

# THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



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# Spiritual Message

*(Delivered by The Very Rev. Dr. Richard Miles at the Vigil service for the 2016 GPC)*

## **“Keep Watch to Serve!”** **Luke 12:35-38**

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are watching for their master to return...” These words of our Lord speak to what we do here this night. From ancient times those about to be knighted, and those preparing for promotion in that quest, have been required to watch; that is, to keep a vigil, with lamps lit and dressed for action in full armor, through the night, in preparation for the accolade.

Most of us are well acquainted with the idea of a vigil. Many of us were first introduced to it in college. Remember the “all-nighter”? It’s that great college tradition of staying awake from sundown on one day, through the long night, and well past sunup the next day, cramming our brains with information, both review and new, in the last-ditch quest for a decent grade on our finals. We remember that, in the desperate effort to stave-off ever encroaching sleep, and keep energy levels up, we fueled ourselves on sugary snacks, Rahman noodles, and strong (and usually very bad) coffee. Amazingly, sometimes, it actually worked.

But, as important a tradition as the college all-nighter was to many of us, it holds only a shadow of the impact in a knight’s vigil. And, I think we may be missing out on something here. Given the urgency of our Lord’s call in our Gospel reading, maybe the knightly vigil is something we need to reinstitute.

Though we have softened the rigor of this night, there is a reason we still require this vigil. This vigil holds for us, as it held for our predecessors, a supreme purpose: And that is, to consider the meaning of service. In ancient times, to enter knightly service meant that one’s life was no longer fully their own. The new knight was now to be given to an older, seasoned, knight, or to a Lord, or even to a monarch, and was thereafter to be at that one’s beck and call. That one was master, and the knight’s very life was at that master’s disposal for whatever purpose that master determined. Such a life wasn’t going to be all honors and glory. Yet, such service would hold life’s meaning. This was the reason for the long vigil: to give the postulant time to consider the full impact of such service, and either commit to it, or reconsider another life path.

With the coming of the Crusades, Orders of religious knights, such as our Order, came into being. With that, the call to service only deepened. In addition to belonging to a flesh and blood master, such as a commander, and a Grand Master, and the Order itself, the new knight was now entering into the service of The Lord, Jesus Christ. The knight was now a knight of the Church. Such service would now have eternal meaning. With that meaning in mind, intense prayer became part of the vigil. And, to keep oneself awake, strict fasting was required from before sundown, right up to the moment of the actual





giving of the accolade, however late the next day that might come. The strict discipline of appointed prayer would occupy the mind, while the sharp pangs of hunger would drive away all sleep.

So, what does this vigil hold for you and me, we 21<sup>st</sup> Century descendants of our Crusader forbearers? Just this: it holds nothing less than the opportunity to consider our own life's service to our supreme Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Our Lord says, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit: be like those who are waiting for their master to return..., so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are they whom the master finds alert when he comes." In this, Jesus is telling us two things that go together: we are to stay alert, and we are to serve; we are to keep watch in order to serve. You see, our Lord isn't just coming back someday. He comes to us each and every day, and only if we are alert, dressed for action, vigilant, will we know to see him as he is, and open the door to his blessings.

How do we do that exactly? How do we see him and serve him as he is on a daily basis? We do it by seeing him in the faces of those our Lord sends us to care about and care for. Our calling as those who are, or are seeking to become, Dames and knights of the church, is to help, and to defend, the downtrodden, the poor, the dispirited, the weak, and any who cannot survive well without help.

