visit programme	Vatican & Rome, Italy
14 September	GP of Hungary	Mass & Investiture	Chapel of St Stephan House, Rome, Italy
4-5 October	GP of Sweden	Investiture	Stockholm, Sweden
11 - 12 October	GP of England & Wales	Investiture	Cardiff, Wales
12 October	GB of The Netherlands	Vigil & Investiture	TBA
18 - 19 October	GP of Spain	Investiture	TBA
24 - 27 October	GP of America	Grand Prioral meeting & Investiture	Newport Beach, California, USA
26 - 27 October	GP of France	Investiture	Andlau, Alsace, France
23 - 24 November	GP of Finland	Investiture	Helsinki, Finland
6-7 December	GP of Greece	Vigil, Investiture & Dinner	Athens, Greece
2025			
26 April	GP of Finland	50th anniversary celebrations	Turku, Finland

Full details of all these and other forthcoming and recent events can be found on the international website. You can also find information about events and activities around the world on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/st.lazarus

Items for inclusion in the diary should be sent to the Vice-Grand Chancellor (Administration) at bennisonpm@gmail.com

