



THE ORDER

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem



WHAT'S IN YOUR CHRISTIAN DNA ?

Grand Prioral Council:
Our annual meeting
takes place

Your Guide to Tampa:
Conference particulars
and orientation

Postulants: Meet our
new members and
learn about them

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Priory of America



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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.

H.E. The Chev. John F. Byrnes,
GCLJ, GCMLJ, KMLJ
Grand Prior

CDR George W. Zimmerman,
USN (Ret), DSSM, CLJ
Editor

The Rev. Christopher J. Decker,
ChLJ, OMLJ
Associate Editor

H.E. The Chev. Jack Schroder, Jr.,
GCLJ, KMLJ, JD
Associate Editor Emeritus

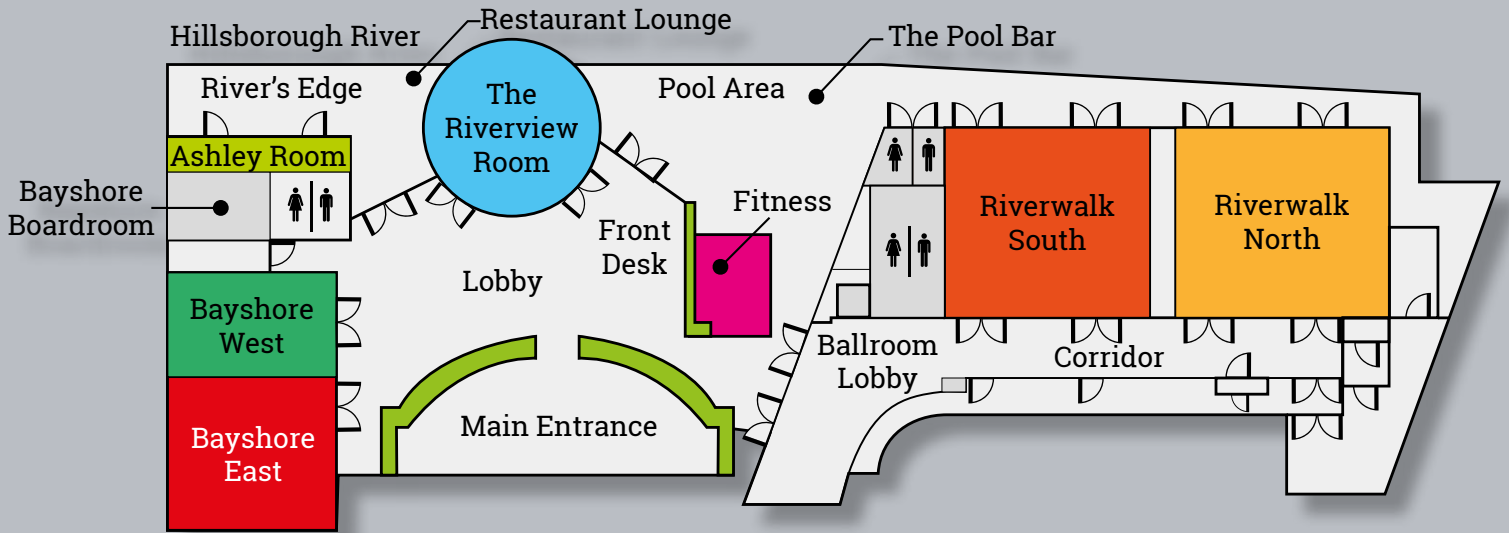
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For more information and in-depth coverage of activities throughout the year, you can visit The Grand Priory of America on the internet.

www.st-lazarus.us



HOTEL MAP



Is it Time Yet? View the Schedule of Events on Page 12
Hungry? A Local Restaurant Guide is on Page 13

**Hotel Restaurants
& Bar Information**



**River's Edge
All Day Menu**



**Pool Bar Info
& Menu**



Paying it Forward

Dear Friends,

As we begin to near the end of these record-setting heat waves across the country and hopefully return to some semblance of relaxing outdoor activities, I think you will find Tampa, Florida, at the end of October the ideal place to do just that! The members of the Commandery of the Southeast and their commander, Chevalier John Tempone, have done an outstanding job in planning what will be a Grand Prioral Council meeting not to be missed! The weekend of October 26-29 is the date, and the hotel location on the beautiful Tampa riverfront is spectacular! From tours to historic Ybor City where Cuban immigrants first settled and established cigar factories to the lush Tampa Club for the vigil dinner, overlooking scenic Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, you will find yourself beginning to unwind from this sweltering summer as you transition into the fall, Florida style! The church for our Vigil and Investiture ceremonies is one of Tampa's oldest, with an exquisite interior and stained-glass windows that are stunning. We will be honored again this year to have our Grand Master, Don Francisco, and his family join us for this wonderful weekend. Most importantly and aside from the relaxing environment of Tampa Bay in late fall, we will have the opportunity to see one another again – both old friends and new friends – and celebrate together the good works the Grand Priory of America and the Order of St. Lazarus does for so many in need around the world today!

Our mission statement of “serving humanity since 1098” needs no change as this is what we continue to do every day as members of the Order of St. Lazarus. We serve humanity in many ways – through demonstration of our Christian faith, random acts of kindness to those in need and most importantly our dedication to our charitable programs here in the United States and around the world. The Grand Priory of America is the primary sponsor of the leprosy mobile medical outreach program of Rising Star Outreach in Chennai, India, the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem and two leprosy clinics in Mexico run by our colleagues from the Delegation of Mexico of the GPA. In this newsletter you will find an excellent primer on Hansen's disease, the preferred term for leprosy, by Dr. Carlotta Rotman, one of our members, who has spent her entire medical career in the treatment and research of this potentially debilitating disease.

Organ donation education and awareness is one of the two flagship programs of the GPA, along with leprosy, and the most important contribution we as members can make to this program is by becoming an organ donor and encouraging our friends and family to do the same. Every day 17 people in America die waiting for an organ to become available, and by becoming a donor we can do our part to elimi-

nate this discrepancy.

Our Tanzanian hospital project is nearing the completion of Phase 1, and you can read more about this in this newsletter. We also support, with smaller grants, many worthwhile programs around the US that our members identify in their own local communities. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find several articles about this year's charitable programs and how they helped so many people in need.

On that note, we have just reached the 35% mark of our 2023 goal for our Pentecostal Appeal as of this writing, but we have time to complete our goal and fund our programs if all of us fulfill our obligations of membership and our vow “to serve” that we all willingly took when we were invested. Our selflessness, generosity and compassion towards our charitable programs not only improves the quality of life for the recipients of our grants, but it also serves as an example to them that they too can “pay it forward” to those even less fortunate when the right time may present itself.

The war in Ukraine continues and our support has been unwavering since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The GPA has donated more than \$50,000 towards medical supplies, including generators for hospitals, with contributions by our members above and beyond their annual Pentecostal Appeal contributions to our regular programs and for this we are eternally grateful. You may have read recently that with the increasing number of mine fields and indiscriminate artillery shelling of Ukrainian territory the number of wounded suffering amputations (limb loss) has climbed to about 40% of all casualties. Compare this to about 5% of American casualties in the Vietnam war and you can only imagine the challenges that face Ukrainian hospitals in treating these devastating injuries that not only occur with soldiers but also to innocent women and children throughout the country. While the Order's beginning was in leprosy and limb loss due to disease, we now have a new scourge of limb loss to deal with as an Order related to an unprovoked war.

We were contacted by a military hospital in Berdichev, a small town near Kiev that my wife Anna is from, and I have visited many times, with a desperate request for assistance. They were in dire need of rehabilitation equipment to do pre-prosthetic care for their amputee victims and were unable to procure this equipment in Ukraine due to a large demand by so many hospitals. I again contacted our good friend Dirk Augustin, CLJ, from the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe, as Dirk and his colleagues, based in Germany, were the people that we had been sending our funds to from the GPA to procure needed medical supplies for Ukraine since February 2022. After an extensive search, Dirk located just about all the requested equipment in Germany and Poland that the military hospital requested and was able to negotiate a substantial humanita-



