



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



June 2022

GPA NEWSLETTER

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Index

Spiritual Message

From the Grand Prior

Our Multifaceted Order

Southeast Commandery to the Rescue

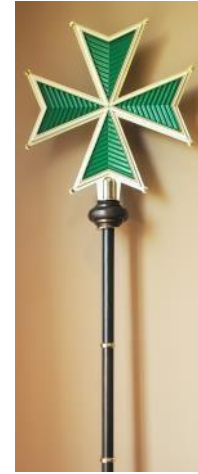
Rising Star Outreach

What is a Bailiff?

The illustration on the front is a painting of Saints Peter and Paul, whose feast day was 30 June.



Spiritual Message



Pray for Ukraine

Fr. William D. Razz Waff, DMin, BCC, GCLJ, OMLJ

Major General, US Army (Retired)

Chaplain General, GPA

On this Pentecost Sunday, I have had something of a “Pentecost experience.” I have just attended my first Coptic liturgy, a wedding for one of our daughter’s college roommates. While I had a sense of the outline of the wedding, to say that it was a foreign language is an understatement, and the saving fact for me was that all of the TV screens in the church had the liturgy in three columns of languages- English, Coptic, and Arabic. And, of course, the short yet universal two words of Greek, Kyrie Eleison. I certainly knew what the intent was, and the form was indeed familiar; however, it was also as foreign as it was familiar, so this must have been something like the first Pentecost to have so many early Christians gathered in one place, each speaking in a different language, and all having an awareness that they knew what was taking place. And it was nice to see in signage around the church- and in the day’s prayer- that our Coptic brothers and sisters were also celebrating Pentecost on the same date as those of us in the Western Church.

And, this being the Pentecost edition of *The Order*, I would be remiss if I did not remind everyone of our vow at our investiture to support the “work of the Order,” that is, its ministry, via our Pentecostal Appeal each year. As I have become more attuned to the remarkable work of our almoners and hospitallers over the past three years, there has been one constant reality: We can only fund those missions and ministries for which we have the funding- it is just like what takes place in our parishes regularly: A reduction in giving equals a reduction in parish outreach. And there are a couple of ways that we can consistently support the challenging and hard work of MaryAnne Straub and Mike Milner.

The first such way, which many members do, is to go to our member’s website to make our Pentecostal Appeal donation- twice our annual dues- and make a one-time donation online or write a check out manually and mail it in. A second option I use is to “even spread” my



Pentecostal Appeal out over the year. This takes a bit more discipline to remember to do this each month. However, it also is a bit easier on the checking account each month, as I found to be the case. Regardless of your methodology, I urge you to take this time in the church year to remember that we are responsible for supporting the Pentecostal Appeal.

Let us pray:

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



**The Military and Hospitaller
Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem
Grand Priory of America**

Dear Confreres and Consoeurs,

On February 24th, 2022, the sovereign country of Ukraine was illegally and without provocation invaded by the Russian Federation. More than 100 days later, this war continues to go on, with catastrophic results for the citizens of Ukraine. Tens of thousands of Ukrainian men, women, and children have been killed, wounded, or taken prisoner in this war. Almost 10 million people, mainly women and children, have fled and become refugees, primarily in the welcoming countries of eastern Europe, leaving their homes, belongings, and often other family members behind. The rest remain in Ukraine, fighting to defend and protect their proud country and maintain its economy as best they can.

From Day 1 of this invasion, The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem - announced their support for the innocent people of Ukraine. From Day 1, the members and friends of the Grand Priory of America did the same. Without questions or hesitancy, our members and friends opened their hearts and wallets to help the people of Ukraine, both refugees and those remaining behind. The GPA partnered with our fellow Lazarus members in the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe (based in Germany) and the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic. We connected with the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, through one of our members. The GPA has collected over \$40,000 and donated all of this to the three groups above. These funds have been used primarily for medical supplies and equipment in Ukraine but also for refugees in Poland and the Czech Republic. 100% of our donations were directed to where they should have gone, often in the cars and trucks and with the hands and hearts of our European members.

This humanitarian crisis initiated collaborative efforts with other like-minded chivalric organizations, such as the Order of St. George and the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ), to further our support for the people of Ukraine by strength in numbers. Our organizations had contacts and resources that could benefit each other, and I have always felt that “together we are stronger”! The perfect example was the donation of 104 pallets of medical supplies from <matter.ngo> via one of our contacts, which in turn was shipped from Minneapolis to Atlanta and a warehouse owned by a member of St. George. At that point, local members from St. Lazarus, St. George, and the SMOTJ, along with volunteer PA students from three of the local Atlanta universities arranged by yet other contacts, convened on a Saturday in

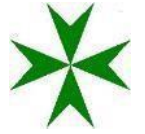


April to sort and repack these pallets. The final steps will be the terminal packing by a member of St. George for delivery to Germany, arranged by the SMOTJ on “Knight flight,” a program developed by the SMOTJ in combination with the Denton Program, run by the USAF to fly medical supplies around the world, with final delivery to our members of St. Lazarus in Germany for distribution into Ukraine by truckers they have relationships with. You will not be able to find a better example or definition of collaboration anywhere else or for a better purpose! wish I could say that we are nearing the end of the need for our support, but I think it’s the direct opposite – our help and support will be needed now more than ever. When the fighting ends, the rebirth and rebuilding of Ukraine will begin – in some places; it has already started! I can see a need shortly where members from groups like ours will make a new kind of pilgrimage to Ukraine, very unlike other pilgrimages we have made, where we don’t just visit churches. Still, we help rebuild them, and we don’t just visit historical monuments and locations, but we help restore them. And most importantly, we don’t just visit people in their homes, but we help them recreate what they once proudly had for generations.

