



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



✱ The Order ✱

Lent 2021

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Image on cover:

Carl Heinrich Block, The Annunciation, 1890



✱ Spiritual Message ✱

Lenten Reflections During a Pandemic, Year 2

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Chaplain General

As more than one of us said last year during Lent when asked what we gave up for Lent, the response was often “This year for Lent I gave up Lent.” And in the second Lent of the pandemic? The immediate response again might be “I gave up Lent, again.” While there is a certain sense of that, what I believe we have given up is the communal nature of Lent, which while sounding like an oxymoron, is exactly what we have given up. While some of us were able to attend Ash Wednesday liturgies, a number of us were not, and in the diocese and state I live in, churches were-and still are- closed for worship. So what can we do?

We can give of ourselves- literally. One of the primary hallmarks of GPA is our focus on organ donation, and from talking with my colleagues around the country- via Zoom, of course- almost all of us can be the most obvious sort of living organ donor: Be a blood donor. The American Red Cross and blood banks across the country, from Maine to Hawaii to Alaska to Florida are critically short of blood and urgently need blood donors. If one is looking for a way to give of oneself during Lent, that is a way that is both critically needed, actually involves us participating internationally, and is one of the few times that we will be amongst (socially distanced!) people doing the same thing at the same time.

However, even as we are in the midst of Lent there are glimmers of awakening, of a way of being internationally focused differently: Almost every year- depending on the date of Ash Wednesday and Lent- we have a major feast day that jumps up at us, and in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, is the only day during Lent when there can be an ordination, and that is the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25th. This year



it falls during the week before Palm Sunday and Holy Week, and it “transports” us to another incarnational reality: That in nine months, we will have Christ in our midst again at Christmas. So even in Lent, we cannot get away from the joy of Christ being with us. This remarkable day in Lent reminds us to look forward to time to the coming of Christ, even as we prepare for the most solemn and somber week of the Church year.

Let us pray: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light; Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised, and things which had grown old are being made new and that all things are being brought to their perfection by Him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



Where Are Our 366 Active & Emeriti Members?



Which States, Territories and Countries Do They Live In?

As of 1 March 2021

Alabama: 2	Alaska: 0	Arizona: 2	Arkansas: 1
California: 48	Colorado: 3	Connecticut: 6	Delaware: 0
Florida: 26	Georgia: 19	Hawaii: 9	Idaho: 0
Illinois: 8	Indiana: 0	Iowa: 0	Kansas: 4
Kentucky: 1	Louisiana: 87	Maine: 0	Maryland: 5
Massachusetts: 3	Michigan: 2	Minnesota: 1	Mississippi: 3
Missouri: 1	Montana: 0	Nebraska: 1	Nevada: 1
New Hampshire: 1	New Jersey: 2	New Mexico: 3	New York: 15
North Carolina: 5	North Dakota: 0	Ohio: 1	Oklahoma: 2
Oregon: 1	Pennsylvania: 2	Rhode Island: 1	South Carolina: 3
South Dakota: 0	Tennessee: 2	Texas: 39	Utah: 0
Vermont: 0	Virginia: 17	Washington: 7	West Virginia: 0
Wisconsin: 3	Wyoming: 0	Washington, DC: 7	Puerto Rico: 2
Mexico: 18	Israel: 1	Ireland: 1	



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.