H.E. The Chev. John F. Byrnes,
GCLJ, GCMLJ, KMLJ

Grand Prior,
Grand Priory of America

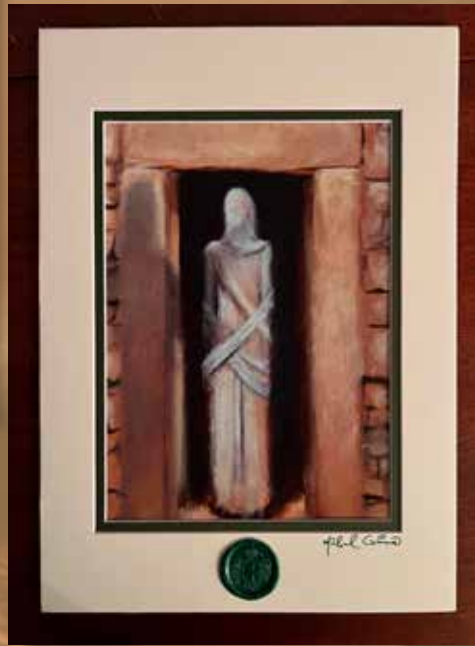
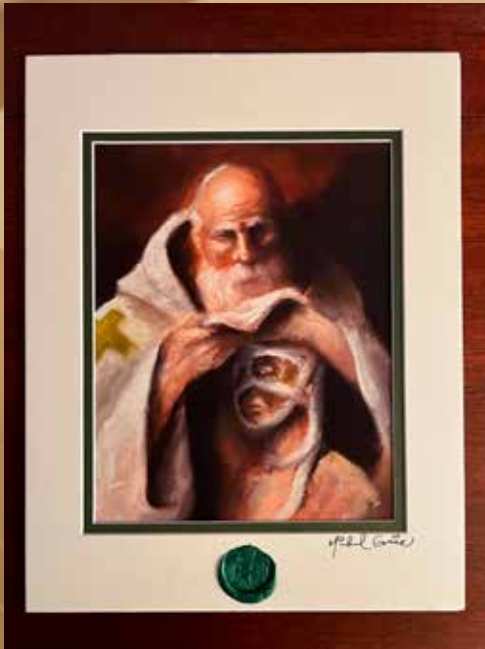
rian discount from \$60,000 to \$25,000 from the manufacturers, in addition to some donations. The GPA in turn sent \$15,000 that had previously been allocated for the 2023 Ukrainian Relief Support Fund coupled with \$10,000 from the 2023 Grand Prior's Discretionary Fund to purchase the equipment, a savings of almost \$40,000 USD. Due to wartime logistical reasons the hospital said they were unable to travel to the Polish border to pick up the equipment, so on September 11th I will travel to Germany and meet up with Dirk and his good friend Mathias Kiene, and the three of us will drive a large truck filled with this medical equipment from Germany down through Poland and into Ukraine, with the final destination being the military hospital in Berdichev. We plan to spend about 4-5 days in Ukraine depending on the conditions at the time as even this area comes under frequent attack. We will return to Germany on or about September 18th and I plan to return to the US on September 20TH. All of us are very happy that we were able to procure this much needed rehabilitation equipment so these amputees can begin the long and arduous process of regaining function with a prosthetic and return as best as possible to a normal life.

At the upcoming GPC in Tampa, I will be able to update our members on how this mission went, and what our plans are for future assistance in Ukraine. On this note, we are very fortunate to have a gifted artist in our Order, Michael Graciano, and he has created a collection of paintings entitled “The Lazarian Legacy – the 2023 Inaugural Collection of Portraits for Peace”. You will find photos of this collection on the next page. We will have a small number of limited edition prints of this inaugural collection of 3 paintings, all matted, numbered, signed by the artist (Michael Graciano) and embossed with a Lazarus wax seal, along with a Certificate of Authenticity, available for a set donation. All proceeds will go to further help those in Ukraine with limb loss, just as we started out during the Crusades helping those knights afflicted with leprosy. We plan to auction off the original paintings at our Gala so make your plans now to come to Tampa in October and share in these events!

Thank you all for what you do for those in need as members of the Grand Priory of America and the Order of St. Lazarus, and Anna and I look forward to seeing you in Tampa, Florida, the weekend of October 26-29, 2023!

**THE LAZARIAN LEGACY – THE 2023 INAUGURAL
COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS FOR PEACE**

BY MICHAEL GRACIANO, OIJ



FROM THE KNIGHT PRECEPTOR



**Tim K. Hensleit,
GCLJ, KMLJ, SCR LJ**

**Knight Preceptor,
Grand Priory of America**

Getting to Know Our New Members Over Zoom

In efforts to improve the assimilation and retention of our new members, the Order has appointed Tim Hensleit as the Knight Preceptor. The role of the Knight Preceptor is to assist and mentor new members as they transition into our Order. Some of the procedures, ceremonies, terminology of our Order date back to the early years of our organization and may need further explanation and clarification.

The Knight Preceptor will be hosting and inviting new members to scheduled one-hour Zoom calls throughout the upcoming year to discuss our Order history, goals of the organization, the importance of participation in individual Commandery activities and to answer any questions new members may have. Current members may be periodically invited to participate on the Zoom calls.

**Discover more:
michaelgraciano.com**



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

**Commander,
Commandery of The Southeast**

Dear Friends: Welcome to Tampa and GPC-23! If we look closely at this Tampa icon (pictured right), is there something familiar? Look closer. Could this statue be part of our Christian DNA in who's footsteps we follow, hope to emulate, and pray to serve? This statue is at the door of the Portico Café in Tampa, a Christian outreach for homeless.

Why did you seek the Order of St Lazarus? Perhaps a love of history, a look back, to times of sacred vows to serve God and mankind. Or maybe it's a cellular feeling where you strongly identify with chivalry's golden age, when King Arthur presided over fellow knights and dames at a round table. Perhaps you saw selfless service by those wearing the cross of St Lazarus who cared for the marginalized in a war zone. A Christian calling to perform acts of selfless service, to be Christ's light in this world, or perhaps, be the person our dog thinks we are. Maybe it was something else, all the above, or perhaps to find your authentic Christian DNA. At this year's GPC, we'll show you a path that may, perhaps, enlighten your search. If you are new, or a seasoned veteran of the Order, come home to your roots in this year's GPC 23 and Me, What's in Your Christian DNA?

If you arrive in time for Thursday's outing, we'll have a special tour led by the former CEO of Ybor City Museum Society and see Tampa's history come alive with a three-stop excursion and sidewalk lunch. The outing ends with a tour of the J.C Newman Cigar Factory, where we'll see the legendary Tampa Cigars rolled to perfection – the old way. In the late afternoon, we gather for cocktails at the hotel where we can reconnect with the Order's "family" and enjoy the comradery of re-connecting. If you are new or have been away for a while, you'll be pleased at the ease of meeting, or re-connecting with like-minded people. The dress is business casual, (guayabera for men). After drinks,

Who we Follow, who we Serve, who we are. In Search of Our Authentic Self, what's in your Christian DNA?



we'll leave for Commandery dinners, This time we'll be together with transportation provided to Ybor's celebrated Columbia Restaurant, where each commandery will have their traditional private dinners under one roof. After dinner, a follow-up party is available across from the Columbia at Casa Santo Stefano, where cigars can be enjoyed along with your favorite beverages.

Friday starts with Catholic and Protestant mass followed by a provided light breakfast. A full day of meetings awaits as well as recommended places to see just a short walk or free trolley ride away. The Tampa Bay History Center and Tampa Museum of Art are nearby but be back in time for the special luncheon with guest speaker, Dr Wayne Phillips MD, who will provide a fascinating and faith-moving presentation on the Science of the Shroud of Turin. Dr Phillips, an allergist, is also a certified expert on the Shroud of Turin and will challenge your faith and understanding of the most studied relic of our time. Perhaps you'll identify with what you see, or at least you may envision Christ as part of your DNA that we spoke of earlier.

The evening vigil service will be at the storied Sacred Heart Parish, where postulants and members will gather for a candlelight service under stained glass windows of St Louis, himself a veteran of the Crusades. The original church was constructed in 1859, then called St Louis Church, for both St Louis and St Luis Cancer, a Dominican missionary who was martyred on the shores of Tampa Bay

in 1549, not far from Sacred Heart.

In the church, you'll find memorials to service in most all of the nation's wars beginning with the Civil War. Incidentally, Tampa's history is steeped in Christian Faith with the construction of the first U.S. house of worship erected on the west coast of Florida in 1851, a Methodist congregation. Two leading then young Army officers; T.J. "Stonewall Jackson" and O.O. Howard, contributed to the construction. Both would later be generals in the Civil War on opposing sides.

Immediately following the vigil, dinner will be at the exclusive Tampa Club known for its specular view of the City of Tampa and sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico, as well as superb dining. After dinner there's always time back at the hotel for a drink and cigar along Tampa's riverwalk.

Saturday will start early with services; our keynote address will be a History of Order presentation by H.E. the Chevalier Hugh Strub and Ecumenical History by Chaplain General Fr Razz Waff. At just past noon, we will conclude the business meetings and prepare for the formal Investiture Service and Gala back at the Tampa Riverwalk Hotel. This will truly be a memorable service attended by all including our own Grand Master Don Francisco de Borbon y Von Hardenburg, as well as HIH Erminas Sahle Selassie of Ethiopia and other orders of Christian chivalry.

Thank you for coming. As hosting Commandery, every knight or dame that comes contributes to the success of the entire Order. Isn't that one of the reasons you joined? I look forward to seeing you!

A Welcome to All



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

**Chaplain General,
Grand Priory of America**

Once again, we will gather as a Grand Priory to bring new members into our ranks, to promote those who are taking on increased levels of responsibility at the local and Grand Priory level, to recognize the achievements of those who have worked- often behind the scenes- to promote the excellent work of the Order- and to recharge our batteries to return to our homes refreshed in our various works of the ministry of the Order.

