



# THE ORDER

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem



**The Order in Israel:**  
Lazarites on pilgrimage in the Holy Land

**Promotions & Awards:**  
Members living & supporting our mission

**Three In One:** The Trinity as recalled in an ancient Creed

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Priory of America



5



8



12



14

## INSIDE

- 4 The Chaplain General's Message: "The Trinity: Taken for Granted?"
- 5 A catechetical refresher of The Creed attributed to Saint Athanasius
- 6 The Grand Prior gives an update on the works of The Order and and a pirate's invite to Tampa
- 7 Imperial Calcasieu reports on two Giver's Candlelight Celebrations
- 8 New Promotions and Awards by the Grand Prior
- 10 Hotel Reservations are open for the Grand Prioral Council in Tampa
- 11 The Southeast Commandery welcomes you to this year's Grand Prioral Council
- 12 Pilgrims travel to The Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Our Lord
- 14 The Delegation of Mexico reports on their recent activities
- 15 The Commandery of the West helps the unhoused get around L.A.
- 16 Looking back fondly on Washington, D.C. and last year's Grand Prioral Council



## THE ORDER

The Official Newsletter and Periodic Publication of the Grand Priory of America & the American Association of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem is produced by the authority of the Grand Prior.

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[www.st-lazarus.us](http://www.st-lazarus.us)

The 2023 Grand Prioral Council

# WHAT'S IN YOUR CHRISTIAN DNA?

Unravel the mystery this Fall.



# TAMPA

OCTOBER 26-29, 2023

**Reserve Your Hotel!**  
See pages 10-11 for more  
information.

## The Trinity: Taken for Granted?



**The Rev. Razz Waff, D.Min., BCC,  
GCLJ, OMLJ, Major Gen., U.S. Army  
(retired)**

**Chaplain General,  
Grand Priory of America**

**A**s I keystroke this, we have just celebrated Trinity Sunday, which has far more to do with the nature of God than it does triplets, at least as far as my metaphor for it goes. The reality is that for most of us in a liturgical tradition, the Trinity surrounds us in ways we rarely pay attention to, and most likely, have become so used to it we don't even realize how often we invoke the Trinity on a regular basis. Before we get to that and as we have unlimited space for this "soft" edition of *The Order*, a bit of history on how we got to have a Trinity Sunday on our liturgical calendars, and also a nod to one of the least known- these days- creeds in our shared history, the Athanasian Creed.

The Athanasian Creed- named for the famed Church Father Athanasius of Alexandria- who was first credited with writing the creed although it is now thought that was not the case as it was not first used in the 5th Century and Athanasius died in 373. Regardless, its clear articulation of the Trinity has been handed down among all creedal churches and is often displayed with Shield of the Trinity (*Scutum Fidei*), with each member of the Trinity displayed with the words "...is..." and "...is not..." as a way of emphasizing the role and identity of each of the three. It is definitely found used far more often in the West than in the East, and at one time was part of public worship at least 11 times a year. Now, it is part of public worship- if used at all- once a year in most traditions, and that is usually, typically, almost always on, you guessed it, Trinity Sunday.

Within the Episcopal Church, it did not appear in the Book of Common Prayer until the current version in 1979 and is con- signed to the Historical Documents section of the BCP.

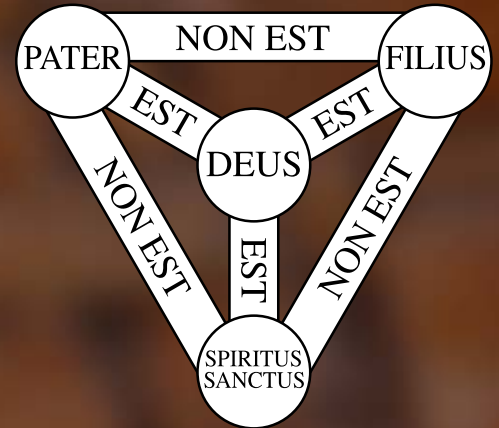
With this historical background, what can we make of this doctrine that hopes to explain the Godhead of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? There are several metaphors- St Patrick and a clover leaf, anyone?- one that resonates with me the best is that of water, and I use this as it is indeed the same substance, yet in different forms, e.g., liquid, solid, and vapor.

You may very well have your own, such as the different forms of love one can have for others, e.g., the love of a parent for a child, marital love in a marriage, and the love between siblings. The readings that most of us used for Trinity Sunday- especially the epistle and gospel- speak to the relationships biblically. When do we even experience the Trinity liturgically? Perhaps most significantly when there is a baptism, as all Christians use the Trinity in the baptismal formula, in weddings, as most clergy invoke the Trinity when placing a wedding ring on each of the couple's ring finger, and even the dismissal at the end of the Eucharist is almost always pronounced as a Trinitarian formula. I would challenge each of you who have continued to read this article this far to challenge yourself to not take the Trinity for granted. The next time you are in a liturgy, be sensitive to how often the Trinity is invoked- you could very well be surprised by how popular this particular "trio" is in regular worship!

