

# THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



## CHARLESTON

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# Spiritual Message

By: The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite, Msgr. George Appleyard, VG, EGCLJ, CMLJ, GCrLJ

## The Candle and the Sword

In the huge corpus of Basil's work is a short homily that he probably did not write nor deliver. It is probably the work of someone schooled in Basil's thought, and possibly a Basilian monk. It is titled *On Mercy and Justice*.

In our ritual for inducting new members, during the vigil, the candidate is literally faced with a candle and a sword, which I will take to represent mercy and justice. The homily speaks of the interplay of these two virtues. Many of us think of them as antithetical, but in fact both are necessary, and together in concert. "It is necessary for you to blend mercy and justice, acquiring with justice and giving with mercy. As it is written (Osee XII:6b), 'Hold on tightly to mercy and justice, and continually trust in your God.' And because God loves mercy and justice, the one who takes pains to practice mercy and justice gets closer to God." Notice the relationship of the two, like horses hitched together. As the homily develops it says, "It is not because God is powerless to feed the poor that he has left them for us to care for, but rather because he wants us to be fruitful in justice and kindness through our own good works."

The homily points to the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector (cf. Luke 19:8), who said to Christ that he would return to anyone he defrauded four times as much. The example serves as a warning for those who might indulge in works of mercy but who do not first promote justice. On the other hand, those who promote justice, but do not practice mercy, should remember the Lord's statement that, "Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down for firewood." (Cf. Matt. 7:19)

As people who have freely embraced membership in an Order that is both Military (Justice) and Hospitaller (Mercy), we have faced the sword (of justice) in the light (of mercy) from a candle and said "I shall serve." As the homily says in its concluding lines, "These things should be a constant reminder to us. We should place them before the very eyes of our soul, so that we do not ignore a present opportunity on the chance that we will have another."

~AMEN~

Enjoy devotionals from Prelate Msgr. Appleyard at [www.st-lazarus.us/gpa/devotion.php](http://www.st-lazarus.us/gpa/devotion.php)

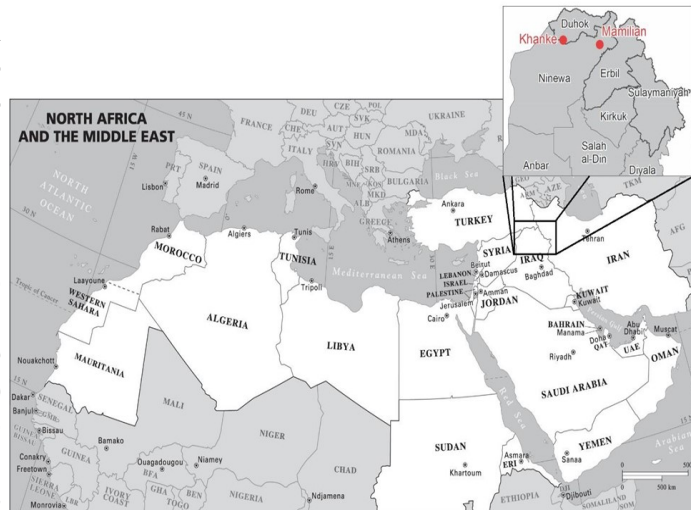


# AMAR *rebuilding lives* U.S.

## Report to The Grand Priory of America

This report from AMAR U.S. provides information on the distribution of milk and diapers identified as basic needs for babies of less than one-year old living among the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mamilyan Camp (Ninewa Governorate) and Khanke Camp (Dohuk Governorate), in Iraq. This activity was funded by a \$20,000 donation from the Order of St. Lazarus.

On March, 20th 2016, a shipment containing 162 boxes of baby milk and 116 cases of baby diapers arrived in Erbil. The boxes and cases were transported by a truck to Mamilyan and



Khanke Camps and were delivered to the camp management to be stored until the day of distribution to the families, which took place on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### Items provided:

162 boxes of baby milk, type 1 and 2-Brand (Each box contained 24 tins, for a total of **3,888** tins of baby milk )

116 cases of baby diapers- (Each case contained 20 bags, for a total of **2,320** bags of diapers )

830 families served



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## An interview with H.E. LCDR The Chev. Scott Thompson USN , GCLJ, GCMLJ, GMLJ

**Q.** How did you first learn about the Order of St. Lazarus, and what attracted you to join it?

I was approached by Dick Everett, Commander of the Southeast Commandery, and several other members of the Order. We had a in depth discussion of the Order and what really sold me on the Order was when Sam Inman summed everything up by saying, "We attempt to do good and have fun doing it."

**Q.** You were picked for a high leadership position in the Order at a very early age, becoming Treasurer of the American Association while still in your 40s. How did this come about, and did it make you nervous?

I'm not sure how "high" the position is or how young I was. There was a request for a new person to take over the job, I volunteered, and I guess it was a slow day for volunteering, because I was the best they could come up with. I've been involved in financial institutions my whole business career and I'm a CPA, so getting involved with the American Association which has many aspects of a financial institution didn't bother me.

**Q.** Now your title is Vice Chancellor for the American Association. What are your duties in that position, and how have they evolved over the last three decades?

The basic duties are pretty simple: receive and acknowledge donations, issue checks to charities as approved by the board, and oversee the investment portfolio. The important thing here is that the American Association is one of the few charities in the world with virtually no overhead expenses. The duties haven't changed much. The biggest change is that we have gotten much more professional and organized in deciding which charities to support.

**Q.** You also served as Commander of the Southeast Commandery for several years. Was it a challenge to perform the duties of both jobs at the same time?

The commanders are the persons doing the heavy lifting for the Order. That job takes a lot of time and effort and, combined with my duties at the AASL, it was challenging to find enough hours in the day.

**Q.** What has been your biggest surprise in serving as a member of the Order?  
The dedication of the members .

**Q.** Why should someone consider joining the Order?

In my view the Order has three major aspects: charitable, religious, and social. I don't know of another organization that can deliver that combination as well as the Order. Further, the Order gives a person the chance to benefit from being around an outstanding group of people making a positive difference.

**Q.** What advice would you give to a new member of the Order?

Volunteer and get involved. Lazarus is like most volunteer organizations in this regard; the more you put into it, the more you'll get out of it. It is also important to remember that making a significant charitable contribution to the Order each year is a core value.

**Q.** What is your vision for the future of the Order?

Grow and prosper. This will not be easy. It seems that younger people (that's defined as anybody ten years younger than me) are less inclined to join anything and are more leery of any sort of organized Christianity than us old folks.

**Q.** What advice would you give to a new member of the Order?

New members should be quick to get involved... find a need which our Order can address.

**Why should someone consider joining the Order?**

Our Order is a first-rate charitable organization. Even with our limited funds, we accomplish enormous good in otherwise poorly served populations.

**If you could wave a magic wand, how would you change the Order of St. Lazarus?**

We should avoid petty disputes which needlessly consume time and effort. Our focus must always be on the charity of our Order.

**What is your vision for the future of the Order?**

I believe our Order will grow and prosper. (END)