For those of you who are postulants being inducted into the Order in Tampa, at the international level (and in truth, very often at the Grand Priory level), we are focused on eradicating Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) and at the Grand Priory (the US and Mexico) level we work to educate our communities about the issues of organ, skin, and tissue donation. To that end, we need your insights, energy, and skills to help us accomplish that. We welcome your time, talent, and treasure as you may apply them at your commandery (local level) and the Grand Priory (US and Mexico) level. We realize you could be a bit befuddled and confused as to where you might need to be when, however, we- especially the chaplains of the Order- are here to assist you, and it is our special prayer that your Postulant's Dinner on Thursday afternoon will assist you in the process of feeling grounded in the Order, and even more so with the Vigil liturgy on Friday evening.

For those of you who are being promoted, this is a recognition of what you have done in the past and your potential for increased leadership and involvement in the Order at the commandery and grand priory level. Additionally, with each promotion, you are automatically expected to support the ministries of the Order with an increased expectation of support each year for the Pentecostal Appeal. As promo-

tions are not mandatory, your acceptance of your promotion is also your recommitment to your vow at your vigil when you said, "I shall serve."

For those of you receiving an award or an appointment within the Companionate of Merit, this is a validation of your good works at the commandery or grand priory level and is, to use Episcopal/Anglican sacramental language, an outward and visible sign of your inward and spiritual commitment to the order. We celebrate with you as your acts of meritorious service are recognized.

And now let us pray that as we gather, we do so ask God's blessing at this time:

LET US PRAY:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this Grand Prioral Council of the Grand Priory of America for the renewal and mission of the Order and grant us to perceive what is right and the grace to accomplish it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



GETTING TO KNOW YOU
Our New Postulants



Debra J. Almeida, OLJ
Catholic
Retired Winery Co-founder
New Orleans, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Penelope Patton Bankston, OLJ
Episcopal
Retired Senior Research Fellow
Madisonville, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Joshua James Joseph Mitchell Barger, OLJ
Episcopal
Senior Director - Human Resources
Bellevue, WA
Commandery of the West



John Conner Cintron, OLJ
Protestant
NASA SWAT Officer
Titusville, FL
Commandery of the Southeast



LTC Christopher Joseph Marascalco Cummins,
USAR (Inactive), ACM, OLJ, MD
Roman Catholic
Physician
Oxford, MS | Grand Commandery of the South



Megan Eunpu, OLJ
Lutheran
Vice President - Digital Sales - Federal at TTEC
Reston, VA
Commandery of the Atlantic



Janice Thomas Foulks, OLJ
Catholic
Counselor
New Orleans, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Fr. Matthew John Graham, AChLJ
Roman Catholic
Priest
Denham Springs, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Alberto Salustiano Llanes, OLJ, PhD
Evangelical Lutheran
Federal Contractor
Shippensburg, PA
Commandery of the Atlantic



Carlo Andoni Pérez Arizti Morales, OLJ
Roman Catholic
Partner - Baker & McKenzie
CDMX, DF
Delegation of Mexico



Juan Leonardo Durán Rangel, OLJ
Roman Catholic
Professional Pianist & Sacred Choir Director
Queretaro, QT
Delegation of Mexico



Chaplain (Captain) Nicholas Caleb Tyler, AChLJ
Evangelical Presbyterian
Army Chaplain
Columbia, SC
Commandery of the Southeast



Jennifer Ann Bozell, OLJ
Catholic
Hollywood Executive & Producer
Los Angeles, CA
Commandery of the West



Elizabeth Ann Burke, OLJ
Roman Catholic
Accountant
Glendale, CA
Commandery of the West



Donald H. Espenan, OLJ
Catholic
Financial Advisor, Sr. Portfolio Management
Director & Sr. Vice-President
New Orleans, LA | Grand Commandery of the South



James Hibbs Farris III, OLJ
Catholic
Financial Advisor
Mandeville, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Lawrence Varner McCrobie, OLJ, EdD
Roman Catholic
Riav Ventures Vice-President of Operations
Elizabethtown, KY
Commandery of the Atlantic



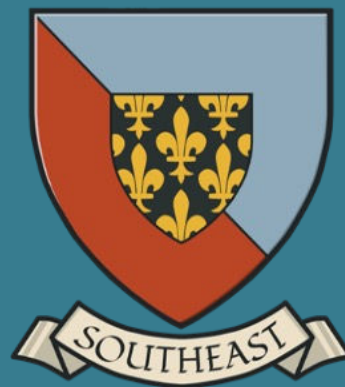
David Allan Moore, OLJ
Roman Catholic
Retired Pharmaceutical District Manager
Madisonville, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Kirk R. Zero, OLJ
Episcopal
English Teacher
North Charleston, SC
Commandery of the Southeast



Danielle Moni Zoobo, OLJ
Christian
Contract Specialist
Washington, DC
Commandery of the Atlantic



FROM THE COMMANDERY

WELCOME, POSTULANTS!

We of the Southeast Commandery welcome you to this most noble and Christian Order of chivalry and service. The vow you will take is an ancient one and is a simple affirmation that you will serve the under-served, defend the Christian Faith, and lead a chivalrous life. Simple? The hard part will be to do this when no one is watching, service for service's sake, seeing Christ in all things and for the rest of your life. How? One day at a time, one step at a time, one castaway at a time and in the footsteps of your ancestors.

Your DNA is traced to defenders of Pilgrims in the Holy Lands, noble knights and dames defending Europe from a variety of enemies. You liberated Spain from the Moors, served in the American Revolution as a French officer alongside Continentals at the Battle of Savannah, were conspicuous in your gallantry during World War I in the ambulance Corps and, today, are quietly driving in a medical convoy in Ukraine or cleaning Leper's wounds in Mexico.

We are Blessed and Honored to have you here, we need you!

Promotions & Awards

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 Southwest**:

Chevalier Donald Lee Ross, CAPT, USPHS, KLJ, OMLJ, to the rank of **Knight Commander of Grace (KCLJ)**
Alice Austell McWilliams, CLJ, MMLJ, to the rank of **Dame of Grace (DLJ)**

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

Chevalier Steven Douglas Brock, KLJ, OMLJ, to the rank of **Knight Commander of Grace (KCLJ)**
Dame Beatrice Elizabeth Hensleit, DLJ, OMLJ, to the rank of **Dame Commander of Grace (DCLJ)**
The Reverend James William Kubajak, ChLJ, DD, to the rank of **Senior Chaplain (SChLJ)**
Patricia Aileen Cedotal, CLJ, to the rank of **Dame of Grace (DLJ)**
COL Vito Dominick Imbasciani, MC, USA (Ret), CLJ, PhD, MD, to the rank of **Knight of Grace (KLJ)**
John Keene Kelly, CLJ, to the rank of **Knight of Grace (KLJ)**
Gary M. Garo, OLJ, MMLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**
Allison Heather Hensleit, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**

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

Dame Mary Patricia Ettari, DLJ, DMLJ, PA, to the rank of **Dame Commander of Grace (DCLJ)**
Ernesto Juan Anaya, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**
Richard Preston Tonkinson, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**

For his service and contribution to the **Delegation of Mexico**:

Pedro Casillas Capetillo, OLJ, to the rank of **Commander (CLJ)**

His Excellency, the Grand Master, upon the nomination of the Grand Prior, has graciously approved the following **awards**:

H.E. The Chevalier John Francis Byrnes, Jr., GCLJ, KMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Grand Cross (GCMLJ)**
H.E. The Chevalier Jack Spalding Schroder, Jr., GCLJ, KMLJ, JD, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Grand Cross (GCMLJ)**
The Reverend Herbert Frederick Gough, Jr., ECLJ, CMLJ, the **Gold Cross of Merit (GCrLJ)**
Chevalier Gregory James Duncan-Peters, KCLJ, MMLJ, the **Gold Medal of Merit (GMLJ)**
Chevalier Francis DeSales McWilliams III, CPT, USA (Ret), KCLJ, KMLJ, the **Gold Medal of Merit (GMLJ)**
H.E. The Chevalier John Francis Byrnes, Jr., GCLJ, KMLJ, the **Justice Cross**
Chevalier Christopher Andrew St. Victor-de Pinho, LTC, NYNG, KLJ, the **Justice Cross**



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**:

- The Reverend Emile George Noel III**, AChLJ, the **Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)**
- The Reverend Pedro Julio Prada**, AChLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**

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

- The Reverend Fr. William Matekihelotu Tulua-Alvarez**, ChLJ, OMLJ, the **Silver Cross of Merit (SCrLJ)**
- The Most Reverend Timothy Edward Freyer**, ECLJ, OMLJ, DD, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander (CMLJ)**
- Chevalier Ryan Wallace Burke**, KLJ, OMLJ, JD, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander (CMLJ)**
- Dame Beatrice Elizabeth Hensleit**, DCLJ, OMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander (CMLJ)**
- Chevalier Leonard Peter Rossi**, KLJ, MMLJ, the **Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)**
- The Reverend Lane Kalani Akiona, ss.cc**, ChLJ, MMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Officer (OMLJ)**
- Chevalier Nishan O. Partamian**, KLJ, MMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Officer (OMLJ)**
- Dame Barbara R. Voors**, DLJ, MMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Officer (OMLJ)**
- Sister Davilyn Ah Chic**, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- The Reverend Alfred Stephen Baca**, ChLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- Marc Philippe Chazaud**, CLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- Chevalier Stephen S. Voors**, KLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**

