



# THE ORDER

The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



*New Orleans*  
*Grand Prioral Council*  
*Dec 1-4, 2021*



# The Order



## GPC 2021

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(Ret)



# Spiritual Message



## **A Prayer for the Outgoing and Incoming Grand Prior**

Fr. Razz Waff, GCLJ, DMin, BCC  
Chaplain General

Almighty God, we ask your blessings on Ken as he completes his service as the Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of America. We offer thanks for Ken's work to make Your care known through the numerous healing ministries undertaken during his tenure, that like your servant Lazarus those who have been the recipients may have been lifted up to a new life. May we continue to be enriched by his presence, but only as he chooses to spend his time at the place and time of his choosing. In your name, we pray, Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open; fill, we pray, the heart of your servant John who has been chosen to be the Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of America. May John receive your gifts of insight and wisdom to oversee the life and work of the Order. In all things, may John be focused on both the ministry of the Order and its members' well-being and ever mindful of those who could benefit from its healing gifts of the Order. In your name, we pray, Amen.

O God, by Your grace, you have called us in the Grand Priory of America of the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem to live out your mission of healing as Lazarus was healed and raised up to praise you. Bless our leaders and our members, and provide us with your continual succor and healing. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your servant Lazarus, and grant that we may show the power of your love and healing to all who seek our support; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# From the Grand Prior



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

Colleagues in St. Lazarus:

With this issue of The Order and the Grand Prioral Council in New Orleans, my tenure as Grand Prior of the Grand Priory of America draws to a close. It has been a true privilege and honor to lead this important and significant element of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, with our mission and dedication to the chivalric ideals of faith, honor, and charity by promoting Christian unity and the relief of human suffering.

But with my retirement from this position – but definitely not from our Order – I am ecstatic that our Grand Master has appointed my long-time friend and colleague, HE The Chevalier John Byrnes, as the incoming Grand Prior.

John has served our Order and the Grand Priory of America, in exceptional fashion since his initial investiture in 2000, in a number of positions, including the Hospitaller of the GPA, the Deputy Grand Hospitaller of the Order, and the Chancellor and Bailiff of the GPA, until his installation as the Grand Prior this September. His commitment to the principles of chivalry, to the mission of our Order, and to service, has resulted in his promotion to Knight Grand Cross in 2015, and the award of the Silver Cross of Merit and the Gold Medal of Merit, as well as his promotion to the Companionate of Merit at the rank of Knight. He received the Alan Weaver Hazelton Award, the highest recognition from the GPA in 2015. He and his wife, Anna, live their service, and have spent a number of weeks providing health care to individuals afflicted with leprosy in India; and further, have earned the Donat's Cross 3<sup>rd</sup> Class for their generosity. If you think I am enthusiastic about passing the baton of leadership to John, you are spot on!

I have had the great fortune to have true leaders in our Order join me in guiding our Grand Priory, as Bailiff and as Chancellor during my tenure: the late Herschel Abbott; your new Bailiff, Hugh Straub; as well as John.

For myself, as I retire from the leadership of the Grand Priory of America for the last nine years, I thank you for the privilege of helping shape the GPA, now and for the future. When I became Grand Prior, I identified five priorities, which have been embraced by the entire GPA:



- Address the dual mission of our Order and of the Grand Priory of America:
  - Spiritual/ecumenical
  - Secular/hospitaller
- Grow the GPA: recruit and retain the right individuals for membership
- Foster solvency
- Administer with transparency
- Communicate effectively and frequently
- Function efficiently and effectively

We have made great strides in most of these areas, and still have a way to go, with regard to recruitment and donations. But with the creation of a Commissioner position in the GPA, who will harness the individual and collective efforts of the deputy heads of subjurisdictions, and the assistance of our Grand Prioral Communications team, I am hopeful that we will be increasingly successful in growing our numbers. We have had able assistance and oversight from our Inquisitor, who assures that every postulant meets our criteria for admission into our Order of chivalry.

The Vice Chancellor of AASL will be working closely with our Finance Committee and our Almoner, to maximize our returns on our investments, and our contributions from our members, to underwrite our charitable programs, those that each of us support through our Pentecostal Appeal donations.

With the restructuring of our GPA Administrative functions, we have been able to achieve and sustain our fiscal solvency, and in doing so, avoid any increase in annual dues – a situation which we have enjoyed for over a decade. Thanks to our Vice Chancellors of Administration, past and current, for bringing many of our administrative functions in-house, assuming additional roles and responsibilities, designing systems to be more effective and efficient, and making sure that the many details of day-to-day operations go smoothly. And they have been ably assisted by our Receiver, Secretary, Capitular, Custodian of the Insignia, Keeper of the Crusaders Medal, and Stationer.

