

SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Editor

This year it is encouraging to see the autumn investiture season well under way, after the years of Covid. But, why is this so important?

Investitures are times of celebration for all those taking part. Members and friends are reunited. Postulants become Members, starting on a life of service within the Order under the banner of Saint Lazarus. Promotees and awardees gain recognition for what they have been doing to show Christian love and concern to others and in raising money for charity. As we mingle and take part in the formal ceremonial, Investitures unite us, deepen our fellowship and give us the opportunity publicly to renew our commitment to the Order.

They are also the public face of our Order. The procession to the investiture service is a public demonstration of who we are. Our uniforms and mantles provide a corporate identity along with the flags, gonfalons and other regalia. And this is as important within the church as outside. Those who join us and who are not members of the Order see us sing praises, meditate on who we are, make our intercessions for our Order and those who work within it and renew our commitment to carry out our duties as members of the Order.

Without such events we could remain little independent cells. With them, both nationally and internationally, we commit ourselves to the Order as a whole – a worldwide network of like souls following in the footsteps of countless generations before us and laying the groundwork for generations to follow.

With this in mind, let us support the international Pauline Pilgrimage in Malta from 7-9 February 2024 when, for the first time since our Grand Master was installed, we can join with him and brothers and sisters from around the world in our battle cry – **ATAVIS ET ARMIS!**

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

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Share your work with the world

A new initiative is under way to promote the good work of the Order at a more intimate level.

The PRC is spearheading a project to encourage and help Commanderies showcase their smaller, but very valuable deeds of kindness and charity in particularly vulnerable communities.

We know and hear of many - from the donation of Sunday school Bible books in a poor parish, food parcels given to destitute groups of the elderly, blankets and knitted items to a homeless shelter, winter health care packs to an orphanage; the monthly transportation of disabled persons to a clinic; the sourcing of paint for a refuge for battered women and a project recycling clothing to help raise funds for a leper Mission.



This is just the tip of the iceberg. We know that so much more is being done at so many levels in terms of these smaller acts that likely make such a difference in the lives of the people we have vowed to serve.



It's the pebble principle, where once thrown into a pond, the circles of benefit spread out wide. Part of that is telling the story for others in the Order and those who watch our work, to get to know about it as part of their life mission.

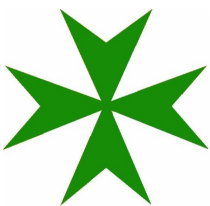
A dedicated PRC channel will likely be created to help Commanderies channel these stories for us to showcase on social media and other platforms as a continuous record of these smaller acts of mercy and charity.

As we are an international Order, it will be titled the **GLOBAL CHARITABLE EXPERIENCE** with the underscore message within the Order to **'Share your work with the world'**

Chev. Will Carter, Regional Communications Officer Southern Hemisphere



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..these smaller acts make such a difference in the lives of the people we have vowed to serve



'To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.'

Pope Benedict XVI (2010)

The modern Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem by its choice of name declares itself to have both a Military and a Hospitaller dimension to its *raison d'être*. The Hospitaller dimension, which is characterised by the principles of the Beatitudes, is undoubtedly reflected by the myriad philanthropic works carried out by the various jurisdictions aimed at helping the poor, needy and sick in our global community. This facet is palpable and easily identifiable. The Military element of the Order's *raison d'être* may be more difficult to perceive. It does not involve the wearing of smart military-style uniforms but rather it should be characterised by the obligation to spread and protect the moral and ethical values of Jesus's teachings – to act as Crusaders and support the promulgation of the moral compass of Christianity.

The Order, since 2010, has organized a number of regular International pilgrimages - Santiago di Compostela (2010), the Shrine of our Lady of Kevelaer (2012), the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham (2014), and the Shrine to King Saint Louis in Monreale (2017). Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic put a stop to this activity. With Covid-19 now behind us, the International Order will be led by the Grand Master next February on a Pauline pilgrimage in Malta. We do know that St Paul or Saul of Tarsus had particularly promoted and defended the Christian moral compass. That event should serve as a reminder of this important facet to our *raison d'être*. In the words of Peter Scholtes' 1966 song:

*We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Information and details about the Pauline Pilgrimage and the conjoint Academic Meeting can be found online at <https://mhoslj.weebly.com/activities.html>.

Please note that the closing date for bookings is Wednesday 6 December.



Aid for Ukraine

The plan started in May 2023, when the Grand Priory of America (GPA) approached the Grand Priory of Europe Humanitarian Unit (GPEU) to ask for assistance in procuring and delivering medical supplies for a hospital in Berdychiv, Ukraine. The GPA agreed to bear the costs of the aid transport, while the GPEU would make the practical arrangements.