**LET US PRAY:** Almighty God, you have revealed to your Church your eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in Trinity of Persons: Give us the grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith and constant in our worship of you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; for you live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic faith. Which faith unless every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the Catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinities, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties; but one Almighty. So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity; to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; So are we forbidden by the Catholic religion; to say, There are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none; neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity. Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation; that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess; that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the Substance [Essence] of the Father; begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the Substance [Essence] of his Mother, born in the world. Perfect God; and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father as touching his Manhood. Who although he is God and Man; yet he is not two, but one Christ. One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh; but by assumption of the Manhood into God. One altogether; not by confusion of Substance [Essence]; but by unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man; so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell; rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead. At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies; And shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire. This is the Catholic faith; which except a man believe truly and firmly, he cannot be saved.

# The Athanasian Creed



Pictured Above:  
The Shield of the Trinity – *Scutum Fidei*

## BENEATH THE SHIELD OF ST. LAZARUS

“...and there will be pirates!”

**D**ear Friends,  
We are now just about halfway through 2023, and I am proud to announce that we have funded most of the programs we approved to support at our Grand Prioral Council meeting in Washington last September.

We had a very successful pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March, led by our Chancellor, Pent Penton and his wife Cheri, and our group was able to see first hand the great things that the Infant Welfare Center can do because of our support. The IWC is one of our long-standing major programs, and for a good reason, as their outreach to women and children of all faiths in Jerusalem serves as a prime example of our mission of Helping Those in Need. Our group was also able to visit the historic St. Louis Hospital on the site of the first St. Lazarus Hospital, built during the Crusades to treat victims of leprosy.

Our support for Rising Star Outreach continues to fund outreach mobile medical programs for leprosy in southeastern India, with our common goal being the eradication of leprosy during our lifetime. The leprosy vaccine project continues to develop, and we look forward to its progress and our further involvement in this process as it clears some governmental hurdles.

The Delegation of Mexico and their passionate support of our two leprosy clinics in Mexico, both financially and personally, are truly an example of “hands-on” dedication to our efforts to treat the scourge of leprosy in Mexico.

The St. Lazarus United Methodist Hospital in Misungwi District, Tanzania, is progressively becoming a reality thanks to the devotion and perseverance of several of our members. Fr. David Juliano, a long-standing member of the GPA and a Methodist pastor in Sebring, Florida, first brought this to our attention several years as an idea, not quite knowing how far this would get in just a few short years! Jump ahead now to one of our newest members, Joe Norwood, who is not even invested yet but connected us to an NGO he has worked with, Project Cure, and to make a very long story short, this hospital is now on the short track to reality! Coupled with contributions from the GPA and Fr. Juliano’s church, an assessment team visited the hospital last month, approved the project, and by the end of this year, the hospital should receive a 40-foot shipping container with about half a million dollars worth of donated, new medical

equipment inside. When this St. Lazarus UMC Hospital opens, it will care for thousands of local villagers who otherwise would not have access to quality health care. Kudos to all involved!

The Order of St. Lazarus, particularly the Grand Priory of America, has been extremely supportive in our efforts to provide medical and humanitarian aid to those innocent people suffering in Ukraine since the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, invasion from Russia. We have raised from the GPA alone almost \$50,000 since 2022, and with wonderful assistance from our OSL colleagues in Germany and the Czech Republic our donations have made positive impacts on so many people in Ukraine. These needs continue and will continue for many, many years to come, and with our hearts and wallets we can provide to many what so few have taken away. We are currently developing partnerships with several NGOs that provide donated medical supplies as well as shipping to Ukraine, and with limb loss being a major concern affecting over 35% of the wounded, both soldiers and civilians alike, we are investigating ways in which we can provide assistance for this tragic injury. The best way to help someone regain their physical and mental health is to get them back on their feet, and even if one or both of their legs are prosthetics, it is a major accomplishment. The irony of our work in this field is not lost, as we have done this in India with leprosy-afflicted patients who have lost limbs, and the best, and only way, to get them productive again is with a prosthetic aid. More to come on this later.

Your contributions have also helped so many in need in our local programs around the country, and you will read more about these programs in this and future newsletters. Suffice it to say that without your support as a member of the Order of St. Lazarus and the Grand Priory of America, there would be many more people in need around the US than there are today, but our work is never done.

In April and May of this year, I had the honor and privilege of attending the Grand Priory in Canada’s two regional meetings, the first one in Montreal and the second one in Calgary. Our two groups have worked very closely for many, many years, and this collaboration serves not only to strengthen us as an Order but to expand our collective reach in providing needed services to those less fortunate.



**H.E. The Chevalier John F. Byrnes,  
GCLJ, GCMLJ, KMLJ**

**Grand Prior,  
Grand Priory of America**

The GPA senior leadership recently announced that starting in 2024, the GPA will be assuming the financial responsibility of our annual Grand Prioral Council meetings, allowing the host commandery to continue to use their dues for local charitable projects and eliminating the need to hold them as deposits for the meeting. While the host commandery will still be the “boots on the ground” for planning and execution, the GPA will provide all needed oversight. This will allow the host commandery to continue their local charitable support, which in addition to Helping Those in Need, also enhances membership recruitment and retention.