We have increased the frequency of our communications, through the creation of an on-line Bulletin, complementary to our hard copy issues, together with our web messaging capabilities, to assure that timely and relevant information is pushed out to our membership. We have streamlined and focused our meetings, to address the priorities of our Grand Priory and of our Order. And we will recall the mixed blessing of our Zoom capabilities, and the several virtual gatherings we have held during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, several of the sub-jurisdictional Commanders have utilized our virtual meeting space, to assure face-to-face connectivity with our members, some on a regular, monthly basis.



Many thanks to our Vice Chancellor for Planning and Evaluation, now your Chancellor, who took these ideas from concept to fruition; to our Editor of The Order, both hard copy and on-line; and to our sub-jurisdictional commanders, who assured that communication flowed efficiently and effectively to each member, and who lead and guide local activities.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, we have also been fortunate to have a Scientific Advisor to guide us through the science and evidence, and to communicate regularly to our membership.

Our formal Vigils, Investitures, and other events occur with precision, dispatch, and chivalric elegance, thanks to our Herald, our Chief Marshal, and our Marshal Corps. I am grateful for the ever-present and ever helpful Aide-de-camp, for keeping me on the straight and narrow, and for being my counsellor-in-camera.

We are all grateful to our former Prelate and our current Chaplain General and the clergy, who have leaned forward to become an increasing and critical part of our membership, our mission and our ministry. Among several great ideas, they have taken the initiative to fund our beautiful processional cross, as their gift to the GPA on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and have assumed leadership roles as well as identified and implemented fresh ideas, expanding their reach and impact, bridging the spiritual and the secular aspects of our mission. We are all, lay members and clergy, equal members of Our Order, with equal opportunity, ability, and responsibility to contribute of our time, our talent, and our treasure.

I could continue singing the praises of so many of our members. Suffice it to say that the GPA has created, implemented, and utilized our Team of like-minded chivalrous servants, to address and to achieve our goals. And that is my message, that we are where we are today as the Grand Priory of America, because of the teamwork and the talents and the treasure of so many of our members.

Most importantly, I want to acknowledge and thank my partner and spouse, Lisa Kory, the Wind Beneath My Wings. She, also an active member of our Order, has always been steadfast and supportive, and made it possible for me to carry out my responsibilities, with sound and valuable counsel.

In closing, as I retire, I raise a resounding and heartfelt thanks to all of you, for your trust and confidence in granting me the privilege of being your Grand Prior for the past nine years. Together, we have accomplished great things – a harbinger for the greater things to come!

With Gratitude, In Christ and St. Lazarus,

Ken

HE RADM The Chevalier Kenneth P. Moritsugu, GCiRLJ, GCLJ, GCMLJ, MD

Grand Prior





## From the Grand Prior (designee)

Dear Confreres and Consoeurs,

As we approach our upcoming Grand Prioral Council meeting in New Orleans and look forward to seeing each other again on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Priory of America, we can proudly look back on the many accomplishments we have achieved and the thousands of people in need we have helped over these past 5 decades. These accomplishments and feats were of no small task, considering we are an all-volunteer organization, and occurred in large part because of the outstanding leadership we have enjoyed during these years.

When I was invested in 2000, HE Chevalier Hans von Leden was the Grand Prior, and served until 2006 when HE Chevalier Bruce Harrington succeeded him in this very important role. These two gentlemen served the Grand Priory very well and enabled us to grow and flourish as we carried out our Mission and Vision around the world. In 2012 HE Chevalier Kenneth P. Moritsugu was installed as the Grand Prior, and in little time advanced our organization in ways that hadn't been thought of before. Instilling a culture of inclusiveness and transparency throughout the GPA became his hallmark, and reaching out and engaging both existing and new members to serve became his mantra. Everyone was equal and anyone who wanted to get involved had opportunities to do so in the Order. Our footprint of philanthropy expanded both in the US and globally, and the GPA became a leader in the Order of St. Lazarus internationally. We strengthened the bonds between our secular and clergy members so as to be a Christian and Chivalric Order with all for one and one for all.

I have had the personal privilege to have known Ken Moritsugu for more than 25 years, and our friendship continues to grow stronger every year. From our days spent together in other organizations to our many days spent together in the Order, I benefited from his mentorship, his knowledge and certainly his charm! Our families grew up knowing each other, starting before Emily Moritsugu and Kirill Byrnes were born. We traveled together, dined together, broke bread (and other things!) together, and at the end of each day we would share our thoughts and get ready for what the next morning would bring.