Let me suggest some specific ways to do this. As someone who is walking this path of noble service, become your home congregation's advocate for its outreach services. Give to that mission from your treasure. But more than that, give yourself, your time and your skills. If there is a local food distribution center for the needy, go there and help hand out the groceries. If there is a soup kitchen in your vicinity, go stand in the serving line and ladle out the food yourself. If you have the skills needed, volunteer at your community free medical/dental clinic. And, here's the thing that should set you and me apart as ones who are watching for Christ's appearing: spend some of that time just being with those folks you're serving; get to know them, and what life is actually like from their perspective. Here's another idea: you know those folks we all see at the stop lights, and the highway off-ramps, holding the cardboard signs asking for help? If you're unsure about giving money, what about carrying water bottles and maybe some prepackaged snacks in your car to just hand to them, with a "God bless you". Remember, our Master is walking disguised among these folks. And, one thing more: remember that you have now entered into a religious Order of chivalry. Support your Order's relief efforts, give generously to the Pentecostal Appeal, and give yourself, time and talent, to advance its noble work. All of these, and more, are how we keep vigil to open the door when Christ knocks.

This night's vigil will end soon. However, the vigil we are all called to never ends. Let this night be the beginning of your commitment, or its renewal, to keep vigil as a way of life. Be dressed for action! Keep watch to serve!

AMEN

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

# A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND PRIOR

His Excellency RADM The Chevalier Kenneth P. Moritsugu MD, GCIRLJ, GCLJ-J, GCMLJ

For those of you who were unable to attend the Grand Prioral Council meeting in Charleston, SC, in late October, you missed another exceptional gathering of 116 of our active members, and another 56 friends and associates. We were joined by 17 of our Canadian colleagues.

We invested 16 new postulants into our Order, promoted 19 of our colleagues, including 9 to the rank of Commander (CLJ), 5 to the rank of Knight (KLJ), and two to the rank of Knight Commander (KCLJ). Our Grand Prioral Secretary and Receiver, HE Chev. Simon McCloud, was advanced to the rank of Knight Grand Cross (GCLJ); and two of our prelates were promoted to Assistant Chaplain (AChLJ) and Senior Chaplain (SchLJ). It was a further privilege to acknowledge 37 more of our colleagues with awards and meritorious recognition, in addition to awarding Donats Crosses to four of our members. Finally, at the behest of the Grand Chancellor, HE Al James received the Gold Cross of our Order. At our investiture, we presented Chains of Office to Chev. John Kane as Commander of the Grand Commandery of the South, to HE Chev. CW Gilluly as Commander of the Commandery of the Atlantic, Chev. Charles Bearden as Commander of the Commandery of the Southeast, and Dr. Edwin Yaz as Commander of the Commandery of the Midwest. In a realignment of our geographic subjurisdictions, we introduced Gregory Mesniaeff as the Cadre leader in New York, Leonard Rossi as the Cadre leader in San Francisco, and Chev. Thomas Laing as the Cadre leader in Seattle.

During the business meeting, we heard from several senior officers regarding our progress in addressing the Priorities of the Grand Priory of America, including the appointment of Chev. Pent Penton as Assistant Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Evaluation.. Notable among our successes are the smooth passing of the baton from our previous editor of the GPA Bulletin, Chev. Joe Hill, to Jeffrey Zollicoffer, ably assisted by Chev. Jack Schroeder, who have put their mark on the new design of our quarterly messenger. Further, by the time you receive this edition, our new web-site will be up and running. I trust that you will agree with me, that both the bulletin and the web site are quantum leaps forward in our internal as well as our external communication and recruitment capabilities. I recommend that you log on to our new website to appreciate the hard and dedicated work that was invested in it by Chev. John Tempone, Dame Mary Ettary, Chev. Harry Tarnoff, HE Mary Ann Straub, and HE Hugh Straub.

This year, the American Association of St. Lazarus, our non-profit charitable arm, will be making \$230,000 in awards, as part of our tangible efforts to fulfil our chivalric mission. Unfortunately, we left about \$70,000 worth of great projects on the table, unfunded due to limited funds available. I encourage every member to take their charitable responsibilities to heart, and to meet our benchmark of twice each person's dues for our annual Pentecostal appeal. Remember that 100% of everything you give, goes out to assist worthy projects.

