



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

PASADENA 2017 Grand Prioral Council

In this issue:

- Spiritual Message..... 2
- History of the Order..... 4
- Member Spotlight..... 5
- 2017 GPC..... 6
- Commandery Reports..... 8
- Promotions & Declarations.. 15

Spiritual Message

The Star and the Cross

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

“One of the sacred scribes, who have great acumen in predicting future events accurately, told the king that around this time a child would be born... who would excel everyone else in virtue and obtain a glory that would be remembered throughout all ages.” At first glance this text might seem to come from the Bible, perhaps a prophecy of the coming Messiah and the mysterious Magi who would come to worship him with regal gifts, and yet it comes from what we would consider a secular source, from Flavius Josephus’ book entitled ANTIQUITIES, Book 2, chapter 9, verse 205. He is reporting what was “in the air” at that time, the last quarter of the first Christian century and the beginning of the next. On hearing Josephus’s text, most of us cannot help but think of the Star of Bethlehem and the Magi coming to adore the newborn King of the Jews, that’s how deeply the story from Matthew’s Gospel has been imprinted on our Christian imagination, but the fact is that Balaam’s prediction found in the Book of Numbers 23:17 (Septuagint) was an explosive topic more for political reasons than religious.

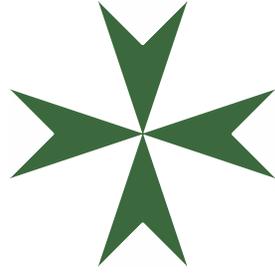
Scholars in general hold that the Gospel of Matthew, the only one in which we hear of the Christmas star, was completed before the year 100, certainly after the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70. It was a very violent time. As a result of the First Jewish-Roman War, no Jew could set foot in what had been Jerusalem under penalty of death and – as a permanent humiliation – a Roman style city would be built over the ruins in 130, with a temple to Jupiter occupying the place where the Jewish Temple once stood. The city would be renamed Aelia Capitolina in honor of that deity. As once before in Egypt, so now the Children of Israel longed for a new Moses, one to free them from the yoke of the Roman pharaoh. In 132 another war of liberation was begun under the leadership of Simon ben Kosiba. It would be a brutal and bloody conflict, ending in a costly Roman victory in 136.

What was the essence of the Balaam prediction? “I will point to him, but not now. Bless him, but he is not at hand. A star shall arise from Jacob, a man from Israel, and crush the princes of Moab!” Simon ben Kosiba would eventually take on the nom de guerre of Bar Kokhba, Son of the Star, and went so far as to issue coinage, the face of which displayed a star rising over the facade of the Jewish Temple, reborn from the rubble of the Romans. Symbols can be far more potent than we realize!

We serve under the Maltese cross of eight points which certainly resembles a star, but we certainly call it a cross. It is both. Constantine reported seeing a cross in the sky, the place where we would normally expect to see a star, with the inscription “In this sign you shall conquer.” Another contradiction: victory through a humiliating tool of execution. Those of us who have pledged to serve under the Maltese cross must demonstrate the strength that comes through weakness and the wisdom that comes through foolishness. Let the cross remind us that we have pledged to bear the burden of the battle, and let the light of the star be the ideals that guide and motivate us, remembering the words in the second letter of Peter, “We have the more reliable prophetic word. You would do well to attend to it like a lamp shining in a dark place until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” May we all look again for the star we once saw rising that we may come to know the joy of following by its light, for “in your light we shall see light!” (Ps. 35/36:9)

For most of us, the story of the coming of the Magi and their subsequent visit to the child Jesus with precious gifts, is a lovely, heart-warming tale for the happy season, but nobody in the bridge between the first and second Christian centuries would have seen it that way. Josephus’s text, cited above, seems to be speaking of the Magi, the sages who go to King Herod naively asking, “Where is the one born king of the Jews? We saw his star... and have come to get on our knees before him.” To us, sweet and lovely words, but to people in Judea hearing this at the end of the first century, a volcanic eruption. Whether the episode reported by Matthew is what we would consider as history, the notion of star arising and portending liberation was known from the story of Balaam and from other factual events from that time. [Cf. Numbers 23:17, Septuagint]

Enjoy devotionals from Prelate Msgr. Appleyard at www.st-lazarus.us/gpa/devotion.php



History of the Order

Dedicated to the care and assistance of the poor and the sick

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus is one of the orders of chivalry to survive the downfall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and the attempts by the Crusader knights to win control of the Holy Land from the forces of Islam. In theory the Order remained a military one, but with the exception of a brief period in the 17th century it played no military role after 1291. The Order of Saint Lazarus is one of the most ancient of the European orders of chivalry. At the very least it dates back to the time of the Crusader knights. From its foundation in the 12th century, the members of the Order were dedicated to two ideals: aid to those suffering from the dreadful disease of leprosy and the defense of the Christian faith.