The honor of being appointed by the Grand Master to follow in Ken Moritsugu's footsteps as your next Grand Prior is a very humbling experience, and I can only say that I will work extremely hard to continue the legacy that Ken has built for us during this past decade. I have greatly enjoyed my experiences and work in the GPA since I was first invested in 2000, and I know the "ride" will only get better in the coming years! I have never shied away from challenges, and I know that through hard work comes satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment.



As a Christian and charitable organization committed to helping those in need, the pandemic has presented many speedbumps but never a brick wall. The resiliency of our members and the dedication to our common goals have always gotten us through tough times in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Through thoughtful planning and member-wide engagement we will work hard to strengthen our membership levels and to give our members good reasons to remain members. We will continue to seek out ways in which we can strategically help those in need and make a big impact on those we do. We will investigate ways to enhance our internal financial structure to make us more competitive for external grants and foundation support. The on-going integration of our chaplains with our lay members into our leadership structure is of very high importance, and serves to demonstrate our commitment to our Christian faith and our recognition that everybody is equal.

Our mission statement states “The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem serves to promote ecumenism and the principles of Christian chivalry. It seeks to help the poor, the sick and the dying while bearing Christian witness in secular society. In so doing, the Order preserves and defends the Christian Faith”. As your new Grand Prior I pledge to work with all of you in carrying out this charge and to ensure that together we will all feel the great sense of accomplishment, fulfillment and comradery that will accompany our work.

And finally to Ken, my very good friend and mentor – thank you again for all that you have done in your life, your career and the Order to make this world a better place to be for all of us and those to come!

**HE The Chevalier John F. Byrnes, GCLJ, GMLJ, SCrLJ**  
Chancellor  
Grand Prioral Hospitaller Emeritus  
Grand Priory of America  
Deputy Grand Hospitaller  
The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem



# NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE GRAND PRIORY OF AMERICA



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## NATIONAL SHRINE LIAISON

Mme. Catherine Michie McHardy Bissell, DLJ, OMLJ

On the 29th of November 1980, the Members of the Grand Priory assembled in the City of New Orleans at the old Ursuline Convent, which forms the core of the Archbishop Antoine Blanc Memorial. This ancient convent, located in the heart of the French Quarter, was the site for the dedication of the National Shrine of the Order of Saint Lazarus in the United States.

The Archbishop Antoine Blanc Memorial was named after the first Archbishop of New Orleans, under whose administration the complex assumed its present form. The old convent was erected for the Ursuline nuns in 1745, by King Louis XV of France who was also the Royal Protector of the Order of Saint Lazarus. This historic structure was the first building in the Mississippi Valley.

The Ursuline Nuns staffed the Royal Hospital, the first hospital in the vast Louisiana Territory that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada, and from the Appalachians to the Rocky Mountains. In this same facility were established the first convent in what is now the territory of the United States, the first day nursery, the first orphanage, and the first institution of Catholic charities. When the Ursulines moved to a new location in 1924, the convent became the home for the Bishops and Archbishops of New Orleans. It also served as a meeting place for the Louisiana legislature. The convent now houses the archives of the Archdiocese.

Adjoining the convent in the Archbishop Antoine Blanc Memorial is St. Mary's Church (formally Our Lady of Victory Church), which was erected in 1845 as the chapel of the Archbishops of New Orleans. During the 1990's, this church was restored to its original splendor; until hurricane Katrina in 2005, it served as a house of worship for the convenience of neighbors and tourists. Connecting St. Mary's Church with the convent is the former private chapel of the Ursuline Nuns: this now forms the National Shrine of our Order. This small, intimate chapel, which is so steeped in tradition, was selected by the Grand Commander of the South with the cooperation of H.E. Archbishop Philip Matthew Hannan of New Orleans and Monsignor Earl C. Woods, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese and the Rector of Our Lady of Victory Church at that time. The site had been recommended by the late Charles Reed Gresham, GCLJ, the well-known architect and founder of our Southern Jurisdiction. The National Shrine renews the ancient bonds of the Ursuline Convent with the founding patron and symbolizes the importance of the Order in the United States.