However, to make this new process a successful reality, it depends on all of us as members to honor the financial obligations that we took on when we all said “I shall serve” during our investiture. Unfortunately, we are lagging on current dues payments, which are always due by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, and this can affect our ability to fund operations and subsequently administer our charitable programs, which is what 100% of your Pentecostal Appeal goes to. If you are current, which most of our members are, THANK YOU! If you are not, please submit your payments as soon as possible so we don’t miss a heartbeat, both literally and figuratively, in our support of Those in Need!

Along with Chevalier John Tempone, the commander of the Southeast Commandery, and all the members of the Southeast Commandery, we look forward to welcoming you to Tampa, Florida, and our 2023 Grand Prioral Council meeting on October 26-29. The weather will be great, the festivities memorable, and there will be pirates!

Anna and I wish all of you a wonderful and safe summer, and we thank each and every one of you for what you do every day to help those in need!

## Celebrating New Life

BY ANNIE LEBLANC, CLJ, OMLJ


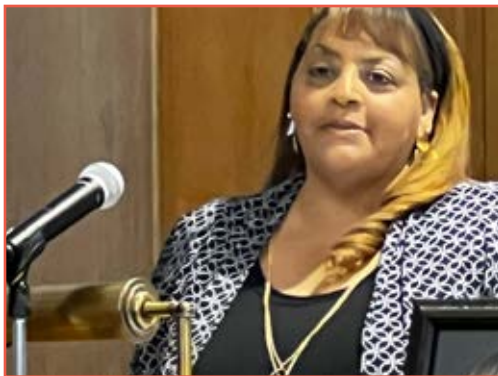


**R**ecently, the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation hosted two Giver's Candlelight Celebrations honoring organ, eye, and tissue donors and their families. This Celebration, initiated by the late Dame Nila Halloran, DCLJ, OMLJ, BSN, is always a very moving celebration of our local donor heroes.

This is our general order of operations for those unfamiliar with this celebration. We begin with remarks from the various organizations who assist with the planning of the Celebration, including the hospital, the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA), the Southern Eye Bank, and the Baton Rouge Eye Bank, as well as remarks from the Order of St. Lazarus. Our Chaplain then offers a prayer, and a reading from scripture follows. Then a representative of LOPA introduces the guest speakers. Most times, we are able to secure a speaker from a donor family and a recipient speaker. Following their testimonies, the candles are lit from our large candle. The names of the donor heroes are then read aloud one by one. As their names are read, if their family is present, they are asked to stand and be recognized for their courageous decision. We conclude with remarks from our delegate and a closing prayer. A reception is held after the ceremony to for the families to visit.

These Celebrations are always planned in or around Donate Life Month. This year, the 5th Annual Giver's Candlelight Celebration was held in Lake Charles, LA, at Christus St. Patrick Hospital on March 29th. Our recipient speaker for this celebration was a double cornea transplant recipient, Neko. Neko spoke about her life before her vision troubles began and her gradual slip into legal blindness in both eyes. She relayed exactly what it meant to her and her family to receive such a gift and blessing of a double transplant which restored her vision completely. There were many donor families in attendance to hear their loved ones' names read aloud.

After the reading of the names, our own John Halloran, USA (Ret), LOM, GCLJ, KMLJ, SCrLJ, MS, was presented with gifts from LOPA and the Southern Eye Bank in honor of Nila's contributions to the creation of the Giver's Candlelight Celebration. LOPA donated a brick in their new memo-



rial walk in Nila's name. The Southern Eye Bank had a beautiful plaque made in her honor.

On the 26th of April, our second Giver's Candlelight Celebration was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette, LA. The Imperial Calcasieu Delegation had previously held one in Lafayette in 2019, however, due to the Covid pandemic, there was a long pause between events. Our Lady of Lourdes was delighted to return this celebration to the area.

We had two very special guests speak at this Celebration. The donor family who spoke tragically lost their teenage son, Matthew, and they talked to the other families about how his life and death impacted everyone around him. They spoke about his generosity and selfless decision to mark himself as an organ donor on his driver's license when he began driving. When the family finished their testimony, they introduced the recipient speaker – the woman who received their son Matthew's heart. Matthew's family had been able to meet Troylynn three months prior. Three years after their son's heart saved her life, they were able to listen to his heartbeat in her chest.

Troylynn told her story of how she went from being a fairly healthy person to needing a heart because of congestive heart failure. She recalled her three month hospital stay while her doctors searched for a suitable donor. When she received the news that she would finally receive a new heart, she recalled the joy and profound sadness for the family who lost their loved one. In the end, she profusely thanked Matthew's family for his heroic decision that saved her life.

The evening was a powerful witness to the absolute gift of organ donation. There was no dry eye in the chapel that evening, and the other families that attended to honor their loved ones were extremely appreciative to witness such a testimony.