After an initial cost assessment, it was decided in consultation with the hospital which relief goods should be procured, but plans for delivery proved difficult. After a short period of consideration, Matthias Kiene (volunteer), Dirk Augustin (Chancellor GPEU) and John Byrnes (Grand Prior GPA) decided to carry out the delivery to the hospital in Berdychiv themselves and also to visit the soup kitchen in Lutsk, which is supervised by LAZARUS.

Various technical devices, including 2 massage devices, 2 TENS/EMS devices with a large stock of electrodes, a

shock wave therapy device, a movement trainer for arms and legs, a weight bench with weights, a mobile therapy couch and a hydraulic therapy couch were financed by the GPA. Donations in kind collected by the GPEU and the Protestant church community of Alzey provided disposable equipment such as nitrile gloves and high-calorie liquid food.

The team arrived at the Lublin Volunteer Centre on 13 September and were welcomed with dinner and accommodation. The volunteer centre also arranged for an interpreter to travel with us on our border crossing. Slaviana proved to be a dedicated escort who mastered the challenges of border crossings and other checkpoints with ease. We are very grateful to the Lublin Volunteer Centre and Bishop K. Zadarko for their selfless support and hospitality. We are also grateful that we were able to make the border crossings in under 5 hours each time, we had no damage to the vehicle, we came back healthy and there were only a few air alarms during our delivery.

After breakfast at the Lublin Volunteer Centre, we set off for the border on 14 September. We were pre-announced to the Polish border authorities as a humanitarian aid transport and were therefore allowed to drive directly into the border facility without waiting. From this point on, we had to be patient. Various issues with documentation delayed our progress, but thanks to Slaviana's assistance, these were resolved eventually, and we finally arrived in Ukraine after about 4 hours. The journey to Lutsk, our first stop in Ukraine, went smoothly. There we were welcomed by Sascha, the person responsible for the soup kitchen, and used the evening to get to know each other.





The next morning, we visited the charity organization “Way to life +”. Since April 2023 the soup kitchen of this organization has been financially supported by the Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands and the Humanitarian Grand Priory Europe. Food is served twice a week in all weather conditions for up to 200 people. Since this is a Christian charity, each food distribution starts with a short devotion. In addition, LAZARUS finances the distribution of food bags once per quarter with the support of the Hilfswerk deutscher Zahnärzte (HdZ). After the food distribution, our group participated in handing out the food bags.

In addition to the soup kitchen, the aid organization runs a house for refugees, a social gym and a kindergarten. In the Social-Gym, young people who cannot afford a membership in a regular gym are allowed to train free of charge. The kindergarten provides care for up to 12 refugee children in 2 groups. The kindergarten includes 2 group rooms, a dormitory and a large multifunctional room in the basement which also serves as a shelter in case of an air alarm. In addition to care, the children also receive a hot lunch. The house for refugees can accommodate up to 32 people. We have been asked if we could extend financial assistance to maintain these services in the future.

On September 16, the unloading of medical supplies took place at the Berdychiv Veterans Hospital and a civilian hospital in Berdychiv. Thanks to our aid delivery, the Berdychiv Veterans Hospital can now establish its own physiotherapy department. A total of \$55,000 worth of aid was delivered to the hospitals. Our aid delivery was the first humanitarian aid delivery the two hospitals have received since the outbreak of war, and we received a warm and open welcome at both hospitals. In addition to a guided tour of the various departments and operating rooms, we were able to talk with the patients.



All in all, it was a thought-provoking experience, even if the joy over the successful delivery of aid outweighed it. The four helpers involved all agreed that they would actively help again with future aid deliveries.



LAZARUS International
Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem – Humanitarian Grand Priory Europe

HUMANITARIAN AID together we care

st-lazarus-international.eu

The leprosarium at Burton Lazars

This is the first in an occasional series highlighting leprosaria around the world with historic connections to the Order of St Lazarus.

The first appearance of the Order of St Lazarus in England was during the reign of King Stephen.

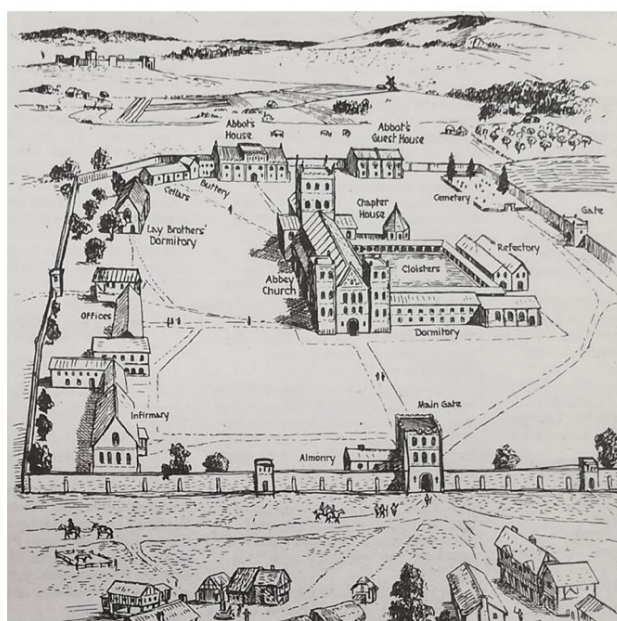
Its headquarters was established at Burton in Leicestershire and in 1177, through the offices of Sir Roger de Mowbray, a Royal Charter was granted by King Henry II. Roger de Mowbray's 'lion rampant' coat of arms was adopted by the hospital alongside the Order of St Lazarus's cross. He made a generous donation of over 200 acres, a house and two mills to the Order and his family continued their support for many generations.

