



THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem

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Spiritual Message

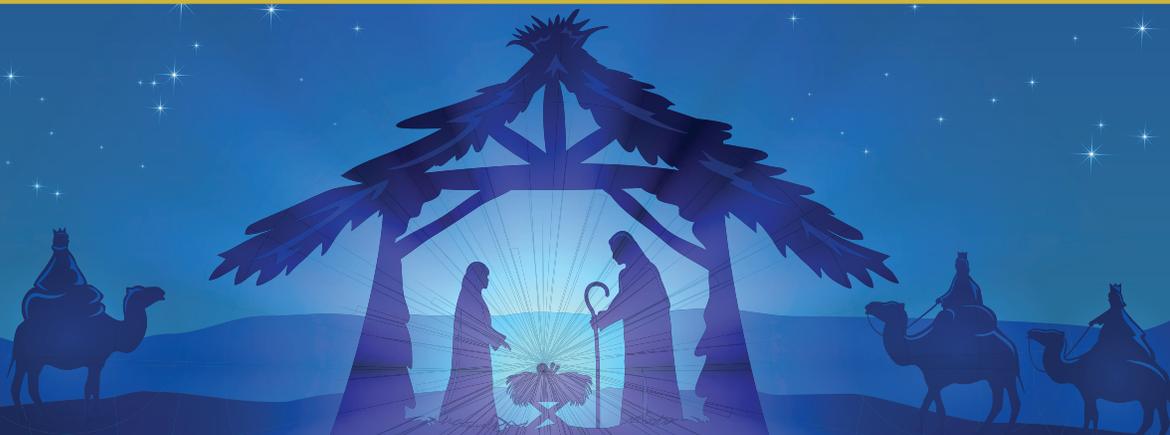
By The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite, Msgr. George Appleyard, VG, GCLJ, KMLJ, GCrLJ, BD
A Christmas Message

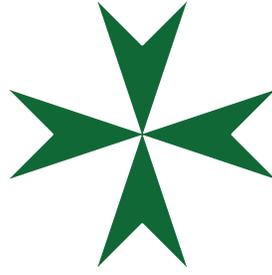
If we wish to share a thought, it must be expressed either in words or by gestures. God the Father has a perfect and complete knowledge of himself, so perfect and complete it is an identical image of himself, yet distinct from him as a “person.” A clone? The Greek word *logos* indicates an inward thought, or even the thought itself.

Here, as Christmas begins to herald itself in the Advent season, we remember that “the Word was made flesh, and lived among us.” The invisible, eternal and omnipresent God expressed himself--disclosed himself more fully--in that Word made flesh. What had been timeless enters time. What had been unbounded now experiences hunger, constraint, fatigue, pain and even death, all in the flesh of Jesus, a flesh that had to be assumed by a timeless Word ever existing in the limitless and unbounded mind of the Father. This concept certainly strains human imagination, but perhaps “a little Child will lead us.” (Cf. Isaiah 11:6)

It is often quipped that “Christmas is for children.” And Jesus pointed to this when he said (Matt 18:3), “unless you turn and become like little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” The Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 14:20) added, “Don’t become childish in your thinking, but become innocent in evil and mature in intellect!” In assuming flesh, in taking on all the attributes and possibilities inherent in being human, Jesus provided us with an example, a working model, of how to develop that potential so that the gift under his Christmas tree with our name on it, once unwrapped, will be an endless source of joy and delight because it will make us what we were designed to be, “the image and likeness of an invisible God” made tangible in Christ. And this should fill us with gleeful joy because it means that God can truly wrap us in his arms. Come, let us adore him!

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





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.

Grand Prioral Hospitaller's Report

John F. Byrnes, GCLJ

During the recent Grand Prioral Council meeting in Houston, Texas, the American Association of St. Lazarus (AASL) awarded \$266,000 to a host of very well deserving programs, both here in the United States as well as in Jerusalem, India, and Mexico. These programs had been submitted for consideration by the Hospitaller of each sub jurisdiction earlier in the year, and after evaluation by the Hospitaller/Almoner Working Group of the GPA the Board of Directors of the AASL approved the following programs for the 2018-19 funding years:

We were unable to fund the total requests for some programs, as is demonstrated in the chart above, either because of insufficient application information or inadequate funds available. When we joined the Order of

Program	Requested	Funded
■ Infant Welfare Center	\$50,000	\$55,000
■ Aleethia Foundation	\$10,000	\$6,000
■ RSO	\$65,000	\$65,000
■ Mexico Clinics	\$50,000	\$50,000
■ Chris Klug Foundation	\$25,000	\$0
■ NWCU	\$5,000	\$5,000
■ AMAR	\$40,000	\$0
■ Matching Grant Program	\$18,000	\$19,500
■ Food for Kids	\$8,000	\$8,000
■ Skid Row Ministries	\$5,000	\$10,000
■ Nora's Home	\$25,000	\$25,000
■ St. Louis Hospital/Inter project	\$2,500	
■ Shrine	\$5,000	\$0**
■ LSU HD Treatment Efficacy Study	\$10,000	\$10,000
■ GP's Discretionary Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Total	\$266,000

St. Lazarus we made a pledge “To Serve”, and this pledge not only includes our willingness to participate in the activities of the Order but also in our financial obligations as members of this charitable and chivalric organization. If we all contributed at our recommended levels of twice our dues we would be able to fund considerably more programs, or increase the amount of funding for programs already approved.

We are proud that we offer full transparency of everything we do as an organization, especially with our charitable programs, and we look forward to expanding our charitable outreach considerably as we grow our membership. The Order can only “serve” those in need when we as members fulfill our obligations of membership, and I encourage everyone to consider this recommendation when you receive your next Pentecostal Appeal request.

It has truly been a pleasure to serve as your Grand Prioral Hospitaller for the last 10 years, and I have enjoyed working with all of you towards our common goal of “helping those in need”, both here and around the world. I believe we have made a difference in improving the lives of many, both physically and spiritually, and I look to continuing this work with the Grand Priory of America in my new role as Chancellor.

John F. Byrnes, GCLJ