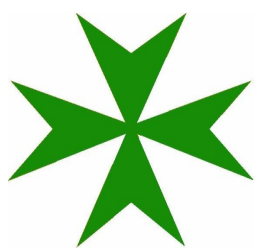


Spring 2024



SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Editor

“Life is like a bicycle, you have to keep on moving.” (Albert Einstein)

With these words Ted White started his last report as Grand Chancellor. And that was what happened 48 hours later when Ken Moritsugu was installed as his successor.

Too often in life we become comfortable with the *status quo* and don't want to move forward into the unknown future. For a time that can work but, ultimately, it results in ossification and decay. The Order has not fallen into that trap either in its Grand Masters or Grand Commanders, all of whom have started with a vision and have worked hard to deliver it and to grow the Order numerically and in profile.

Seven years ago this resulted in the establishment of the Public Relations Committee, now the International Public Relations and Communications Committee. From the beginning we set ourselves challenging targets in the improvement of cross-jurisdictional communications in order to break down the traditional silo mentality. Gradually this has been successful, as was evidenced at the recent meeting of Heads of Jurisdiction in Malta. We have also helped to raise the external profile of the Order.

Earlier this year we started another round of self-interrogations to identify areas where we can continue to improve our offerings and services in order to help the Order grow in visibility, size and impact. A paper outlining our proposed strategy will be submitted to the GMC at its next meeting in November.

Meantime, we are starting the rollout of a programme called *Random Acts of Kindness* which will highlight the ordinary, everyday ways in which members of the Order are helping others in their local communities. This mirrors how the founders of the Order dealt with disease and social exclusion in the Holy Land during the Second Crusade and how we have continued to do so throughout its subsequent history. As economic pressures increase on those who are less well off, the Order, through members of local Commanderies, can show Christian charity in action. We shall report on these activities regularly throughout the year.

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

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'We shall serve!'

Introducing the new Grand Commander

On 10 February, at the biennial meeting of the Heads of Jurisdictions in Malta, H.E. Rear Admiral the Chevalier Kenneth Moritsugu was invested as the Grand Commander of our Order. The Grand Commander serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Order and reports directly to the Grand Master.

Chevalier Moritsugu entered the Order in Seville, Spain in 1995, and received promotions to Knight Grand Cross, with the Grand Collar, in St. Polten, Austria, in 1999. He received the Knight Grand Cross of Merit in 2012, and the Alan Weaver Hazelton Award in 2002. He also holds Silver and Gold Crosses of Merit and the 20 year Meritorious Service Decoration.

Internationally, he served as the Grand Hospitaller of the Order from 1997 through 2012, a member of the Grand Executive Council and Grand Magistral Council from 1999 through 2012, a member of the Joint Reunification Commission, and of the Evaluation and Succession Committee. In 2012, he was named Hospitaller Ambassador and Grand Hospitaller Emeritus.

As a member of the Grand Priory of America, he served as the Hospitaller and then as Bailiff, before being appointed as Grand Prior in 2012. He retired from this post in 2021 as the Grand Prior Emeritus. He served as a member of the Board of Directors, and President of the American Association of St. Lazarus from 2012 through 2021.

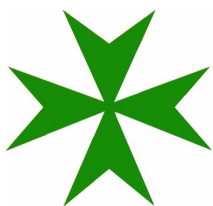
Chevalier Moritsugu is a retired Rear Admiral in the United States Public Health Service and served as the Surgeon General of the United States during his 37 year career in uniform. He is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh), the National Academy of Public Administration, the Royal Society of Public Health and the Royal Society of Medicine. He holds numerous medical and service awards.

At his investiture ceremony, Chevalier Moritsugu addressed the gathering of senior officers, acknowledging the Grand Commanders who preceded him and the Grand Master for appointing him. He focused on his direction from the Grand Master to "grow the Order," in numbers, in visibility, and in impact. He further challenged the senior Officers to work collaboratively to achieve this goal; he committed to visiting each jurisdiction to listen to the executives and the members, and to share with them the collective knowledge, skills, and resources of our Order. Reinforcing the vow that he and each of us take upon our investiture into our Order - "I shall serve" - he concluded with the challenge to everyone, "WE shall serve!"