Finally, it gave me great pleasure to name Chev. Steven Brock of the Western Commandery as the recipient of the Alan Weaver Hazelton award, the highest recognition of the Grand Priory of America, for his exceptional initiative and service in developing and executing the first of our annual pilgrimages to Kalaupapa, Molokai, the site of the good works of Sts. Father Damien and Mother Marianne Cope, on behalf of individuals afflicted with leprosy. During this Season of Peace, Love, and Understanding, I wish each of you the blessings of our Lord. And thank you all for your dedication and service to our Order.

Yours in Service,



**HE RADM The Chevalier Kenneth P. Moritsugu, GCIRLJ, GCLJ-J, GCMLJ**



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## An interview with H.E. the Chev. Hugh Ramsay Straub JD, GCLJ, CMLJ, GCrLJ

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

I first became aware of St. Lazarus through my wife Mary Ann's joining the Order in 1996. Initially, I was skeptical. But, I have been very interested in Christian unity initially because Mary Ann is Roman Catholic and I am an Episcopalian. For many years before either of our involvement with St. Lazarus, I have been active in ecumenical circles in Louisiana. The South's Commander at the time, Fritz Dahlberg and our friend Gary Mannina, pressed me to consider St. Lazarus. I gradually realized that St. Lazarus incarnates my ecumenical ideal of Christians setting aside denominational difference to accomplish real good, all while remaining loyal to one's respective tradition. That initial interest remains my primary attraction to our Order – Christians locking arms to help others in need. To my mind, everything we enjoy about our Order flows from our vision of Christian Unity.



**You've done a lot of travelling lately to each Commandery. Is that part of your duties as our Chancellor?**

As Chancellor, my primary responsibility is the health of our Commanderies and Delegations. I firmly believe my job and that of all our senior leadership is to enable our members to accomplish good works. My effort to be present with our several jurisdictions is intended to signal that our Grand Prior, Bailiff and I understand our members' local activity is our Order's life blood. All of us have taken a solemn vow to serve and the place where often the most meaningful service happens is in our local communities. I seek to encourage local activity. The hardest part for me as Commander was getting to know all of our members. Knowing is more than remembering folk's names. Really knowing your members involves understanding their particular interests in St. Lazarus. For some the sense of community is important, while others might enjoy dressing up, or be interested in ancient chivalry, or be committed to charity, or spirituality, or heraldry, or ecumenism. The key is knowing that each person has different interest under our Order's umbrella, and the challenge for the leader is to make sure our umbrella is big enough to celebrate each of those varied interests.

**What was your greatest achievement?**

Clearly, my greatest achievement was convincing Mary Ann to marry me. She was essential to the smooth running of the Southern Commandery just as she is now for much of the Grand Priory.

**You're also active in other organizations which, like St. Lazarus, support ecumenism. What has that experience taught you about the ecumenical movement?**

Patience is the key virtue for those of us who dream of Christian churches being in full communion with each other. The goal of full communion is achieved when churches retain their individual identities, while accepting the validity of each other's ministry and sacraments. All of our churches are in ecumenical conversation and those talks make progress...albeit slowly. I believe full communion will happen some day. And, I suspect that wonderful goal will be driven by the practical necessity of all Christian people to band together in mutual respect to resist the pressures of our increasingly secular society. We all took a solemn vow: "I shall serve". Seems to me "service" is what twenty-first century Christian chivalry is all about. Each one of our members need not look very far to see a need in his/her community. Why not meet it?

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

Our Order is a first-rate charitable organization. We accomplish enormous good in otherwise poorly served populations.

# What One Person Can Do

By: Msgr George Appleyard, VG, EGCLJ, CMLJ, GCrLJ

Most members of our Priory probably know little of Gerard Tum (or Thom), born c. 1040, and yet he lays the foundation of our Order. As early as 603 AD, Pope Gregory the Great had commissioned a hospital in Jerusalem to care for Christian pilgrims. The hospital—subsequently established in the Old City of Jerusalem not far from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at the site of a church dedicated to St. John the Baptist—was destroyed in 1005 by “The Mad” Caliph Al-Hakim. In 1018, Caliph Ali az-Zahir of Egypt gave certain merchants from Italy permission to rebuild the hospital, which was a ministry of a local Benedictine abbey. In due time a Brother Gerard, a lay monk, was assigned to manage it.