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

- Dame Sheila DeMatteo Duncan-Peters**, DLJ, MMLJ, the **Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)**
- Michael Peter Graciano**, OLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**

For their service and contribution to the **Commandery of the Southeast**:

- H.E. LCDR The Chevalier Scott Gallatin Thompson**, USN (Ret), GCLJ, GCMLJ, the **Silver Cross of Merit (SCrLJ)**
- Dame Anna Loskutova Byrnes**, DLJ, OMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander (CMLJ)**
- Chevalier George Elliot Missbach, Jr.**, KLJ, OMLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Commander (CMLJ)**
- H.E. The Chevalier Harold R. Penton, Jr.**, GCLJ, KMLJ, PhD, the **Bronze Cross of Merit (BCrLJ)**
- The Reverend James David Juliano**, SchLJ, OMLJ, the **Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)**
- Jodi Lin Valencia**, OLJ, the **Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)**
- Pastor Chris Edmonds**, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- The Reverend Matthew Anthony Marino**, ChLJ, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- CAPT Peter O'Brien**, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- Dr. Wayne Phillips, MD**, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**
- Jorge Alberto Valencia**, CLJ, JD, the **Companionate of Merit in the rank of Member (MMLJ)**

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

- The Reverend Deacon Joshua Reed LeBlanc**, SchLJ, MMLJ, the **Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)**

Schedule of Events

Thursday, October 26, 2023

9:00am-4:30pm	Registration, Information and Custos Desk (closed for lunch)	Lobby Registration Desk
10:45am-3:00pm	Optional tour – Historic Ybor City (ticketed, box lunch provided)	Bus Entrance/Exit
4:00pm-6:00pm	Meeting of Communications Committee (coat/tie)	Bayshore East
4:00pm-6:00pm	Postulant Orientation (required for postulants/business casual)	Bayshore East
6:00pm-7:00 pm	Grand Prior's Welcome Reception (business casual)	Riverview Room
7:00pm-7:15pm	Bus loads for transport to Commandery Dinners (departs promptly at 7:15pm)	Bus Entrance/Exit
7:30pm	Commandery Dinners (check with your Commander for details)	Columbia Restaurant Ybor City
9:00pm	Optional cigar smoker/cocktails	Casa Santo Stefano Rooftop Bar
9:30pm	Bus boards for return to hotel (or transportation on own)	Columbia Restaurant Parking Lot

Friday, October 27, 2023

8:00am-9:00am	Continental Breakfast	Bayshore Foyer
8:00am-8:30am	Catholic Holy Sacrifice of The Mass	Bayshore East
8:00am-8:30am	Ecumenical Prayer Service	Bayshore West
9:00am-4:30pm	Registration, Information and Custos Desk (closed for lunch)	Lobby Registration Desk
9:00am-11:30am	Meeting of the Almoners and Hospitallers (coat/tie)	Bayshore East
9:00am-11:30am	Meeting of the Commanders (coat/tie)	Bayshore West
9:00am-11:30am	Meeting of the Chaplains (coat/tie)	Riverwalk Ballroom
12:00pm-1:30 pm	Grand Prioral Luncheon (coat/tie)	Riverwalk Ballroom
2:00pm-3:30 pm	Meeting of the Marshalls	Bayshore East
2:00pm-3:30 pm	Meeting of AASL Board of Directors (coat/tie)	Bayshore West
2:00pm-3:30 pm	Postulate Vigil/Investiture Orientation	Riverview Room
3:30pm-3:45pm	Bus loads for transport to Vigil or walk 4 blocks <i>required for Postulants and Marshalls</i> (Service dress uniform or dark suit/cocktail dress with mantles)	Bus Entrance/Exit
4:30pm-5:30pm	Vigil Service <i>required for Postulants and Marshalls</i>	Sacred Heart Church 509 N Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33602
5:30pm-6:00 pm	Bus boards for transport or walk four blocks	Tampa Club in front of Sacred Heart Church
6:30pm-9:30pm	Reception and Dinner	Tampa Club
9:30pm	Bus loads for transport to hotel or walk across the street to hotel	Bus loading area at Tampa Club

Saturday, October 28, 2023

7:30am-8:30am	Continental Breakfast	Bayshore Foyer
7:30am-8:00am	Ecumenical Prayer Service	Bayshore West
7:30am-8:00am	Catholic Holy Sacrifice of The Mass	Bayshore East
9:00am-12:30pm	Registration, Information and Custos Desk	Lobby Registration Desk
8:30am-10:00am	GPC Symposium: <i>History of the Order in 2023 Workshop Ecumenical History</i>	Riverwalk Ballroom
10:15am-12:30pm	AASL/GPA Business Meeting	Bayshore East
2:15pm	Postulants, Marshalls, Awardees, and Promotees depart for Investiture (with mantles)	Bus Entrance/Exit
2:30pm	Buses depart for Investiture (white tie or dress uniform, dark formal gown/evening dress, decorations and mantles)	Bus Entrance/Exit
3:00pm-4:45pm	Investiture	Sacred Heart Church 509 N Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33602 in front of Sacred Heart Church
5:00pm	Bus returns to Hotel for Reception & Gala or walk 4 blocks	Riverwalk Ballroom Foyer
6:00pm-6:45pm	Formal Reception (white tie or dress uniform, dark formal gown/evening dress, decorations and mantles)	Riverwalk Ballroom
7:00pm-10:00pm	Formal Dinner and Gala Ball (white tie or dress uniform, dark formal gown/evening dress, decorations and mantles)	Riverwalk Ballroom

Sunday, October 29, 2023

12:00pm	Checkout	
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Restaurant Guide

SEAFOOD

Harpoon Harry's Crab House
225 S Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Ulele
1810 N Highland Ave, Tampa, FL 33602

Jackson's Bistro & Sushi Bar
601 S Harbour Island Blvd,
Tampa, FL 33602

STEAK

Malio's
400 N Ashley Dr, Tampa, FL 33602

Bern's
1208 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606

SPANISH

Columbia
2117 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605

Columbia Café
801 Old Water St #1905, Tampa, FL 33602

Spain Restaurant & Toma Bar
513 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

MEXICAN

Urban Cantina
200 E Madison St, Tampa, FL 33602

Green Lemon
915 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606

Taco Bus
505 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Xochitl Cocina Mexicana
307 W Palm Ave, Tampa, FL 33602

ITALIAN

Bavaro's
514 N Franklin St #101, Tampa, FL 33602

DeVito's Italian Specialties
200 North Tampa St, Tampa

BREAKFAST

Samaria Café
502 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

Chez Faby
500 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

Oxford Exchange (Brunch also)
420 W Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL 33602

First Watch
520 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

The Attic on Kennedy
500 E Kennedy Blvd #400,
Tampa, FL 33602

Brueggers Bagels
501 E Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL 33602

PIZZA

Eddie & Sams
203 E Twiggs St. Tampa, FL 33602

Tampa Pizza Company
777 N Ashley Dr C, Tampa, FL 33602

New York New York Pizza
1512 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605

PUBS

Hattrick's Sports Pub
107 S Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Yeoman Cask & Lion English Pub Fare
202 N Morgan St, Tampa, FL 33602

SUSHI

Haiku - Tampa
808 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Jackson's Bistro & Sushi Bar
601 S Harbour Island Blvd,
Tampa, FL 33602

Samurai Blue
1600 E 8th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605

AMERICAN

American Social
601 S Harbour Island Blvd #107,
Tampa, FL 33602

Hattrick's Sports Pub
107 S Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Pint and Brew 200 N Tampa St g118,
Tampa, FL 33602

Butter's Burgers
777 N Ashley Dr D1, Tampa, FL 33602

MEDITERRANEAN

Dio Modern Mediterranean
519 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Falafel Inn Mediterranean Grill
777 N Ashley Dr, Tampa, FL 33602

INDIAN

Raaga Express Indian Kitchen and Bar
514 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Rasoi Indian Cuisine - Ybor City
1701 E 8th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605

DESSERT

Bake'n Babes (Inside Gen-X Tavern)
103 E Jackson St, Tampa, FL 33602

Peterbrooke Chocolatier
777 N Ashley Dr Suite D-2,
Tampa, FL 33602

MULTIPLE IN ONE BUILDING

Armature Works
1910 N Ola Ave, Tampa, FL 33602

Sparkman Wharf
615 Channelside Dr, Tampa, FL 33602

QUICK BITES

Starbucks (Inside the Hilton)
211 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