Today the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is an international self-governing and independent

body, having its own Constitution; it may be compared with a kind of electoral kingdom. According to the said Constitution the Order is nonpolitical, oecumenical or nondenominational, as its membership is open to all men and women being practicing members of the Christian faith in good standing within their particular denomination. Its international membership consists of Roman-catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox, United, Old Catholic, New Apostolic and other Christians, upholding with their lives, fortunes and honour the principles of Christianity. Traditionally it is organized as a Christian Chivalric Order. The Order is registered in London in accordance with the laws in England.

It is both a Military Order of Mercy and a Hospitaller Order dedicated to the care and assistance of the poor and the sick. Its aim is to preserve and defend the Christian faith, to guard, assist succor and help the poor, the sick and dying, to promote and maintain the principles of Christian chivalry and to follow the teachings of Christ and His Holy Church in all its works.

With the exception of the present Teutonic Order (“Deutscher Orden”) the Order of Saint Lazarus is today the smallest of the orders of Christian chivalry. It is made up of approximately five thousand members in the five continents. The Order sees itself as an oecumenical Christian order whose genesis goes back to the Holy Land, to the crusades and to the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Member Spotlight

An interview with Tim Hensleit

By Chev. Jack Spalding Schroder, Jr., KCLJ, KMLJ, JD

Q Tell us a little about your background and professional life.

I live in the San Joaquin Valley in Central California. I graduated from California State University Fresno with a degree in engineering and worked in that field for many years.

I am married to Beatrice Hensleit RN, CLJ. In 1979 I changed paths and started T. K. Hensleit Company. T K Hensleit Company specializes in commercial construction and construction management services in California.

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

I was introduced to the Order of St. Lazarus by a tennis colleague, Ron Teague, who was a member and the Inquisitor at the time. I was invited to attend an Investiture and I was amazed at what I saw. Professional people from all over the United States who were working together to help other people in need. This paralleled what I was already doing with local nonprofits but on a much bigger scale.

Q You currently serve the Order as our Grand Prioral Inquisitor. The title alone conjures up images of some medieval interrogator, complete with his tools of torture. What does your job really entail?

We did away with the torture and intimidation many years ago! We primarily focus on vetting all membership petitions to make sure all applicants meet our membership requirements. The Grand Priory of America includes the Unites States, all of Mexico, part of Central America and Puerto Rico. At times

I am very busy with research, background checks, verification of military service and college degrees, and the translation of some documents into English.

The most rewarding part of what I do is the opportunity to present each new candidate to be invested into our Order.

Q Other than the routine internet search, what resources do you use to check an applicant's background?

Without the Internet my job would be much more difficult and time consuming. The internet is the gateway to all the tools I use. A great resource is a personal letter of recommendation from an existing member, friend or business associate.

Q I'm sure you've discovered some interesting facts about membership applicants as a part of your job. Without disclosing any names, can you share any of your more curious discoveries with us?

One of the most unusual membership petitions was from a gentleman who was the "self-appointed" King of a South Sea Island.

Q What other organizations or causes grab your time and attention?

I remain active in our community serving on various nonprofit boards such as Rotary and Big Brothers Big Sisters as well as Chair of the Finance council for our Church. For fun I race a sail-boat, fly fish and play in a tennis league called "Team Chevy."

Q With a very busy construction business to run, how have you found the time to be so active in the Order and these other organizations?



Tim Hensleit

My day typically starts very early and over the years I routinely carved out a portion of my day or week to devote to community organizations, our Church and The Order of St. Lazarus.

To whom much is given, much is expected—we give back to our community whenever it is needed.

Q Why should someone consider joining the Order?

This is easy: 1. Joining our Order is a way to multiply the effort you may already be investing to support charitable causes. 2. The opportunity to meet other professional people with similar goals and interests. 3. The opportunity to strengthen your spiritual beliefs.

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

Be patient. Joining our Order can be overwhelming at times. Get involved with your Commandery activities and projects.

Q If you could wave a magic wand, what would you see our Order doing 10 or 20 years from now?

Over the past few years our dedicated senior officers have been working very hard to establish and fine-tune the framework and set goals to achieve future sustained growth. I would see a much larger, more active organization (1,000 members) with more outreach and resources to provide to more local and international charitable causes.

Seen in
PASADENA
at the 2017 Grand Prioral Council



Scott Thompson receives Hazleton Award.