Sometimes in our diligence to the work of the Order, we are not as in tune with the impact that our work has on those we serve. These Giver's Candlelight Celebrations are always a wonderful reminder of our mission and its fruits.

# Promotions

Members are promoted based upon the testimony of their commander. They may also receive awards for meritorious service to The Order.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Order, and after consultation with the Advisory Council, the Grand Prior is pleased to approve the following **promotions**:

For their service and contribution to the **Grand Commandery of the South**:

**Michael David Harold**, CLJ, JD, to the rank of **Knight of Grace (KLJ)**  
**Col Larry Lee Merington**, USAF (Ret), CLJ, to the rank of **Knight of Grace (KLJ)**  
**The Reverend Pedro Julio Prada**, AChLJ, to the rank of **Chaplain (ChLJ)**  
**Thomas Clifton Causin, Jr.**, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**  
**Kevin Lee, Charpentier**, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**  
**Andrew Buckley Lapeyre**, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**  
**Richard Moore Meyers**, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**

For his service and contribution to the **Grand Commandery of the Southwest**:

**CPT Jeffrey William Rogers**, USA (Ret), OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**

For her service and contribution to the **Grand Commandery of the West**:

**June Stephanie Segundo**, OLJ, MMLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**

For their service and contributions to the **Commandery of the Atlantic**:

**LTC Christopher Andrew St. Victor-de Pinho**, NYNG, CLJ, to the rank of **Knight of Justice (KLJ)**  
**Jennifer Sinclair St. Victor-de Pinho**, CLJ, to the rank of **Dame of Grace (DLJ)**

For their service and contributions to the **Imperial Calcasieu Delegation** and the **Grand Priory of America**:

**The Reverend Paul Broussard**, ChLJ, to the rank of **Senior Chaplain (SchLJ)**  
**Annie Beth Mire LeBlanc**, CLJ, MMLJ, to the rank of **Dame of Grace (DLJ)**  
**Kyle Joseph Bourque**, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**



# Awards



In accordance with the Constitution of the Order, and after consultation with the Advisory Council, the Grand Prior is pleased to approve the following **awards**:

For their service and contribution to the **Grand Commandery of the South**:

- H.E. The Chevalier William C. Coe, Jr.**, KLJ, CMLJ, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Knight \(KMLJ\)](#)
- H.E. The Reverend Canon MAJ Harold Frederick Roberts**, Canadian Army (Ret), CD, GCLJ, CMLJ, DMin, the [Silver Medal of Merit \(SMLJ\)](#)
- Julie F. Breitmeyer**, CLJ, OMLJ, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander \(CMLJ\)](#)
- Nadja Rose Salerno-Sonnenberg**, OLJ, DMusic (Hon), the [Bronze Cross of Merit \(BCrLJ\)](#)
- Anne-Michelle Sabathier Daniel**, OLJ, the [Bronze Medal of Merit \(BMLJ\)](#)
- CDR David Christopher Daniel**, USNR, CLJ, JD, the [Bronze Medal of Merit \(BMLJ\)](#)
- Cynthia Heil Norwood**, OLJ, the [Bronze Medal of Merit \(BMLJ\)](#)
- Lucille Ann Whitley**, CLJ, the [Bronze Medal of Merit \(BMLJ\)](#)
- H.E. The Chevalier Kevin George Mackey**, KLJ, MMLJ, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Officer \(OMLJ\)](#)
- The Reverend Winston Edward Rice**, LD, SChLJ, MMLJ, JD, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Officer \(OMLJ\)](#)
- Dame Gayle Hamilton Reynolds**, DLJ, JD, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member \(MMLJ\)](#)
- Guy Victor Winstead**, CLJ, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member \(MMLJ\)](#)

For their service and contributions to the **Commandery of the Atlantic**:

- Dame Michelle Bo Kay Kwong**, DLJ, the [Silver Medal of Merit \(SMLJ\)](#)
- H.E. The Chevalier Gregory Mesniaeff**, KLJ, OMLJ, the [Silver Medal of Merit \(SMLJ\)](#)
- H.E. The Chevalier Hung Quoc Nguyen**, KCLJ, OMLJ, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander \(CMLJ\)](#)
- Charles Douglas Harvey**, CLJ, the [Bronze Medal of Merit \(BMLJ\)](#)