Hotel Bar
200 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

Sail Pavilion
333 S Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602

Duckweed Urban Grocery
803 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

FRENCH

Mise En Place
Grand Central Place,
442 W Kennedy Blvd #110,
Tampa, FL 33606

Chez Faby
500 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602

BARS BY LOCATION

DOWNTOWN

Taps Restaurant Bar & Lounge
777 N Ashley Dr, Tampa, FL 33602
Si-am: ThaimERICAN Restaurant
713 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602
Hotel Bar
200 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602
The Hub
719 N Franklin St, Tampa, FL 33602
Paddy Wagon's
813 N Tampa St, Tampa, FL 33602
Four Green Fields (Curtis Hixon)
702 N Ashley Dr, Tampa, FL 33602
Kava Culture Kava Bar
514 N Franklin St # 102, Tampa, FL 33602

SoHo

Dubliner
2307 W Azeele St, Tampa, FL 33609
World of Beer
402 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606
Yard of Ale
406 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606
Maddinton's
405 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606
SoHo Saloon
410 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606
Luv Child
516 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33609
Bar HWD
302 S Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606

YBOR

Double Decker
1721 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605
First Chance Last Chance
1707 N 16th St, Tampa, FL 33605
Acropolis Greek Taverna - Ybor City
1833 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605
Gaspar's Grotto
1805 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605
Club Prana
1619 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605
Big Easy Bar
1704 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605
King Corona Cigars Bar And Café
1523 E 7th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605
La Faraona Cigars
1517 E 7th Ave suite-a, Tampa, FL 33605

WHAT DO ALL THESE MEDIEVAL WORDS REALLY MEAN?

LAZARUS, SPEAK!



H.E. The Chevalier Harold R. "Pent" Penton, Jr.,
GCLJ, KMLJ, SCR LJ, DC3rdLJ, PhD

Chancellor,
Grand Priory of America

First, let me welcome our Postulants and members to the Order of St. Lazarus Grand Priory of America 2023 Grand Prioral Council. For our Postulants, I trust you will find being a member of our Order to be as rewarding in terms of friendships and making a difference in the world as I have.

However, when I joined the Order as a Postulant in 2006, I was immediately confronted by what seemed to be a foreign language written and spoken by the Order's members. Terms such as Bailiwick, Priory, Crucifer, Inquisitor, Almoner, Hospitaller, Confreres and Consoeurs, Atavis et Armis were as foreign to me as, well, Latin, which it turns out many are. So, in an effort to help our Postulants (as well as possibly some longer-term members) wade through the St. Lazarus Medieval language, here is a translation (or at least close to it) into what these weird words mean.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of all the Medieval words and terms you may encounter as a member of the Order, but these are the most common you will hear or see written.

For you Medieval history buffs, a couple of books in which the Order of St. Lazarus is referenced are **The Monks of War** by Desmond Seward and **Defending the City of God** by Sharan Newman. And if you would like a glimpse of what life was like in one of the last leprosaria in the United States in the late 20th Century, read **In the Sanctuary of Outcasts** by Neil White.

Again, let me welcome our new Postulants. I look forward to meeting each of you in the coming three days.

ST. LAZARUS SPEAK

THE COMMON TONGUE

Aide-du-Camp Special assistant to the Grand Prior

Almoner Oversees charitable donations

American Association of the Order of St. Lazarus (AASL) 501(c)(3) charitable arm of the Grand Priory of America

Archivist Maintains Order's historical records

"Atavis et Armis" *"Ancestors and Arms"*
(the motto of the Order)

Bailiff Executive Vice President (reports to Grand Prior and overseas Almoner, Hospitaller, Inquisitor, Receiver, Secretary, Marshal, and Vice Chancellor(s) of the AASL)

Balliwick A regional/country jurisdiction of the Order (often used in Europe such as the Bailiwick of Switzerland)

Banner Bearer Carries the Order's flag at official ceremonies

Cadre Geographical region of 3-15 Commandery members (e.g., Cadre of Hawaii, part of the Commandery of the West)

Chancellor Vice President of Operations (reports to Bailiff and oversees administrative, legal, planning, and Commandery related activities)

Chaplain Ordained clergy member of the Order

Chaplain General Oversees all clergy members of the Grand Priory of America

Commandery Geographical region of 50-75 members (e.g., Commandery of the Southeast)

Confreres and Consoeurs Salutation in correspondence (translates as Brothers and Sisters)

Crucifer Bearer of the Processional Cross

Custos Provides Order's insignia to members

Delegation Geographical region of 15-25 members (e.g., Delegation of Mexico)

Grand Commandery Geographical region of 75+ members

Grand Master Chief Executive Officer (by tradition, a Borbon family member)

ST. LAZARUS SPEAK

THE COMMON TONGUE

Grand Prior	President of a national organization of the Order (reports to the Grand Master)
Grand Priory	A national jurisdiction of the Order
Grand Priory of America	National jurisdiction of the Order composed of the United States and Mexico (often referred to as the GPA)
Grand Prioral Council	Annual meeting of the Grand Priory of America
Grand (<i>whomever</i>)	A senior officer of the Grand Priory of America (e.g., Grand Prioral Almoner)
Herald	Responsible for the maintenance of the Grand Prioral Roll of Arms and matters dealing with armorial bearings and proofs of nobility.
Hospitaller	Responsible for the identification and implementation of charitable activities
Inquisitor	Responsible for verification, and recommendation/rejection of applications for membership in the Order.
Lieutenancy	Geographical region of 25-49 members
Marshal	Responsible for the organization of ceremonial functions
Postulant	A new member that has not yet been invested in a GPC Investiture Service
Receiver	Chief Financial Officer (responsible for financial matters)
Scrivener	Prepares brevets reflecting rank and diplomas documenting merit awards
Secretary	Issues minutes of GPA meetings
Stationer	Distributes stationery and office supplies
Sub-jurisdiction	Another term for Commandery, Lieutenancy or Delegation
Sword Bearer	Carriers the Order's Sword at official events
Vice Chancellors	Grand Priory of America senior officers reporting to either the Bailiff or Chancellor
Webmaster	IT and Communications Director

PLAY BALL!

THE DNA AND FABRIC OF TAMPA'S CULTURAL COMMUNITY

America's favorite pastime was not spawned as big business, a major force to be reckoned with in the USA's sports world. The game likely developed in earnest in New York during the mid-1800s and became a part of many communities' recreational activities and cultural fabric as its popularity grew. In Tampa, the game became a part of the community's DNA under unique circumstances.

It began when the cigar industry arrived in Tampa in 1885. With it came the Cuban cigar makers who skills helped establish the industry that would earn Tampa the moniker "Cigar Capital of the World". The first cigar factories were completed in 1886 in what is now known as Ybor City whose namesake, Vicente Martinez-Ybor, purchased the first 40 acres of land to help establish the community that emerged as the "birthplace of modern Tampa", now the city's National Historic Landmark District.

Though Tampa baseball history pre-dates the arrival of the cigar industry and the wave of Cuban immigrants that followed to work its factories, those Cubans who moved to Tampa brought with them a love of baseball that cemented the game as a major form of community recreation and engagement. By late 1886, they had formed a social club called El Liceo Cubano, and founded their first baseball club in 1887 called Niagara. Cuban immigrants often played exhibition games against Cuban teams that traveled to Tampa.

As Tampa's immigrant population grew and diversified to include not only Cubans, but also Spaniards, Italians, and others, baseball became the "universal language", communicating through the non-verbal signs and signals of the game even though they often could not speak each other's native language. Though Spanish and Italian immigrants had no prior experience with the game, the Cubans' passion for baseball led to the establishment of cigar factory teams on which all immigrants played.

As each immigrant group founded their own social clubs, those clubs each fielded a team, leading to the formation of the wildly popular local Inter-Social League. Sunday games were the "hottest ticket in town" often attended by crowds of 2,000 or more. These were amateur teams where payment to the players was prohibited, and where teams and individuals played for community pride and "for the love of the game." It is important to note that Afro-Cuban baseball players, who at the time were not allowed to be members of "white" clubs or play on their teams, belonged to one of Tampa's various and highly successful Negro League teams.

Native talent abounded as young boys in Tampa's Latin neighborhoods played stick ball

in the streets or informal games of baseball in the sand lots and eventually, community fields as well as on Tampa's amateur teams. The first to be recruited as a professional player was Alfonso Ramón López, the son of Spanish immigrants from Asturias who came to Tampa to work industry. Al Lopez, as he became known, did not like cigars... but he loved baseball. In 1924, at the age of 16, he was recruited to play with the city's first professional team, the Tampa Smokers, aptly named for the cigar industry role in making Tampa a "baseball town". Al joined the Major League leagues in 1928 and would go on to become Tampa's first Major League player, manager, and Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, serving as a local role model and mentor for the many others who would follow his path, as well as a community hero.