Anna and I thank you again for your generosity and support of the GPA Ukraine Relief Support Fund, and always know that your gifts will continue to make a real difference!

John F. Byrnes, GCLJ, KMLJ
Grand Prior





Our Multifaceted Order

Is St Lazarus more than a charity? Of course, charity is a significant priority. But, if charity were our only interest, we would be another United Way or Community Chest. Instead, charity is a primary facet of our multifaceted Order.

We get an inkling of their initial interest when we ask new members why they joined. We hope our members will develop new fascinations as they grow in the Order. The social life attracts our members. We enjoy being in an active Commandery and at national meetings. Our Order's spirituality nourishes others in us. My interest is the ecumenical model our Order incarnates. Where else do Christians of many stripes, while remaining committed to their faith traditions, lock arms with each other to become our Lord's hands and feet?

Still, other members enjoy our heraldry, our history, or being part of an ancient institution. Some of us like dressing up. (A dear friend once confided she was "in it for the medals"!) Many of our folks find compelling our domestic and international travel opportunities.

In my time in our Order, whether at the Commandery, Grand Priory or International level, I always have discovered something new and exciting. I often think of our Order as an onion - after more than 20 years, there are still new layers for me to explore.

While charity is important, each member has at least one particular reason, beyond helping others, for being part of our Order. To be true to our vow to serve, we must nurture each of our Order's many facets.

Singularly, each facet meets some of our members' particular interests. Our many facets make us much more than just another charity. We are blessed to be part of our Special Order.

Hugh Ramsay Straub
Bailiff



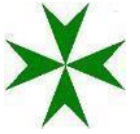
SOUTHEAST COMMANDERY TO THE RESCUE!

The call went out for help, and the Southeast Commandery responded. The people of Ukraine desperately needed medical supplies, and several nonprofit organizations had partnered to purchase and transport them. But someone needed to organize, pack and label the supplies before they could be shipped. That's where volunteers from the Southeast Commandery came to the rescue.

Commandery members gathered at a warehouse in Atlanta on April 9 and 10 to unload over a hundred pallets of medical supplies, reorganize them into suitable clusters, and then repack them into boxes for the flight to Ukraine. They were joined by representatives from the Order of Saint George, The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and medical and physician assistant students from Emory and Mercer. This is one of several efforts our Grand Prior is arranging to work in partnership with other chivalric orders.

Next time you see photos of the devastation and anguish in Ukraine, remember that the Order played a small part in alleviating that suffering. And thanks to those Southeast members who answered the call!





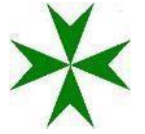
the sea of boxes to be sorted and repackaged.



hard at work, creating order out of chaos.

putting the finishing touches on a package headed for Ukraine.





RISING STAR OUTREACH

On May 24, the Southeastern Commandery Zoom call featured an inspiring presentation from the leaders of Rising Star Outreach, our sponsored charity that provides life-saving care to so many Hansen-affected individuals in India. Becky Douglas, RSO's founder, teamed up with Brett Caywood, its President, and Tawna Fowler to highlight their work during the past two years.

As should be no surprise, the ravages of COVID were particularly devastating in India, a country of extreme poverty and illness even before the pandemic. People everywhere were starving, clean water was largely unavailable, and rudimentary sanitation equipment such as toilets was nonexistent. To make matters worse, the government had restricted highway travel to medical vehicles only, making it extremely difficult for anyone to deliver critically needed food and water.

That's where our Saint Lazarus medical van became so indispensable. Because it was permitted to use the country's highways, Rising Star doubled its service area from 5 states to 10, delivering life-preserving food, water, toilets, and medical treatments to its colonies. Our van provided 25,000 medical treatments to Hansen-affected patients and their families in the last year alone. The van also helped RSO achieve 100% vaccination in its schools, thus preventing any COVID breakout. As a result, while 4 and 9 million people in India died of COVID, Rising Star lost no staff and only a few students.

As Becky said, "Without Saint Lazarus, we never could have done any of this!"

Staff and patients of Rising Star Outreach send a collective "thank you" to the Order for sponsoring their medical van, which has been so vital during the COVID epidemic.





What is a Bailiff?



Traditionally, a Bailiff is a person in charge of a Bailiwick. In the Order of St Lazarus, several of our foreign jurisdictions identify themselves as Bailiwicks with a Bailiff as Head of Jurisdiction. In our Order's organization, a Bailiwick (or Grand Bailiwick) enjoys the same standing as a Priory (or Grand Priory). The difference in name is simply a matter of tradition.

In the Grand Priory of America, the Bailiff's position is immediately subordinate to the Grand Prior. While the Bailiff is appointed to the position by our Order's Grand Master, the Bailiff (and all other officers) serve at the Grand Prior's pleasure.

While the GPA Bailiff's primary responsibility is to serve as an advisor to the Grand Prior, the Bailiff also oversees the Almoner, Hospitaller, Inquisitor, Secretary, Vice Chancellor for the AASL, Receiver, and Chief Marshal. While the list seems daunting, we are blessed with competent, conscientious people in all these positions - the oversight burden is light.

My appointment as Bailiff is the most recent step in more than 20 years of service to our Order. As a new member, I was appointed Hospitaller of the Southern Commandery. (Frankly, a sub-jurisdictional Hospitaller has the best job in our Order. Giving money away to deserving, local charities is pure pleasure.) Later, I served as Commander of the Southern Commandery, then Chancellor of the Grand Priory. Later still, I was appointed Grand Justiciar (general counsel) of the International Order.

As a result of the foregoing, I have some understanding of many aspects of our Order. I will be pleased to answer any questions anyone may have about us.

I am sincerely grateful for every one of our members who strive to live our solemn vow: "I shall serve."

THE ORDER

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