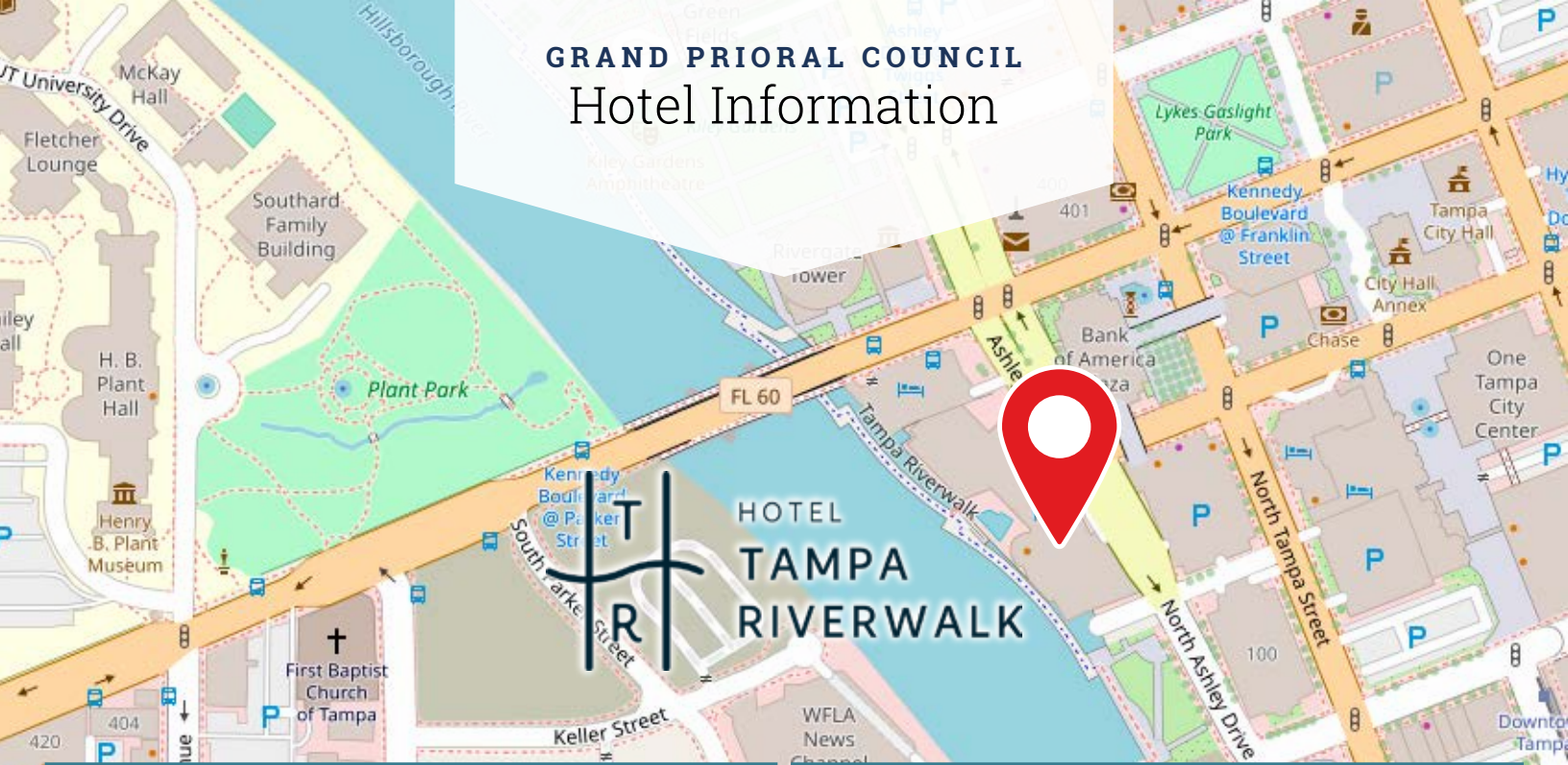
For their service and contributions to the **Imperial Calcasieu Delegation**:

- Annie LeBlanc**, CLJ, MMLJ, the [Companionate of Merit in the rank of Officer \(OMLJ\)](#)

For their contributions to the American Association of the Order of St. Lazarus:

- H.E. LTC The Chevalier Albert Phillip James**, USA (Ret), GCLJ, KMLJ, the [Donat Cross 2nd Class \(DC2ndLJ\)](#)
- Francisco Máximo de Borbón y Karoly**, the [Donat Cross 3rd Class \(DC3rdLJ\)](#)

# GRAND PRIORAL COUNCIL Hotel Information



## REGISTER TODAY FOR YOUR HOTEL ROOM!

Scan the QR code with your phone camera or type [bit.ly/GPC2023Hotel](https://bit.ly/GPC2023Hotel) into your web browser to be taken to the hotel website. The dates and group code should automatically be applied to the search. You can also manually search for dates and enter the following group code for the GPC rate: **GR2650**



H.E. The Chevalier John Tempone,  
Col, USMC (Ret), DSSM, KCLJ,  
MMLJ, SMLJ, DC3rdLJ

**Commander,  
Commandery of The Southeast**

**D**ear Confreres and Consoeurs,  
It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Commandery of the Southeast to invite you to the 2023 Grand Prioral Council meeting, taking place October 26-29, 2023 at the Tampa Riverwalk Hotel in Tampa, Florida. Tampa Riverwalk Hotel is located in the cities' vibrant channel side district where the past, present, and future are bonded together. This year's GPC theme is the history of the Order and we of the Southeast are honored to host you! Accordingly, this year it's called GPC-23: 23 and Me, what's in your Christian DNA?

Tampa's deep historical heritage is a perfect location to explore the history of the Order and our common Christianity. Tampa's past reflects Native American, Cuban, Italian and other European immigration. Together they are woven with America's rich history of inclusion and prosperity. We'll lead you along the way to a better appreciation of our Order and our heritage.