In total, 92 players from Tampa (Hillsborough County) have made it to the Major Leagues, one of the highest concentrations of professional baseball players in cities throughout the United States. Although not all emerged from ethnic and racial cultures referenced in this article, a significant number did do so. For some, it was their way out of the "barrios" and into mainstream America. For many, it was a path to unimaginable careers and lives. In addition to the 92 professional players, four locals have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, five have or are serving as MLB managers, and innumerable others have served professional baseball as coaches, administrators or in other capacities.

They began the journey in the sand lots of early Tampa, the local Little Leagues, and American Legion Ball. They followed local high school and college traditions and played for highly successful coaches and with mainstream players along the way. Those who made it to the big leagues or became famous and recognizable persona are only a small minority. As for the rest, the children and adults who enjoy the game as players and spectators, baseball is a way to be reminded of and a lesson learned about our community's cultural heritage and social fabric.

On September 25, 2021, the Tampa Baseball Museum opened in Historic Ybor City. The museum is situated in the relocated and rehabilitated home of Al Lopez. A typical cigar-worker's house built in Ybor City 1905 in Ybor City, it is the house in where Al, (also known as "El Señor" for his Spaniard heritage and gentlemanly demeanor) lived for more than 50 years, both as a child and with family as an adult. Honoring and celebrating more than 135 years of Tampa's baseball heritage, Al's house now serves as a gathering place for baseball and history fans from near and far --- a home for inspiration, education, and a living history that continues on.

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



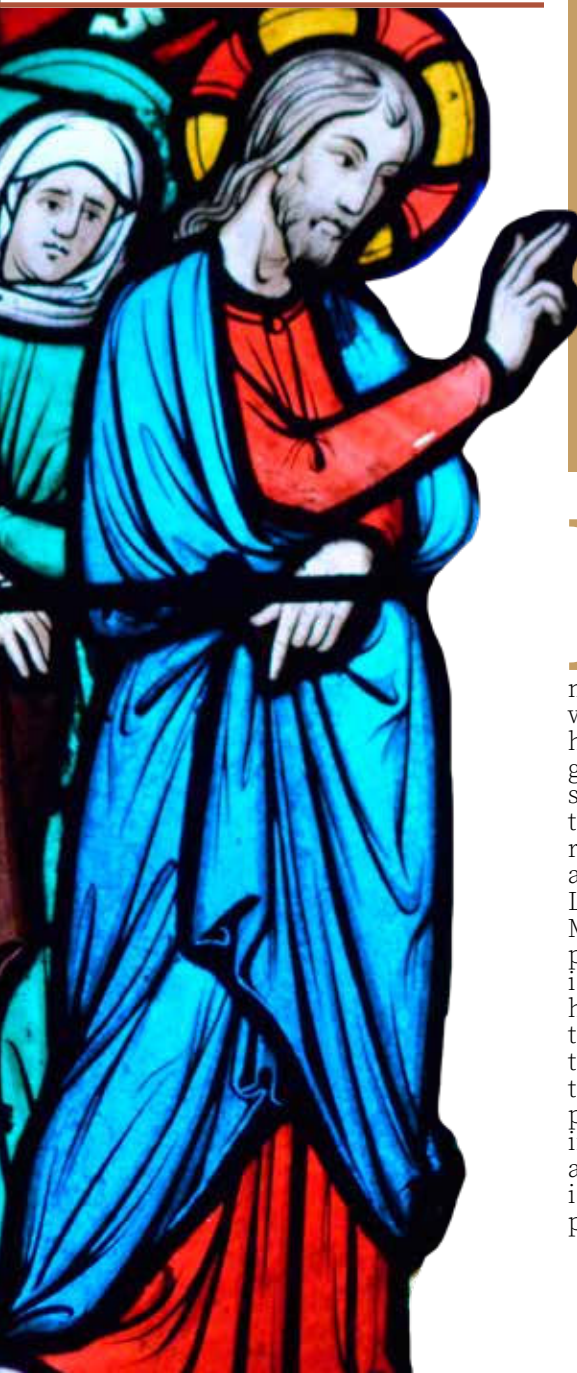
What We Should Know About Leprosy

Special Feature to The Order
**Carlotta Rotman, DLJ, MMLJ,
SMLJ, MD**

Preface from the Grand Prior: Dame Carlotta Rotman, DLJ, MMLJ, SMLJ, MD, is an internationally respected expert on Hansen's Disease, and recently retired after serving 35 years as the Director of the Chicago Regional Hansen's Disease Center at the University of Illinois. A graduate of the University of Illinois Medical School (with honors!), Carlotta completed her residency in dermatology at the university after internship at the Mayo Clinic. During her long career she participated in numerous research studies on Hansen's Disease and is the author of many publications on this disease. As a member of many local, national and international dermatological and/or medical societies, Carlotta has traveled globally to give lectures and presentations on Hansen's Disease. She is married to Dr. Carlos Rotman, a gynecological surgeon, and her daughter Robin is in attorney teaching environmental law at the University of Missouri. Carlotta joined the Order in 2010 and said in a recent conversation with me that "she was grateful and thrilled to become a member of the MHOSLJ, joining a group of people who share her passion and dedication to ever those are afflicted with leprosy".

Leprosy or Hansen's Disease (the preferred terminology today) is one of the oldest diseases known to man. It affects primarily the skin and the peripheral nerves and untreated may lead to permanent nerve damage which may result in deformity which has historically led to a resultant stigma. The goal of treatment is to diagnose the disease and treat as early as possible to prevent that eventuality. It is caused by two different bacteria which cannot be cultured on artificial media, namely *Mycobacterium Leprae* and the more recently discovered *Mycobacterium Lepromatosis*, the latter primarily affecting persons in Mexico. It is believed that worldwide 95% of people have natural immunity to the disease and that only about 5% of people are susceptible to developing it. It is thought to be transmitted mainly by respiratory droplets via close contact with an affected individual but zoonotic transmission via armadillos may also be a possibility. It is primarily seen in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the globe and it is rare in

the United States (there were a total of 159 cases reported nationwide in 2020). Historically in the US 85% of cases have been seen in foreign born individuals although this percentage has been declining over the past two decades. Affected patients may have erythematous (red), hypo, or hyperpigmented lesions which in some cases may be anesthetic (lack sensation). Patients may also have sensory and motor peripheral nerve deficits. Contrary to popular misconceptions digits do not "fall off", rather insensate digits are subject to repeated trauma which may lead to ulceration, secondary infection, and digit or limb loss. Eye problems may develop as well due to bacterial invasion or from cranial nerve damage. Diagnosis is usually made clinically and confirmed by skin (or rarely nerve) biopsy. Since the advent of multidrug antibiotic therapy with dapsone, rifampin, and clofazimine in the 1980's over 14 million people have been cured worldwide although new cases continue to develop annually. Newer drug regimens are emerging. Over the past few years, new cases are being seen in Florida among persons lacking traditional risk factors. A recent report from the CDC highlighting one of these cases and suggesting that central Florida may represent an endemic location for leprosy in the US has received a lot of national media attention of late.





Chev. Michael R. Milner,
RADM, USPHS (Ret), DHSc, PA-C, KCLJ, SMLJ

**Grand Hospitaller,
 Grand Priory of America**

Greetings to all,
 It's really hard to believe that summer is waning and our GPC event is right around the corner. By the time you read this, the GPC will be underway. Once again, it's time to develop our plan for donations from members of our Order to worthy humanitarian projects around the country and the world. We pray that our efforts will ease suffering and improve the lives of God's children. Your donations through our Annual Appeal will be put to work starting in early 2024.

As part of our transparency, the Hospitaller and Almoner working group wanted to share some highlights of projects that we funded earlier this year so that you know where your generosity is going. Thank you to the members of our working group and Commandery leaders who helped to bring these snippets and updates to us in this newsletter article. Like with any project deadline, some information gets to the desired location in time and some is delayed. The final reports for all projects are not due until early next year and some projects have literally only been underway for a short time, so if your "special interest project" is missing from this GPC Newsletter Report, I apologize.

To recap our 2023 grants, here is a short summary of the grant programs and amounts approved during our meetings in Washington DC over Labor Day weekend in 2022. These funds were distributed in early 2023.

SUMMARY: 2023 GRANTS DISBURSED

\$60,000 for the **Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem**; This is our only directly supported program in the Holy Land; The IWC provides services for hundreds of families through child care services, early childhood disease detection and prevention programs, services for at risk youth, working mothers and their children.

\$30,000 for the **Rising Star Outreach** ministries who provide direct clinical care services to hundreds of patients and families in India suffering the effects of leprosy and the complications of this horrible disease.

\$55,000 to support the **clinical care services** to leprosy patients at our Order of St Lazarus clinics in Morelia and Irapuato Mexico.

\$30,000 to **Love, Hope in Action** Homeless Program in Florida; this grant will help build a shower and laundry facility for homeless individuals in SE Florida.

\$18,000 to continue to fund our **Grand Priory of America Matching Grants** program; this program provides up to \$3000 for Commandery's and \$1500 for Delegations to match their locally disbursed funds to further local charitable programs that our members support both financially and with "rolled up sleeves".