Our Grand Commander is married to Lisa Kory, a member of the Order, resides in Sarasota, FL, in the United States, and has two living children, Erika, an attorney in Washington, DC, and Emily, a fine arts student in Savannah Georgia.



Reinforcing the vow that he and each of us take upon our investiture into our Order - "I shall serve" - he concluded with the challenge to everyone, "WE shall serve!"

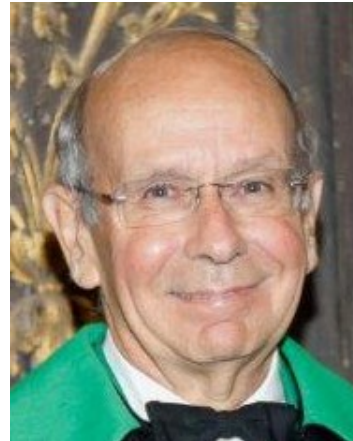


HE the Chevalier Edward B (Ted) White, GCLJ, GCMLJ, Grand Collar of the Order

Ted White has been the ubiquitous face of the Order for nearly 15 years, first as Grand Chancellor and latterly as Grand Commander, following the untimely death of Ron Hendricks in 2018.

He was the voice of calm and reason in all circumstances and he developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Order and its constituent jurisdictions during his long terms in office. Ted was always available when anyone needed advice or assistance and was adept in finding solutions for all sorts of issues or problems.

Ted joined the Order in the Commandery of Ottawa, Canada in 1989 and served in a number of roles in that Commandery before becoming Secretary-General of the Grand Priory in 2002. He was appointed Chancellor in 2007 and Prior in 2010. In 2011 he became Grand Chancellor of the Order.



For the past five years he has guided the Grand Master as he succeeded to this office on the death of his uncle, Don Carlos Gereda y de Borbón. His was the guiding hand behind the throne, unseen but ever present. For his consistent, outstanding service to the Order, Ted received the Grand Collar of the Order in April 2020.

We shall miss him and, at the same time, thank him for all he has done for the Order, its administration and profile. Now he will have time to relax with Françoise and to enjoy his daughter's family, including three grandchildren.

Thank you, Ted!



One hand washes the other



We are aware that a great deal of good charitable work continues to happen daily to fulfil our centuries' old mandate to members of our Order.

Much of this is very visible and indeed is proudly shown on various social media platforms - the Hospitaller projects that sometimes have a global reach and others that are local and important to a city, town, village or community.

But there are also a great multitude of smaller stories that often fall below the reporting radar in most jurisdictions; these are valuable not only to the recipients, but also undoubtedly important to the collective memory of our Order.

Many of these will be more personal unprompted acts of Christian charity and quite probably happen scores of times a day in many ways across our 44 jurisdictions around the world.

This is who we as Lazarites are and one of our guiding principles is to be charitable with humility and as an example to others.

But here's the thing that I have discovered..... Spontaneous charitable giving is a beautiful expression of compassion and generosity that benefits *both the giver and the recipient!*

One hand washes the other.

Let's explore the *mutual* advantages of such acts:

There's an obvious element of **Emotional Fulfilment**. When we spontaneously give - whether it's a small gift, helping a stranger - we experience a sense of small joy and fulfilment. Acts of kindness release endorphins, boosting our mood and overall well-being and those on the receiving end feel valued and cared for. Knowing that someone spontaneously extended a helping hand will lift their spirits and restore faith in humanity.

We also **strengthen social bonds**. Spontaneous charitable acts connect us with others. Whether it's volunteering at a local shelter, gathering friends to help a homeless family in need or just jumping to lift someone's load, these interactions foster deeper relationships and help create a bond of gratitude. It reminds us that we are not alone and encourages a sense of community.

I'm told by a doctor friend that a huge advantage is the **positive impact on one's mental, physical, emotional health**. Studies show that acts of kindness reduce stress and lower blood pressure. Our immune system also benefits from the positive emotions associated with giving and of course, those we help in whatever way and at whatever age, knowing and being shown that someone cares will absolutely enhance their wellbeing.