During the siege of Jerusalem in the First Crusade in 1099, the local governor imprisoned Brother Gerard but freed him when the city fell to Godfrey of Bouillon and permitted him to resume his work in the men’s division of the hospital. Gerard’s policy was to receive all needy patients, irrespective of religion. Leaving the women’s section under the control of the Benedictines, Brother Gerard broke off from that Order, adopted the Augustinian rule and organized the *Fratres Hospitalarii* into a regularly constituted Religious Order under the protection of Saint John the Baptist, and thus the members of the Order became known as Knights of St. John, or Hospitalers. Pope Paschal II formally sanctioned Brother Gerard’s new Order of Knights Hospitaller in 1113. By this time the hospital was a wealthy and powerful organization within the kingdom of Jerusalem, and Gerard expanded its operations far beyond the limits of the city, establishing satellite hospitals placed strategically along the pilgrim route to Jerusalem, and even founding

new ones in southern Europe. He died sometime between 1118 and 1121 and was soon venerated for his holiness. His feast day is October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In 1118, Gerard had been succeeded by Raymond du Puy as Master of the Hospital, and under his leadership, not only was the original hospice expanded, but soon the Order began to provide pilgrims with an armed escort. This, in turn, soon grew into a substantial military force; and so the Order of St. John imperceptibly became military without losing its charitable and medical character.

From this matrix the Order of Lazarus sprang, whether by imitation or by design. 1119 is the year given in which the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem was recognized as a separate Order, just about the time of Gerard’s death. It was recognized as such in 1142 by Fulk the Younger, King of Jerusalem. About a century later, in April of 1255, Pope

Alexander IV granted approbation to *The Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem for Lepers* as a hospitaller and military order of chivalry following the rule of Saint Augustine, possibly to deal with the new circumstances in which the Order of Lazarus would have to operate. As one historian pointed out, the clients of St. John were, in essence, visitors—for patients changed constantly; but the lepers of St. Lazarus were condemned to perpetual segregation. In return they were regarded as brothers or sisters of the house which sheltered them, and they obeyed the common rule which united them with their religious guardians and caretakers.

*All of this sprang from one man who found a mission.*





**The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus**  
**of**  
**Jerusalem**  
**Grand Priory of America**

Kenneth P. Moritsugu, GCLrLJ, GCLJ, GCMLJ, GCrLJ, MD

Office of the Grand Prior

26 September 2016

To: GPA Senior Officers and Sub-Jurisdictional Commanders/Delegates Cc: John B. Kane, KLJ Rosemary Z. Ryan, CLJ Dr. Edwin E. Yaz, CLJ Charlotte A. Hust, DLJ,

Jeffrey L. Zollicoffer, CLJ

RE: GPA Officer Appointments

From 2009 to 2016, Chevalier Francis DeSales McWilliams II has faithfully served as Commander of the Grand Commandery of the Southwest. I am pleased to appoint Chevalier John Bartholomew Kane as Chevalier McWilliams' successor, effective 29 October 2016.

From 2014 through 2016, Dame Anne Mary Rice has faithfully served as Commander of the Midwest Commandery. I am pleased to appoint Edwin Engin Yaz as Dame Rice's successor, effective 01 January 2017.

I am pleased to appoint Rosemary Zerr Ryan, as GPA Co-Capitular, effective 21 September 2016.

I am pleased to appoint Chevalier Harold R. Penton, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Planning and Evaluation, effective immediately and filling the existing position in our GPA By-Laws and on the Administrative Organizational Chart.

The Grand Priory of America thanks Frank and Anne Mary for their commitment and dedication to our Order.

We thank John, Ed, Rosemary, and Pent for enthusiastically renewing their chivalric vow - "I shall serve."

In Christ and St. Lazarus,

Kenneth P. Moritsugu, GCLrLJ, GCLJ, GCMLJ, GCrLJ, MD

Grand Prior

**THE ORDER**

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