



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



*In Memory of
Grand Master,
His Excellency Don Carlos
Gereda de Borbón,
Marqués of Almazán*

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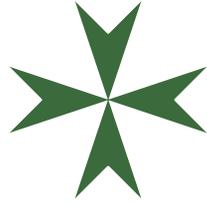
Spiritual Message

By The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite, Msgr. George Appleyard,
VG, GCLJ, KMLJ, GCrLJ, BD

A reading adapted from Basil's, *Homily on Detachment, 2*

Brethren, it is necessary and useful for all of us to ready ourselves like travelers or athletes. Once we have planned how to make the trip as convenient as possible for our souls, we should press on to the end of the path. David the prophet called life a path (in psalm 118/119). He had good reason to use this image for human existence with its joys and its sorrows. Those really eager to reach their destination complete their trip step by step, always following one with another. Those to whom the Creator has given Life reach their destination by setting out immediately, leaving the past for the future. Doesn't the present life seem like an endless road to you, and a journey divided into stages? For each traveler it begins with our mother's labor and ends at our grave. Everyone goes this way, some quicker, some slower. Some pass through all the stages of this life, and some do not. Unlike the roads that go from city to city, which you can get off, that is not possible on this road of life. Nor can you speed up your journey nor interrupt it. From the moment we are born this road seizes us and compels us onward, and we cannot turn back. A Prayer Lord Jesus, you identified yourself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Guide me by your Holy Spirit to make this journey of my life with you along your way, your road. And as I keep this Lent, in this year, as a sign of my intentions for that greater journey with you for the whole of my life, let me be your companion who keeps stride with you in good circumstances and bad, and may I finally arrive at the gate at the end of the path that opens to Paradise. Amen!

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



Grand Prior's Address

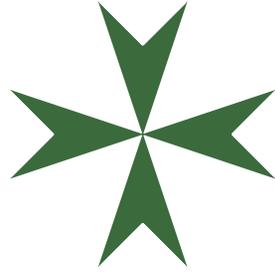
As we approach the celebration of the birth of our Lord, I take the opportunity to reflect on our annual Grand Prioral Council, this year in Pasadena, CA. In the last issue of this Bulletin, we have included photographs of some of the highlights of this gathering. A special thanks to the members of the Grand Commandery of the West for an exceptional event, which balanced our contemplative spiritual services with informative business and enjoyable social activities. Two members of our Order, Brian Hinsley, a liver transplant recipient, and his wife, Kim, provided the attendees a touching and real-life personal story of Brian's journey resulting in his receipt of the gift of life, accompanied by Kim, who provided emotional support before, during, and after the transplant. As we are all aware, organ and tissue donation and transplantation is a major focus of our Grand Priory of America, together with our assistance for leprosy treatment and support. A unique evening pilgrim's soup meal, copied from the events of our brothers and sisters from the North, the Grand Priory in Canada, followed our Vigil, carrying the reflective spiritual mood of the afternoon through the evening.

The next day, at our business meeting, I announced the formation of a Development and Legacy Commission, to examine and evolve our donation practices, to enhance and grow our funding of good works through the American Association of St. Lazarus. The reports and discussions of the Priorities of the Grand Priory of America indicate that we are focused on achieving our dual spiritual and secular goals for our Order. Then in the evening, we welcomed 19 new postulants into our Order, promoted and recognized several of our members, and acknowledged our Grand Prioral Prelate, HE Msgr. George Appleyard, for his long leadership in our Order with the 20 year Medal. At our Gala which followed, I was privileged to present the Alan Weaver Hazelton Award to our Assistant Chancellor for the American Association of St. Lazarus, HE Commander Scott Thompson. Our Grand Prioral Council serves as an exceptional opportunity to refocus ourselves on our Order and our commitment to service; to renew, refresh and develop new acquaintances; and to recommit ourselves to our spiritual and secular goals.

I wish everyone a Holy Christmas, and look forward to a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Thank all of you, for your service.

Kenneth P. Moritsugu, GCLJ, GCMLJ, MD
Grand Prior



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.