We'll start with a traditional welcome reception and then follow with Commandery dinners at the historic Columbia Restaurant where you can connect with friends from your own Commandery and mingle with other members from the Grand Priory of America as well as guests from the Grand Priory in Canada and perhaps from Europe as well. After dinner perhaps walk across the street and enjoy a drink and a cigar at Santa Stephano's Roof Top Lounge and connect with friends.

On Friday, attend the meetings and review our Order's business, and perhaps sail the harbor on one of Tampa's many boat services, visit the his-

tory museum or take a free trolley ride into storied Ybor City. Our luncheon guest speaker will be Dr. Wayne Phillips, MD a noted allergist and Vatican Scholar to talk about the Shroud of Turin, implications for us as Christians and the latest scientific updates. Wayne is a noted lecturer on the subject of the Shroud of Turin and will change and challenge your vision of the face of our Savior, his Passion and Resurrection.

Our postulant candlelight Vigil will be at the oldest Catholic Church in Florida's west coast featuring a superb collection of stained-glass windows displaying stories from the Bible and America's past! Afterward, we'll move to the roof top of the Bank of America building at the Tampa Club, offering the best regional dining and sunset view of Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Saturday's schedule will include lectures of the Order's history as well as its ecumenical past, shared traditions, and Christian unity. We'll conclude the business of the Order with our open business meeting, and then you'll have a choice of Tampa's downtown eateries for lunch on your own before attending the Investiture service and later the Gala at the Riverwalk Room at the hotel.

Florida and Tampa Bay offer a lot! We'll help you with your stay in any way we can. Spend a few extra days, perhaps take a Caribbean Cruise from our Channelside Cruise port, or enjoy nearby St Petersburg beaches for sun and sand while the water is still warm!

Don't delay in making hotel arrangements! Reservations are open now and will close by mid-September. Tampa is a popular location and room availability, and prices will change quickly as October is considered "in season" in Florida.

"What's in your Christian DNA?"

GRAND PRIORY OF AMERICA  
MILITARY & HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM  
**TAMPA 2023**  
GRAND PRIORAL COUNCIL



WHAT'S IN YOUR  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**DNA?**  
OCTOBER 26-29, 2023

WHERE OUR LORD AND LAZARUS WALKED:

# A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



by H.E. The Chevalier Harold R. "Pent" Penton, Jr., GCLJ, KMLJ, PhD

**A**pril 20th–30th, 2023, nineteen travelers, ten Order of St. Lazarus members (including two from Reichenau, southern Germany, members of the Bailiwick of Switzerland), along with an additional nine family members and friends visiting the Holy Land.

Following arrival and overnight stay in Tel Aviv, on Friday, the Pilgrims met our very experienced and knowledgeable Christian guide, Rami, and driver, Nael. They traveled to Caesarea to visit the Roman theatre, the remains of Herod's palace, and the Roman Praetorium, where very recent archaeological excavations have uncovered the Praetorium cells where Paul would have been placed while waiting to be heard before Roman governors Felix and Festus. From Caesarea, the Pilgrims journeyed to Mt. Carmel, Haifa, and on to Tiberius, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, our home for the next three nights.

The next three days included visits to Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding feast, and

the married couples on the Pilgrimage renewed their marriage vows, led by Fr. Winston Rice. From Cana, it was on to Nazareth and then Mt Tabor, the site of the transfiguration of Jesus.

Sunday morning started with an Ecumenical Service and Eucharist, led by Fr. Winston, on the Sea of Galilee and then a visit to the ancient city of Acre, the capital of the Christian kingdom in the Holy Land from 1190-1291, and site of exceptionally well-preserved Crusader buildings and Market Hall and location of the Knights of St. Lazarus quarters in the old city.

Monday morning, after visits to Capernaum, Jesus' home base during His ministry, and the nearby Mt. of Beatitudes, the Pilgrims were off to Jerusalem, home for the next six nights, with stops along the way at the Baptismal site on the Jordan River and a visit to the ancient city of Jericho.

Tuesday, the Pilgrims started the day in Bethlehem at the Basilica of the Nativity. They ended the day back in Jerusalem, walking the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

Wednesday, first returning to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to visit the Crucifixion site and the Tomb of Christ, then travel to Bethany, home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, and a visit to the tomb where Jesus called Lazarus to come

forth. Then back to Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane.

Thursday started with a visit to the Infant Welfare Center in the old city of Jerusalem, followed by a walk across town to St. Peter in Gallicantu, the site of Caiaphas' home and cells where Jesus was held on the night of His arrest before being taken the following day to Pilate and where Peter denied Christ three times before the cock crowed.