I've also learned that spontaneous giving sets an example that **inspires others** who, when they witness or learn of a simple act of kindness or charity, are more likely to pay it forward, creating a ripple effect. This of course will inspire hope and encouragement in those we hold a hand out to, to help others when they can.

A more cerebral mutual benefit to simple charitable giving in any form is that it **contributes to our personal legacy**, as it reflects our values as Lazarites and leaves a positive mark on the community. Of course, knowing that someone cared enough to give so simply and open-heartedly reinforces a recipient's sense of purpose and worth.

Spontaneous small acts of kindness or charity create an **immediate impact**. Whether it's feeding a hungry person, giving clothing to a shelter, quietly sponsoring a child's books and pencils or grabbing a spanner to fix someone's wheelchair, we see tangible results.

Know that the benefits extend far beyond the moment of generosity. Spontaneous charitable giving transcends mere financial transactions. It enriches our lives, strengthens our communities, and reminds us of our Christian calling and shared humanity.

Chev. Will Carter
Grand Bailiwick of South Africa



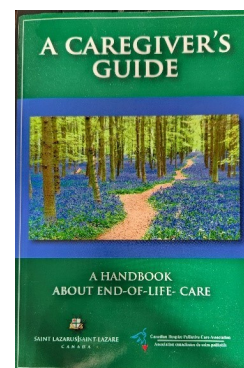
A Caregiver's Guide and Home Caregivers Support Programme

For nearly 25 years, the Grand Priory in Canada has published and distributed *A Caregiver's Guide*. Since its initial publication in 2000, the Order in Canada has sponsored the printing and distribution of more than 550,000 copies in English, French, two Inuit languages, and traditional Chinese characters. Generally, the books have been distributed at no cost to individuals with a shipping fee added to cover mailing for multiple copies.

The book is now considered a leading go-to resource for those caring for loved ones and patients at end of life. The book has been adopted for use internationally with translated editions published in Portugal, China, Russia, and Japan. As best practice in the field has changed so too has the book which is currently undergoing a revision. Subject matter experts have been involved since its inception and continue to provide input into content. All of this work is based on our core principles of care and compassion for all.

As an accompaniment to the book, which is downloadable from www.saintlazarus.ca, members of the Grand Priory in Canada have developed a Home Caregivers Support Programme both as an in person training opportunity and as an online, work at your own pace, programme. The programme is also undergoing a revamp to reflect the post COVID environment and the changes in best practice. We have listened to end users as they have provided feedback and have adapted the course accordingly.

The caregiving experience is unique and special for everyone. People taking on the role of caregivers for someone approaching the end of life require information, compassion, comfort and care. End of life is as important as the beginning and those involved are guided in the journey by compassion, dignity and understanding relayed through education, kindness and caring. It is our hope that *A Caregiver's Guide* and the companion *Support Programme* will provide support in a time of need.



A pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul

Malta , February 2024

Some 100 members of the Order gathered in Malta for four days in February 2024, to take part in a pilgrimage hosted by the Grand Priory of Malta.

The pilgrimage started with Vespers led by the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior in the plain setting of St Andrew’s Church of Scotland in Valletta. Built in 1824, this was the first non-Catholic Church in Malta.

Next day saw an early rise to get to Rabat for a visit to the Basilica of St Paul. We began worship outside the church by the statue of St Paul, followed by a short procession into the Basilica for a formal service in which all clergy from the Order were involved, with the address being given in Spanish by Mgr Pennisi, the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior.

The Basilica is built on part of the site of the ancient city of Melite – which in Roman times included all Mdina and a large part of present-day Rabat. Church building commenced in 1653 and was completed by Lorenzo Gafà in 1683. Annexed to the church is a smaller building dedicated to St Publius.



Following a short act of worship here, we processed down into the grotto. According to tradition, St Paul lived and preached here during his three month stay in Malta in 60 AD. Then followed time in the museum before lunch in Rabat. We walked to the ancient city of Medina - one of Europe’s finest examples of an old walled city containing medieval and baroque architecture. Here are traffic-free narrow streets, churches, palaces, and gracious houses, punctuated by large squares.

The final day, set aside first for visits to Hagar Qim and the Mnajdra Neolithic Temples, concluded with a gala dinner, with all present in uniform or evening dress. Our Grand Master splendidly addressed the company and presented awards to several senior members of the Order.

