



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem





The Order

Lent 2020

Index	2
Spiritual Messages	3-5
Report from the Chancellor	6—7
Legacy Giving	8
Commandery Report	9
2020 GPC Announcement	10
Rising Star	11
New Members	12

The photograph on our cover was taken at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem by Chev. Col John A Tempone , USMC (Ret.) while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



Spiritual Message

**Fr. William D. Razz Razz Waff, DMin, BCC, GCLJ, Major General, US Army (Retired)
Grand Prioral Prelate (Chief of Chaplains)**

An Acceptance- and Planning- for Our Mortality in Lent

One of the primary purposes of the words used to impose ashes on Ash Wednesday- “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return- is to explicitly remind us of our mortality, which in my opinion is remarkably well done with such an admonition. However, once we leave church on Ash Wednesday, what steps do we take to do that seriously?

As a career healthcare chaplain and medical ethicist I have some remarkably practical possibilities that certainly take that admonition seriously, and which attorneys in the Order would most likely say make perfectly good sense. My Lenten recommendations include the following:

1. Review- or create- a Will. Wills are not something that can be planned “sometime in the future” as painfully the future- and our death- can be completely unexpected, and much sooner than we had anticipated. Joining the Church Triumphant intestate (without a Will) can create tremendous problems for our families.
2. A part of a Will is to plan for our families and friends fiscally in the future. I would add to this to make sure the beneficiaries on insurance policies and retirement funds are up to date, to include contingency beneficiaries. For myself, Kathleen and I often travel together, and should something untoward happen to us, we would certainly want Meaghan to be provided for without any delays.
3. Create a Healthcare Power of Attorney, in which you can state what you want done under what conditions if you are not able to speak for yourself. This will allow your family to know your wishes, and not have them “guess” at what you might want done.
4. In the same vein, make sure that your drivers license lists you as an organ donor. Organ donation is one of our major priorities as a Grand Priory, and this is right in line with what we are about.
5. A more explicit spiritual/religious task is planning our funerals, to include hymns, who we want to officiate at our funeral, and wishes for a traditional burial or cremation, and if a veteran, preference for placement in a national or state veterans cemetery or private cemetery.

This is not a traditional, spiritual Lenten column, however it is a way to take seriously the Ash Wednesday admonition “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” seriously.

With that said, our Order’s Ecclesiastical Grand Prior, Archbishop Michele Pennisi, has written an excellent Lenten Message for us for 2020, and it can be found in this edition of our Lenten edition of The Order.

Report From Michele Pennisi Archbishop of Monreale



Ecclesiastical Grand Prior



Message for Lent 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Saint Lazarus,

Lent is that demanding time each year which prepares us to celebrate the Mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus; it is the cornerstone of personal and communal Christian life and, starting with our experience of the Father's merciful love, urges us to sincere conversion, prayer, joyful fasting and determined charity.

It is a time when we are invited to revive the memory of baptism, reaffirming that Jesus is the Lord of our lives and we are encouraged to reconfirm the essential purpose of our lives in matching his free love.

I suggest you meditate on some specific gospel passages that help us adjust to Lent and prepare for Easter.

The triple temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4, vv. 1-11) helps us to walk the Lent path with the strength of the Word of God, asking Christ victorious over the devil to support us in the moment of temptation and not to succumb to the charm of sin.

The beauty of Jesus transfigured (Matthew 17, vv. 1-9) gives us the strength to walk in the light of the Gospel and to open ourselves to the message of the Word of the Lord, to welcome in our lives the saving mystery of the cross that introduces us to the blazing glory of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4, vv. 5-42) awakens in us the desire for the living water of grace that springs from Christ and arouses the resolve to profess our faith and announce with joy the wonders of God's love.

The healing of the man blind from birth (John 9, vv. 1-41) frees us from the darkness of disbelief, so that the Spirit may open our eyes to the full knowledge of Jesus Christ, the true light of the world, our only salvation.

The resurrection of Jesus' friend Lazarus (John 11, vv. 11-45) in which Jesus is revealed as "the Resurrection and Life", helps us to weep with those who weep for the death of their loved ones, to pray for those who have died because of sin; helps us, above all, to rise from our own little death, the quiet life that prevents us from engaging in the search for the common good, the lack of courage in the struggle for justice, the addiction to corruption, confidently awaiting the Spirit of the purveyor of the new life.

Our conversion comes from listening and welcoming the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus, a mystery of love, through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us; it resides in the heart that listens to prayer that is not merely dutiful but which expresses the need to correspond to the love of God, who always goes before us and supports us.

The practice of fasting helps us overcome the temptation to devour everything in order to satisfy our greed in its many manifestations. In addition to fasting from food, there are, in fact, many other valuable forms of abstinence: for example, abstaining from smoking, or alcohol, from excessive use of the internet and the media, as well as from gossip.

Our charity will allow us to feel compassion for the wounds of Christ crucified, as manifested in those who suffer in body and spirit, and will open us to the sharing of our goods with the neediest through alms; in this way we participate in building a more just, more supportive, more fraternal world.

In wishing you a good Path of Lent, I invite you to accept the call to open yourselves to reconciliation with God and reconciliation with others in the spirit of fraternity, as we contemplate the images of Christ crucified and risen. I also invite you to become the salt of the earth and light of the world. (Matthew 5, vv. 13-14).

Monreale, February 26th, 2020

RISING STAR OUTREACH NON-PROFIT

EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO RISE ABOVE THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH LEPROSY AND TO LIVE HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE LIVES THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.



RISING ABOVE TRAGEDY

In the wake of a painful family tragedy, Becky Douglas traveled to India after she discovered that her late daughter had been sending money to orphans there. During that trip, Becky witnessed the most deplorable conditions for people living with leprosy. When she returned home haunted by the images of the leprosy affected, she knew she had to step up and do something. With faith guiding her, she called four close friends around her kitchen table and there they formed Rising Star Outreach.

FROM ONE SMALL STEP

What began as a small charity serving a handful of patients in 3 colonies, along with 27 children in a rented building, has grown today to an organization with national reach. Rising Star Outreach is now educating over 1,000 children and serving the leprosy affected in more than 65 colonies, with projects and program services operating in 8 states throughout India. In the past 5 years alone, Rising Star Outreach has provided more than 150,000 instances of medical care and assistance.

PARTNERS IN HEALING

Rising Star Outreach's robust medical program provides dignity and health to the leprosy affected across India. For the past 11 years, The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus has been a champion supporter of this work. Together, Rising Star Outreach and the Order of St. Lazarus have partnered to supply many important services, including: crucial medicines and medical supplies, two mobile medical units that provide consistent medical care to over 40 colonies, and support of a Micro Cellular protective footwear and devices unit, among many others. These services are literally changing and saving lives, with positive rippling effects that will impact generations to come.

A NEW VACCINE

The first preventative vaccination for leprosy has been developed and approved for distribution. This new vaccine has the potential to help eliminate this harmful disease within our lifetimes. Rising Star Outreach is working with the developer of this vaccination to determine how we can help with distribution of it, moving forward. Together, we have the ability to help change both individual lives and history! This is truly an exciting time to be a part of this work.



LEARN MORE AT:

RISINGSTAROUTREACH.ORG

WE AT RISING STAR OUTREACH BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF "ONE"

THAT ONE PERSON OR ONE GROUP REALLY CAN MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE. THE ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS HAS CONTINUALLY STEPPED UP TO THE CALL TO BE THE "ONE" AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE YEARS OF MOVING THE WORK FORWARD, TOGETHER.

TOGETHER, HOPE IS RISING.