Friday was spent in the Judean Wilderness, visiting the Dead Sea, Qumran, and Masada. Saturday morning started with a special Catholic Mass inside the Tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, then visiting Ein Karen, Abu Ghosh, and ending the day with an Ecumenical Service and Eucharist led by Fr. Winston at the Anglican Cathedral of St. George in East Jerusalem followed by dinner at the nearby Christmas Hotel and packing for return the next morning to Tel Aviv and return flights

*Photo: The Order of St Lazarus Pilgrims hold hand painted gifts from children at the Infant & Children Welfare Center in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Order sponsors the Welfare Center.*



**The Pilgrims Visit the Mount of Beatitudes**

The commemorative site of Our Lord's first sermon contains many chapels and beautiful vistas overlooking Northern Israel on the Korazim Plateau.

Top row: Michael Witter, Garrett Bowden, Fr Winston Rice, Katie Chappell, Penny Bankston, Barbara Beckman | Lower Row: Edwin Beckman, Rick Tonkinson, Margareta Tonkinson, June Horton, Pent Penton, Lamar Teaford, Carolyn Teaford, Trey Penton, Cheri Penton, George Frazier, Petra Mainz-Mackrle, Magdalena Thurn, Cheryl Klepko | Bottom row: Rami (the pilgrims' guide)



**Tanya Awwad,**  
Director of the  
Infant Welfare  
Center, at the  
entrance with  
plaque given by  
2019 pilgrims of  
The Order.



**Renewal of Wedding Vows at Cana**

In the town where Christ performed his first miracle at a wedding, Fr. Rice led pilgrims in a renewal of their marriage promises.

On left: Carolyn and Lamar Teaford, Barbara and Edwin Beckman, Fr Winston Rice (center). On right: Margareta and Rick Tonkinson, Cheri and Pent Penton.



**An Ecumenical Eucharist on the Sea of Galilee**

Travelling across the lake where Christ carried out much of his ministry, Fr. Rice distributes communion to pilgrims.

Pictured from left to right: Penny Bankston, Katie Chappell, Magdalena Thurn, Fr. Winston Rice, Petra Manz-Mackrie

# DELEGATION OF MEXICO Oración y Trabajo

BY THE REV. JOSÉ DE JESÚS  
AGUILAR VALDÉS, SCHLJ, CMLJ



**F**or the first time since 2015, we held a highly successful investiture in Mexico City on Saturday, February 18th. Two days prior, we welcomed our Grand Prior John Byrnes, Bailiff Hugh Straub, Chancellor Harold Penton, and Grand Prior Almoner Mary Ann Straub, who presided over the investiture ceremony at the Parish of Saints Cosmas and Damian, where our Chaplain Father José de Jesús Aguilar serves as the parish priest. Teo Von Harsch, Guillermo Salas, and Pedro Casillas were delighted to receive them on Thursday night and had a great time taking them to various traditional restaurants and historical areas of our city, as well as a delightful meal attended by most members of the Delegation of Mexico on Saturday, the 18th. This meal took place at the beautiful home and garden of Carolina Ramos Cárdenas, in Pedregal de San Ángel. On the same day, after the investiture, we enjoyed an exquisite dinner on the 38th floor of the new Ritz Carlton hotel on Reforma Avenue before bidding farewell to our visitors on Sunday afternoon.

Regarding our charitable activities, we are very grateful to our nuns, dermatologists, and other doctors who work in our

clinics for offering low-cost consultations every week in our two clinics. In 2022, they conducted a total of 2,227 visits to patients and their families in villages near the cities of Irapuato and Morelia. They also distributed 1,173 food packages donated by the Hérdez company, as well as the blankets sent from Mexico City, other locally donated food, and certain medications that were donated to us throughout the year through the “Direct Relief” initiative. As an indication of the importance of their work, we can mention that three leprosy relapses were detected in Irapuato, prompting the restart of treatment for those individuals, thus preventing further infections.

Based on the statistics generated until April this year, we can confidently anticipate that the results will be similar to those of the previous year, benefiting our list of nearly 2,000 registered patients and their families residing in the same household, in addition to the many individuals who seek consultations (mainly for dermatological issues) at the clinics.

Furthermore, we are proud that Dr. Luis Gerardo Vega, a dermatologist who was appointed MMLJ during the recent investiture and has been providing consultations at our clinic in Morelia for nearly

30 years, collaborated with us in establishing the “United against Psoriasis, A.C.” Association to combat this bothersome skin disease, similar to leprosy, towards the end of last year. It is worth mentioning that his father, also a dermatologist, was a founding member of the Lazarena Association of Mexico and began collaborating with the Order much earlier, when the Grand Master was the grandfather of our current Grand Master, as evidenced by the appointment bestowed upon Dr. Vega, Sr. in the distant year of 1949.



**Pictured Above:**  
Dr. Vega's Certificate of Appointment, 1949



## HEARTS AFLAME

It is also important to mention that the nuns we work with, belonging to the Order of the Sacred Hearts, which was founded in Colombia approximately a century ago and is directed from Bogota, provide exemplary and valuable pastoral and psychological support to patients and their families in Irapuato, Morelia, and the surrounding villages.



