



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



Spiritual Message

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Constantine was still wavering between Christianity and idolatry when a luminous cross appeared to him in the heavens, bearing the inscription, "In this sign shalt thou conquer."

He became a Christian, and triumphed over his enemies, who were at the same time the enemies of the Faith.

A few years later, his saintly mother having found the cross on which our Saviour suffered, the feast of the "Exaltation" was established in the Church; but it was only at a later period still, namely, after the Emperor Heraclius had achieved three great and wondrous victories over Chosroes, King of Persia, who had possessed himself of the holy and precious relic, that this festival took a more general extension, and was invested with a higher character of solemnity.

The feast of the "Finding" was thereupon instituted, in memory of the discovery made by St. Helena; and that of the "Exaltation" was reserved to celebrate the triumphs of Heraclius.

The greatest power of the Catholic world was at that time centred in the Empire of the East, and was verging toward its ruin, when God put forth His hand to save it: the re-establishment of the great cross at Jerusalem was the sure pledge thereof. This great event occurred in 629.

*Herein is found the accomplishment of the Saviour's word:
"If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all things to Myself."*

The Holy Cross Prayer

Oh Lord Almighty! You have suffered death at the cross for our sins.

Oh Holy Cross of Jesus! be my true light. Oh Holy Cross of Jesus! fill my soul with good thoughts.

Oh Holy Cross! help me in my salvation.

Oh Holy Cross! safeguard me against unholy thoughts and worldly dangers that I may worship the Holy Cross of Jesus of Nazareth crucified.

Have pity on me. Oh Holy Cross of Jesus! be my hope. Oh Holy Cross have mercy on me forever and ever.

In honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus and His fearful Death and Resurrection and His Glorification which leads to everlasting life.

As true as Jesus is born on Christmas and crucified on Good Friday. As true as St. Joseph and Nicodemus took Jesus down from the cross.

As true as Jesus ascended into heaven. May He preserve me from my enemies both visible and invisible forever and ever.

Lord Almighty, into Your hands I give my soul and my body.

Oh Lord Jesus! grant me strength to bear the cross as Yourself.

Teach me to bear it with great humility that the Blessed Virgin may fill me with the Holy Spirit. Preserve my soul and lead it to life everlasting.

Amen.



Interesting Facts About Membership

By COL (Ret) John J. Halloran, Jr., KCLJ, KMLJ

In this article we will give you the age and tenure of membership. In future articles we will provide you with other interesting facts.

The average age of the Orders membership, as of September 1st 2020, is 66.9 years. Our youngest member is Edmund Janniger, OLJ from the Atlantic Commandery at 24 years old. Our oldest member is COL (Ret) Charles Long, KLJ from the Midwest Lieutenancy at 106 years old. The average age for our sub-jurisdictions are: West – 61.7 years / Atlantic – 62.5 years / Southeast – 65.2 years / Mexico – 64 years / Calcasieu – 65.8 years / Southwest – 69.6 years / South – 72 years / Midwest – 77 years. Each member of the Order should be a recruiter, even though you may not be on a recruiting team. With your help we can bring younger members into the Order and slowly start bringing the average age of membership down.

The average tenure of the Orders membership is 13.6 years. Our longest tenured member is Mitchell Lathrop, GCLJ at 48+ years. The average tenure for our sub-jurisdictions are: Calcasieu – 9.3 years / West – 10.7 years / Mexico – 11.1 years / Atlantic – 13 years / Southeast – 13.5 years / Southwest – 13.8 years / South – 14.4 years / Midwest – 23.5 years. Having activities is critical in keeping membership for long periods of time. The more involved a member is the longer they tend to stay. Finally, recognizing your members with promotions and awards will also go a long way in retaining them.

I hope you enjoyed this article. Remember that we greatly appreciate your time, talents and treasures as members of this great Order. You all continue to make a positive difference in your respective sub-jurisdictions and in the Order and for that we are grateful. Stay safe and virus free. Take care and God Bless.



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Prayer of The Order

Almighty God, who dost chose Thine elect out of every nation, and dost show forth Thy glory in their lives, grant we pray Thee, that following the example of Thy servant Saint Lazarus, we may be fruitful in good works to the praise of Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Lord, You Who are the Friend of all mankind, were an intimate friend of Lazarus and his sisters. His death brought tears to Your eyes and power to Your voice so that you called him forth in life from the bonds of death. Lord, may You who are our life, now renew us in the power of Your Spirit to be concerned with the lives and needs of others so that one day we may all share eternal life with You in Your Heavenly Kingdom.