\$25,000 to provide direct medical supplies to a new **Order of St. Lazarus Clinic in Tanzania**, Africa. This clinic is has been built and is being furnished with the help of the United Methodist Church and members of our SE Commandery and these funds will provide critical medical supplies needed to open their doors in the coming months.

\$5,000 to the **homeless ministry** at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City; this program provides meals, shelter, clothing and connections to clinical services for homeless and disadvantaged in NYC.

\$10,000 to the **Georgia Transplant Initiative** project which will extend the reach of Organ Donation and Transplant education to marginalized folks in rural Georgia. With high rates of chronic disease that lead to end stage renal disease and other medical maladies, this targeted outreach will go more deeply into places that have low rates of transplant services. (Year one of two year request)

\$10,000 for the **Texas Children's Transplant Initiative** in Spring Texas. Our Grand Priory has supported this program in the past to help build rooms at a facility that helps pediatric transplant patients and their families while awaiting a transplant and in the immediate post-operative period. These specific funds will target very low income patients who have difficulty being able to afford the costs associated with this critically important period of time before and right after a transplant surgery.

\$25,000 for **Amy's House**, another pediatric transplant housing facility in Temple, Texas with large numbers of very low income patients who need help during the pre and post op transplant period. We have supported Amy's House in the past through sponsorship of patient room furniture.

\$20,000 for the **Legacy Donor Foundation** in Louisiana to support their targeted outreach efforts promoting the value and importance of becoming an organ donor to young members of our society.

\$9,000 to the **New Orleans, Louisiana homeless water station** project; this project will fund two water stations where homeless folks can get clean drinking water and connections to additional needed services.

\$20,000 to the **Ascensia Homeless Project** in Los Angeles, California. These funds will help fund a new van with our Order's Logo so that homeless workers can reach more homeless folks with nutrition, water, clinical care services and linkage to other community programs.

\$15,000 to support our **Grand Priory's Emergency Ukrainian Relief** efforts for medical supplies and other humanitarian relief needs using our collaboration with our Order's Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe, based in Germany.

\$10,000 to fully fund our **Grand Prior's Discretionary/Emergency Relief Fund**. To provide our Grand Prior with funds to support emergent and urgent needs between our national grant funding cycles.



Tanzania Medical Supply Project

The St. Lazarus United Methodist Hospital project continues to forge ahead. At the 2022 GPC in Washington D.C., a donation of \$25,000 was approved to support this exciting new project built by Rev. David Juliano, SChLJ and his congregation from Sebring, Florida in partnership with the Rev. Fernando Matsimbe, a missionary serving in the Tanzania Conference of the United Methodist Church. As the projected cost of supplying the hospital was approximately \$200,000, it wasn't quite clear the best way to apply these funds.

As Providence would have it, shortly after the GPC, our Grand Prior, the Chev. John Byrnes, was at a meeting of other chivalric organizations and NGOs in Orlando, Florida. There he met Joe Norwood, a prospective member. The Grand Prior shared with Joe the story of our hospital project in Tanzania and Joe put us in touch with Project C.U.R.E.. Project C.U.R.E. is the world's largest distributor of donated medical equipment and supplies to resource-limited communities across the globe, touching the lives of patients, families and children in more than 135 countries.

Here's how the program works: after initial conversation and application process between Project C.U.R.E. and a potential partner, Project C.U.R.E. will send an assessment team to visit the medical facility. Members of their assessment team will compile a comprehensive report outlining the needs and potential of the medical facility visited; after the report is shared with the partner organization and a final packing list is approved, a receiving agent will be identified and the shipping container will be packed. The approximate value of items contained is between \$350,000 and \$400,000 US. (You must admit that this is a huge return on our investment.)

We are happy to report that the needs assessment planning stage was completed in the spring of this year with a glowing report. We have now transitioned to the logistics phase. The packing list has been completed and approved by representatives of the Order and the new hospital. A receiving agent has been identified and the shipping container was filled on August 22, 2023 and is pending shipment from Charleston, SC as you read this. Once the shipping container leaves the US port it takes approximately 60 days to reach the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. It is now expected to arrive on/about November 2, 2023.

It is fully our hope and expectation that the St. Lazarus United Methodist Hospital will be open for business, supplying life-saving medical care to the over 500 families in the Kigoma region of Tanzania before the end of 2023. Thanks to all who have supported the St. Lazarus United Methodist Hospital!

Rising Star Outreach Leprosy Clinical Program in India

What a year it has been! And what a gift it has been to us and thousands of people in India that we have been able to continue to foster this meaningful partnership with The Order. Since 2008, you have been one of our most valued partners in bringing awareness to this disease, healing to those affected by it, and creating the slow but steady change of heart towards a much-feared and stigmatized disease. The people we serve as some of the poorest of the poor and most forgotten people on earth, yet with your help, they have been cared for, loved, treated, and felt *seen*. This can create the greatest impact of all. Your support has profoundly impacted the lives of those we serve.

Just as a review, in 2022, we provided over 66,000 medical services to leprosy-affected persons and communities. This included 15,198 leprosy screenings to help prevent the spread of and degeneration from the disease, resulting in finding 138 new cases. On a smaller scale but just as laudable, it is worth noting that, through our partnership with Karpaga Vinayaga Medical College Hospital and your help, eight individuals received cataract surgery, restoring vision that is frequently lost among leprosy patients. That's just a small example to show that, together, we are literally healing the "leper" and restoring sight to the blind. We are on track to deliver a similar level of clinical services in 2023.

We hope that someday soon, you all can visit our programs and meet many of these individuals face to face. We know it will be life-changing when you can see the immense needs first-hand, but also when you will be able to feel the tremendous love and gratitude from these patients and their communities. Please know this offer is continually on the table, and we would love to work with you on setting up a trip for members of the Order.

We are thankful for the attention and empathy that you give to these individuals and communities. It is a beautiful privilege to watch them rise above their circumstances, find healing, and live healthy lives. Thank you for your excellent work to promote this healing and empower these individuals to soar. We hope to continue this partnership well into the future.

Love and Hope in Action

LAHIA is the only facility in Martin County, Florida that is providing services to those who are experiencing homelessness. They provide showers 6 days per week and laundry services 5 days per week but had limited capacity due to the size of their hygiene facility. A \$30,000 grant was provided to assist this SE Florida homeless shelter in building a new bathroom, shower and laundry facility. In June 2023, they began construction of the facility with an estimated completion date of mid-October 2023. They were unable to raise enough capital to fund this project in its entirety, and will be requesting additional funding for this coming year to finalize the work needed for this facility.

Georgia Transplant Foundation:

On behalf of the Georgia Transplant Foundation's (GTF) Board of Directors, we sincerely thank you for your generous grant of \$10,000 to benefit pediatric and adult organ transplant candidates, recipients, living donors, and their families in the state of Georgia. These generous funds directly benefit families affected by organ transplantation by helping us increased our outreach efforts and awareness to the local community.

We are excited to share our progress with you, as we are half-way through the year of utilizing the grant awarded to us by the Order. Our short-term goals through this grant are to increase GTF's presence/visibility throughout the state, maintain a regular presence at health fairs and conferences, and increase the number of Georgians served by our programs. Our long-term goals for this grant are to make information about transplantation and support services easily available to all Georgians.

Please see the following for a breakdown of outreach and awareness activities our staff has been able to take part in through the first half of the 2023 calendar year:

- Lobby Day at Davita Dialysis Center, McDonough, GA on 2/22/23
- Lobby Day at Davita Dialysis Center, Decatur, GA on 3/9/23
- Macon Trends in Transplant Healthcare Education Conference on 3/25/23
- In-service with the Giving Kitchen on 4/17/23
- Living Donor Awareness Baseball Game on 4/25/23 – We partnered with the Living Liver Foundation and the Atlanta Braves to bring more than 280 members of the community together at the Braves vs. Marlins game and bring awareness to a stadium full of people about Living Organ Donation
- Couples Enrichment Retreat in Saint Simons on 4/28/23
- In-Service with Emory Healthcare Living Donor Nurse Coordinators on 5/4/23 ▶▶

- In-Service at Piedmont Healthcare with social workers on 5/30/23
- Kidney Expo on 6/10/23
- In-Service with Emory Healthcare with social workers on 6/13/23
- NKF Collaboration for the Ending Disparities in CKD Leadership Summit 6/13
- Mentor Training (virtual) with patients across the state on 6/25
- Meeting with Atlanta faith-based leaders in August to discuss opportunities for awareness within the African American community.
- Augusta Trends in Transplant Healthcare Education Conference on 8/19/23
- Upcoming: Southeastern Kidney Transplant Coalition Expo on 9/28/23
- Upcoming: Atlanta Trends in Transplant Healthcare Education Conference on 10/28/23



Loyola University at Rayburn Prison Project

The prison education program strives to bring the full Loyola experience to the prison and integrate the students into our community, thereby contributing to Loyola University New Orleans' mission to welcome students of diverse backgrounds, prepare them to lead meaningful lives with and for others, to pursue truth, wisdom, and virtue and to work for a more just world.