## INVESTITURES

During the ceremony, the following five Officers (OLJ) were invested:

**Dame María Luisa Aspe Armella**  
**Dame Silvia Martha Novoa Fernández**  
**Dame Guadalupe Araceli Suárez Reyes**  
**Knight Juan Leonardo Durán Rangel**  
**Knight Carlo Andoni Pérez Arizti Morales**

## AWARDS

In addition, the following eight individuals were honored with various distinctions:

**Rev. José de Jesús Aguilar Valdés**, SChLJ, CMLJ, was awarded the **Bronze Merit Medal (BMLJ)** for his continuous and valuable cultural and religious contributions made through various means.

Engineer **Mauricio Porraz**, KLJ, KMLJ, SMLJ, received a **Meritorious Service Distinction (MSD)** for actively participating in the Order for over 20 years.

Attorney **Teodoro Von Harrsch**, KLJ, was awarded the **Bronze Merit Medal (BMLJ)** for taking the initiative to donate the proceeds from the sale of the green agate and silver insignia created by his wife Erika to acquire protective equipment and groceries during the pandemic.

**Dr. Juan José Salazar**, KLJ, MD, who has been our Chancellor in Irapuato for 28 years, was appointed a **Companion of Me-**



**rit in the rank of Commander (CMLJ).**

**Dr. Martha Angélica García Avilés**, MD, who is the Deputy Director of the Department of Mycobacteriosis at the Ministry of Health, was appointed a **Companion of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)** of the Grand Priory of America.

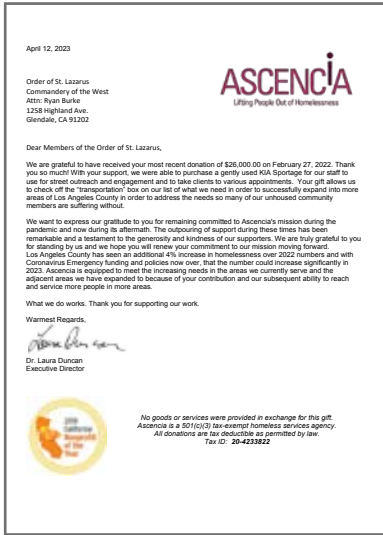
Designer and artist **Erika Ponce** (wife of Teo), creator of the green agate and silver insignia sold during the pandemic, was appointed a **Companion of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ).**

**Dr. Luis Gerardo Vega**, who has worked

at our clinic in Morelia for over 28 years, was appointed a **Companion of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ).**

Attorney **Ignacio Morales Lechuga**, who generously donates blankets to our patients and their families every winter, was also appointed a **Companion of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ).**

# FRUITS OF SERVICE: COMMANDERY OF THE WEST



**Letter from Ascencia to The Commandery of the West**

## Order of St. Lazarus aids transportation for unhoused in L.A.

Dear Members of the Order of St. Lazarus,

We are grateful to have received your most recent donation of \$26,000.00 on February 27, 2022. Thank you so much! With your support, we were able to purchase a gently used KIA Sportage for our staff to use for street outreach and engagement and to take clients to various appointments. Your gift allows us to check off the “transportation” box on our list of what we need in order to successfully expand into more areas of Los Angeles County in order to address the needs so many of our unhoused community members are suffering without.

We want to express our gratitude to you for remaining committed to Ascencia’s mission during the pandemic and now during its aftermath. The outpouring of support during these times has been remarkable and a testament to the generosity and kindness of our supporters. We are truly grateful to you for standing by us and we hope you will renew your commitment to our mission moving forward. Los Angeles County has seen an additional 4% increase in homelessness over 2022 numbers and with Coronavirus Emergency funding and policies now over, that the number could increase significantly in 2023. Ascencia is equipped to meet the increasing needs in the areas we currently serve and the adjacent areas we have expanded to because of your contribution and our subsequent ability to reach and service more people in more areas.

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Warmest Regards,

Dr. Laura Duncan  
Executive Director  
**Ascencia**

# REMEMBERING LAST YEAR’S GRAND PRIORAL COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C.





## MORE FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover: Image by Dimitris Vetsikas from Pixabay

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PAGE 5: The Shield of the Trinity – Scutum Fidei, in the Public Domain.

PAGE 7: Photos courtesy of Annie LeBlanc, CLJ, OMLJ

PAGE 10: Tampa MapOpenStreetMap® is open data, licensed under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (ODbL) by the OpenStreetMap Foundation (OSMF).

Pictures of Hotel Tampa Riverwalk are provided courtesy of Hotel Tampa Riverwalk and John Tempone.

PAGE 12: Photo: *Open Hands*. From left to right: Magdalena Thurn, Lamar Teaford, Petra Mainz-Mackrle, Barbara Beckman, Edwin Beckman, Penny Bankston, Katie Chappell, Carolyn Teaford, Pent Penton, Trey Penton, Margaretta Tonkinson, Rick Tonkinson, Garrett Bowden

PAGES 12–13: Photos courtesy of Pent Penton, GCLJ, KMLJ, Ph.D.

PAGES 14–15: Photos courtesy of Father José de Jesús Aguilar Valdés, SChLJ, CMLJ

PAGE 16–17: Photos by Clay Blackmore, clayblackmore.smugmug.com

## THE 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.

Amen.