The hospital, or preceptory, at Burton 'Lazars', as it was later called, became the chief house of the Order in England and was to form the hub of the Order's administrative activities for the next four hundred years. The Headquarters was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Lazarus and consisted of a Master and eight brethren.

In succeeding years, many hospitals and commanderies were built in England and, at one period, the Order possessed as many as 95 leper houses throughout the kingdom including Locko Park, near Spondon in Derbyshire.

During the 15th century, under the mastership of William Sutton, the Order undertook to reorganise itself as cases of those with Leprosy needing care and treatment in England reduced. The end came in 1544 when Henry VIII, having dissolved the religious houses, turned his attention to the Hospitallers. Their properties and wealth were seized and the Order was prohibited, its members being forbidden to wear the habit and mantle with its green cross or use any of its distinctive titles.

The Headquarters of the Order at Burton Lazars survived the initial Dissolution of the Monasteries, but was surrendered to the crown on the 4th May 1544.



*Burton Lazars' Preceptory – Impression – Melton
Times 2 September 1999*



Over the centuries, the hospital has become buried but its presence can still be seen today in the shape of earthworks and ponds.



In 1913, the Marquis of Granby, later the 9th Duke of Rutland, began excavations and uncovered baking ovens and 100 clay pavement tiles (now kept by the British Museum), some bearing the Coats of Arms of families such as the Mowbrays, Ferrers and Chaworths who were patrons or members of the Hospital.

Aerial photography and fieldwork have subsequently helped make more sense

of the layout of the site. Limited excavations have confirmed that buried remains, including those of major buildings, survive.

Nowadays, the complex is defined by a series of earthworks enclosed within a bank and ditch boundary which survives on all but the eastern side. The earthworks represent the foundations of buildings including the infirmary, chapel and domestic ranges. These are surrounded by an elaborate system of ditches and ponds, some of which may have been used for curative bathing in treating the sick and infirm.

With thanks to Chev. John Bullock KLJ, Regional Communications Officer Europe and Secretary to the PRC



Holy Land Pilgrimage Medal (ex Crusader's Medal)

The Grand Priory of America (GPA) and its charitable arm, the American Association of the Order of St Lazarus, Inc. (AASL), recently revised the process by which members may obtain the Holy Land Pilgrimage Medal commemorating one's pilgrimage to the Holy Land. (We realized the medal's former name, "Crusader" while positive to us, was negatively regarded by many in the Holy Land, hence the medal's name change.)

The medal, miniature and shell embroidery for one's mantle remain the same, however the cost to the AASL for medals and embroideries has increased. Accordingly to cover those costs and shipping while still providing a meaningful contribution to the Melkite Church's Infant Welfare Center in Old Jerusalem, the suggested donation to the AASL was increased to USD 650.

Also updated are the application and payment provisions. The medal requires the pilgrim to have visited at least three of the sites listed on the application form and to have participated in religious services in conjunction with the pilgrimage. The application form must be countersigned by the member's jurisdiction or sub-jurisdiction head. The donation may be made by credit card.

Application form and payment instructions are found on the GPA website at www.st-lazarus.us/giving. Click on the giving tab for a dropdown menu. Click on Holy Land Pilgrimage Medal tab for full instructions as well as the donation and downloadable application forms. We recommend non-US members use a credit card for donations.

Please direct any questions to Michelle S. Daniel CLJ at keeper@st-lazarus.us

Diary 2023-24

2023			
25 November	GP of Ireland	Vigil & Investiture	Dublin, Ireland
1 - 2 December	GP of Greece	Vigil, Investiture & Dinner	Athens, Greece
2024			
21 January	GB of Sicily	Vigil & Investiture	Monreale, Sicily
6 -8 February	GP of the Maltese Islands	4 th International Academic Meeting Heads of Jurisdiction Meeting Hospitallers Meeting Spiritual Advisory Committee Meeting	Valletta University, Malta
9 February	GP of the Maltese Islands	International Pauline Pilgrimage	Valletta, Malta
19-20 April	GP of Sweden	Investiture	Varberg, Sweden
2 - 5 May	GP of Australia	Vigil & Investiture	Brisbane, Queensland
23-26 May	GP in Canada	Chapter General & Investiture	Kingston, Ontario, Canada

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