A committee of religious and lay members was chosen to draw up the plans for the interior of the chapel. On their recommendation, the Southern Grand Commandery commissioned Mr. Charles H. Reinike III, a well-known sculptor, to create a bas relief panel of the inspiring moment when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This sculpture provides the focus for the chapel and symbolizes Jesus calling us from the dead works of the part into the life of Grace. The main panel alone was seven months in the design, and the 7 by 9 foot casting took a small army of workers to install. In front of this sculpture stands a small altar with a base in the shape of a shell; this symbolism recalls the Faith of the Christian as the pearl of great price. In addition, the Pilgrim's Shell was given to devout pilgrims to the Holy Land, and is in fact still awarded to this very day by the Order of Saint Lazarus for such pilgrimages.



The walls of the chapel are lined with the shadow boxes of the coats-of-arms of the Grand Priory of America and its sub-jurisdictions, repeating the bas relief technique of the Saint Lazarus sculpture. Between these shadow boxes are stationed the colors of the United States of America, the banner of The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, and the flags of the American sub-jurisdictions. The attractive wrought-iron doors separating the small chapel from the church of St. Mary are emblazoned with the distinctive green cross of Saint Lazarus and a series of dedicated small gold shells. Thus the new National Shrine symbolizes the important spiritual and religious works of the Order.

The Inauguration of the National Shrine was preceded by a Solemn Investiture in the former Our Lady of Victory Church, which displayed the flags of our Order and its Jurisdictions in the tradition of the ancient European cathedrals. H.E. Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans and H.R.H. Prince Francisco Enrique de Borbón y de Borbón, 47th Grand Master of the Order, presided at the ceremonies. Monsignor Earl C. Woods welcomed the assembled dignitaries that included representatives of the major Christian faiths, leaders of the Order from different countries and Chaplains, Members and Affiliates from all parts of the United States. The Blessing of the Shrine concluded the impressive ceremonies. Archbishop Hannan greeted members of the congregation as they filed through the chapel, signed the guest book and admired the marvelously subtle décor of the chapel and the magnificent bas relief of the risen Saint Lazarus.

The Shrine underwent significant restoration in 2003-2004. A rededication of the Shrine coincided with the national meeting in November 2004. Less than a year later, after the disastrous hurricane Katrina deluged the city of New Orleans in August of 2005, St. Mary's Church and our National Shrine were forced to close. Following Katrina, there was a consolidation of some parishes by the Archdiocese. St. Mary's Church was a victim of this consolidation, and for nearly six years the future of our National Shrine hung in limbo. However, through the persistent and dedicated efforts of a few determined members of the Grand Commandery of the South, the Archdiocese agreed to retain our National Shrine adjoining St. Mary's Church. On June 23, 2011, members of the Southern Grand Commandery joined to celebrate the reopening of our National Shrine - the first time since Katrina. While St. Mary's is no longer open to the general public and now serves primarily as a Chapel of Ease for the St. Louis Cathedral, our National Shrine can be viewed by special appointment by contacting our National Shrine Liaison.

By Val Ambrose McInnes, OP, EGCLJ, CMLJ, PhD†



## Rising Star Outreach

This past summer our Rising Star Outreach (RSO) Partner hosted a charity golf outing and the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, Grand Priory of America was well represented by Rick and Margarita Tonkinson of the Southeast Commandery. Held on 24 August 2021, the 12th annual golf tournament was located at the stunning Red Ledges golf course in Heber, UT. At a time when the world feels turned up-side-down, generosity and compassion united us all. The people who are affected by leprosy have a very unique need. Here’s what they said about the golf outing and us on their website:

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT TOURNAMENT!

*“The annual golf tournament is a chance to connect with friends old and new, have a great round of golf, enjoy great food, and raise needed funds to help our dear friends in India affected by leprosy. It is always a great experience, and this year was no exception. The day was made perfect by seventy-six enthusiastic golfers, seventeen staff and volunteers, 6 of our very own board members, and representation from The Order of St. Lazarus!*

*Thank you all who donated so graciously of your time and money to make this event happen! As was mentioned in the awards ceremony at the tournament, The 5-word summary of a Harvard study on happiness and health was this: “Happiness is love. Full stop.” I hope that you feel a measure of happiness from supporting this cause!”*

Did you know that RSO continues to battle leprosy, hunger, and the diseases of disenfranchisement? There were 135,485 new cases of leprosy in India this past year with 11,780 being children and India has over 60% of the world’s leprosy cases? What’s RSO done with our donations? – administered 35,811 medical treatments, issues over 193 rotating grants and educated over eight hundred children!

Thank you Rising Star and many thanks to our Rick and Margarita Tonkinson for going the extra miles in being there, ensuring our name was featured and supporting the great work of Rising Star Outreach!