In the words of our Ecclesiastical Grand Prior *“In this pilgrimage in the footsteps of Saint Paul we are asked by the Lord to travel the path of ecumenism as members of the one body of Christ.”* This truly was a journey of faith and great religious experience, and I was very privileged to have taken part.

ATAVIS ET ARMIS
Chevalier Colin C Russell KLJ-J CMLJ
Secretary General, Grand Bailiwick of Scotland



We are asked by the Lord to travel the path of ecumenism as members of the one body of Christ.



Alongside the International Pauline Pilgrimage, a number of other important meetings took place in Valletta on 7 February.

6th Academic Meeting

The 6th Academic Meeting of the *Sancti Lazari Ordinis Academia Internationalis* was organised by the Academy's director Prof C Savona-Ventura at the Valletta University Campus.

Twelve academic papers focussing on interesting aspects of the Order of St Lazarus were delivered by researchers. These included the Order's heraldry and insignia, lessons from writings of the Cappadocian Fathers and medieval mystics on caring for lepers, the figure of Lazarus in homilies by Fathers of the Church, crusaders serving the Order in the Holy Land, the St Lazarus leprosarium in Rome, 20th century Lazarite return to Outremer, the internationalisation of the Order in 1930s, commemorative medals and medallions, the *forma mentis* of the Order of St John towards the Lazarite Order after *Cum solerti*, hospitaller knight influence on the European concept of hospitals, and the St Lazarus Order in Spain during the 12th-16th centuries.

Speakers included Prof C. Savona-Ventura, Prof M. Ross, Conte d'Evora, Rev Dr C. Calleja, Rev Dr J. Farrugia, Dr D.S. Raese, Prof H.C.R. Vella, Dr A. Rademachers, Ms E. Cassar, Dr R. Gatt and Prof G.G. Buttigieg.

These papers will be published in the 6th edition of the *Acta Historiae Sancti Lazaris Ordinis*, which is the Academy's official journal.

The Academic Meeting was followed by a general assembly of the International Academy during which various administrative topics were explained by the Academy's Director Prof Savona-Ventura, and discussed by those present in preparation for the Academy's international call for membership this year.



Heads of Jurisdiction meeting

This was the first time that the group had met since the meeting in Madrid in October 2019. Around 20 Heads of Jurisdiction were able to attend. The meeting had a full agenda and a lively discussion on a wide variety of topics. A full account of the meeting will be available in due course.

Equally important were the informal discussions in the margins of the meeting and over drinks in the hotel. Friendships were renewed and new ones made. The similarities and disparities between jurisdictions were interesting to hear and to compare, but all were embraced by the common purpose of furthering the Order, its aims and values in an ever changing world order.

The new Vision, Mission and Values statement approved at the last Grand Magistral Council in November 2023 was presented and comments invited. This sets out the trajectory for the Order over the coming quinquennium.

Diary 2024

13 April	GB of Austria/HC Saint Severin	Investiture	Vienna, Austria
19 - 20 April	GP of Sweden	Investiture	Varberg, Sweden
20 - 21 April	GP of Finland	Investiture	Jyväskylä, Finland
26 - 27 April	GP of Norway	Investiture	Trondheim, Norway
26 - 28 April	HGP Europe	50th anniversary celebration	Brauweiler Abbey, Cologne, Germany
2 - 5 May	GP of Australia	Vigil & Investiture	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
4 - 5 May	GB of Scotland	Vigil & Investiture	St Leonard's Church, Dunfermline, Scotland
23-26 May	GP in Canada	Chapter General & Investiture	Kingston, Ontario, Canada
25 May	GP of Slovakia/GB of Czech Republic	Investiture	Baroque Chapel, Castle Stara Lubovna, Slovakia
30 May - 2 June	GP of England & Wales	Pilgrimage weekend and Investiture	Walsingham, Norfolk, England
23 June	GP of France	Investiture	TBA
26 - 28 July	GB of Germany	St Lazarus Days	Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg, Germany
14 September	GP of Hungary	Mass & Investiture	Chapel of St Stephan House, Rome
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

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