Accomplishments to date in year one:

- Received over 200 prisoner applications
- Convened a working group of 20 leaders across campus
- Partnered with the Loyola Center for Ethics and Economic Justice to offer a personal finance workshop taught by Loyola undergraduate students in the prison
- Offered new student orientations with presentations from Loyola's Vice President of Mission and Identity and the Office of Accessible Education Established the Rayburn Scholarship Fund
- Secured \$2 million in grant funding to support prison education
- Hired 1 new faculty member and 1 new staff member

New Orleans Homeless Water Project

The \$9000 funding for this project was to install two water hydration stations in needed areas of New Orleans for use by homeless individuals. Despite some early year permitting delays, it is reported that the two stations which we funded were finally installed and were available for use during this

past hot summer to hundreds of individuals. Plaques denoting our support were installed as well.

Legacy Donor Foundation

Legacy Donor Foundation is the grateful recipient of a \$20,000 grant from The Order of St. Lazarus that has helped build our Youth Awareness Program on Organ Donation. Legacy is excited to report we have launched our digital program using the Thinkific Platform to train teachers and Driving School instructors so they can provide their students with in-depth knowledge and information needed to understand the donation process. Following their training, teachers receive a certificate of completion. The instructors can select the teacher-guided or the "teach for me option" to utilize the narrated training. We have included interactive training, games, a Donor Deck, videos with donor/recipient stories and educational materials broken down by topic. The programs start with a video welcome by the First Lady of Louisiana, Donna Edwards, with three different but equally encouraging messages for each audience: classroom teachers, Driver's Ed instructors and students. Each welcome video has a specific message that serves as an introduction to the areas of youth training, including a train-the-trainer program for instructors. We utilize eight QR codes for each highlight video, including transplant recipients, living donors and donor families. These videos share stories like Savannah, who received a liver transplant a few weeks after high school graduation and is now married with a sweet baby boy, and donor mom, Angie, who talks about her son Cam, a cheerleader in his senior year who gave the gift of life. Cam always said that he believed everything happens for a reason, and now, his mom does, too! The support of the Order of St. Lazarus has helped the Legacy Donor Foundation with the digital platform and the Donor Deck, a deck of cards containing general Q&A, fast facts, myth vs. fact scenarios, and audio stories. Instructors can utilize sections of the Donor Deck together or use each separately to help students understand different aspects of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Having a conversation about donation can be difficult, and knowing how to start the conversation may be the most challenging part. The Donor Deck was designed to help teachers in various settings begin conversations about organ, eye, and tissue donation with their students. Each driving school in Louisiana will receive a

deck to utilize as a teaching resource. Instructors can download teaching aids, quizzes and games online at organawareness.org/drivers-education.

The American Association of the Order of St. Lazarus generously supported our Drivers Education video and curriculum on organ, eye and tissue donation in 2010-2012. This funding allowed us to create the first youth-educating-youth training video and paved the way for other states to follow after it was presented at the DLA conference. It also gave LDF a foundation to continue building youth programs. We have enjoyed our relationship with The Order of Saint Lazarus.



Children's Transplant Initiative

- CTI opened up their 7th hospitality apartment in March, 2023 with the help of the Grand Priory of America through the American Association of St. Lazarus.
- CTI partnered with Transplants for Children in San Antonio, shared our hospitality housing model with them, and helped them secure 2 pediatric transplant hospitality apartments in 2023.
- CTI has expanded their Financial Assistance program to include Children's Health hospital in Dallas, and are hoping to include Cook Children's hospital in Ft. Worth and Dell Children's hospital in Austin.

Amy's House Children's Transplant Lodging Facility

As reported to us by the CEO in mid-February, 2023, the \$25,000 grant from AASL is being used to help those who need children's transplant lodging and support services but have limited abilities to underwrite the needs of the child's family. The facility does not charge for services and rely on donations from patients, interested individuals and grants such as ours to help operate Amy's House. The facility, located in Temple, Texas near the Baylor Scott and White Medical center has 8 rooms with a double and twin bed, recliner, refrigerator, TV, private bath with walk in shower and fresh towels and linen. Guests have access to communal amenities like a fully equipped kitchen, laundry room, cleaning supplies, dedicated shelf space in a central refrigerator and pantry, Chaplain Services and a meditation room. Transplant candidates, recipients, living organ donors, caregivers and family members can use the facility while being evaluated for transplant, before and after transplant and when returning to the area for follow up care.





Ascensia Homeless Project in Southern California

Ascensia received a generous donation of \$26,000 (\$20,000 from AASL and \$6000 local matching grant) from The Order in February 2023. They purchased a gently used KIA Sportage for staff to use to conduct street outreach and engagement, to visit newly housed clients and deliver much-needed food, and to transport people to vital appointments in areas where Ascensia has expanded services in Los Angeles County. This KIA vehicle allowed Ascensia to successfully serve approximately 200 additional unhoused or recently housed clients ranging from Long Beach to Lancaster and from Torrance to Arcadia. Ascensia is grateful to The Order for your critical support.



Infant Welfare Center, Jerusalem

The Nursery welcomed the children from January 2023. The number reached up to 40 children.

This year we implemented the third summer camp during June and July. The first five months before the summer camp we managed to prepare children who are leaving us to go to school. We implemented our educational curriculum through activities for all the ages. Thanks to St. Lazarus Order, we were able to accept children from poor Christian families who are not able to pay the full fees. One case was a child diagnosed with autism after spending several months at our center. We managed to direct the family to the right path, now he is in a specialized center. Our activities with the children aimed at increasing their motor skills, raise their intelligence, increasing cognitive functioning, and sculpt their personality and behaviors. Raising awareness for the parents is one of our main goals. Therefore, we provide awareness sessions in a regular basis about raising the children and the importance of the first years in the life of children. In addition, we provide healthy environment and healthy food.

At the center we celebrated several occasions with the children such as Carnival, egg hunting and others.



In summer, we opened our doors for the third summer camp. Nearly all the children who participated in the last two years registered also this year. The ages were from 4 years to 12 years old. New ideas were implemented in order to develop the mental health resilience of the children. The theme this year is about Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) for children.

NLP describes the fundamental dynamics between mind (neuro) and Language (Linguistics) and how their interplay affects our body and behavior (programming). At NLP for kids we provided practical solutions to help overcome emotional challenges, to increase confidence and self-esteem and therefore enable children to reach a greater learning potential. During the two months we worked with an NLP coach to build self-confidence and emotional balance. The sessions with children were four times a week. Moreover, we helped them to overcome their fears and sharpen the senses for effective communication.

A specialist of NLP for kids was hired to implement activities for the children every day. This included buying educational toys and providing various stationary. The specialist built a program and schedule for all the activities. These activities enabled the children to talk about their feelings and how they react to problems. All this was done through playing and painting with the help of the teachers and the volunteers.

Multiple field trips to entertaining places in Jerusalem were held this year, a tour to the Old City with a guide, a tour through the Gates of the Old city. Children learned how to connect things together by looking at the papers and then finding them during their tour. In addition, they learned about the historical places in the Old City like the Holy Sepulcher.

A dance teacher was hired to teach the children folklore dancing. A youth athletic trainer was hired to increase our children's fitness level. ▶▶



Summary of the main outcomes and impact that have been undertaken so far this year through the generosity of the Grand Priory of America, Order of St. Lazarus:

- Developed creativity and thinking Skills
- Taught problem-solving skills
- Improved literacy (vocabulary, basic reading)
- Improved self-reliance through new skills
- Improved eye and hand coordination
- Social and Behavioral Development by overcoming fears and reducing stress

Children have spent all summer at our center from 8am until 3pm. Christian Mothers were able to work in the Holy City knowing their children were getting expert child development services from our Center. We provided three meals per day for those in our care. 62 children from 4 to 12 years of age from the Old City of Jerusalem were served this summer.

The Remedial Education Program for Youth

In order to reduce the drop outs of the youth from schools, we provide support lessons to strengthen the weak points in specific subjects so they can at least finish school. We are working to improve the marks of the students in and encourage them to finish schools. The situation after the Pandemic is serious and we are facing problems with the youth. Hopefully, we can get more funds to work on the psychological side of the Youth and their Mothers. All the youth who attended our classes have passed their exams.



Meal Distribution to the Elderly in The Old City

We restarted in distributing hot meals for the Elderly of the Christian Families in the Old City. Every day we distribute 25 hot meals for those who are staying at home alone either sick or cannot cook. During the year 2020 we were closed and could not distribute meals. This project depends entirely on donations. With continued funding we can continue this project because there is more demand from the elderly living alone in the Old City of Jerusalem.



NEW YORK CITY CADRE

St. Patrick's Cathedral Homeless Project in New York City

Utilizing a grant of \$5000, The New York Cadre has been able to aid Our Lady's Hands Homeless Outreach. The funds were used to purchase 1,200 care packages for the homeless in Midtown Manhattan including nearly 600 migrants. The Care packages included toiletries, socks, footwear, blankets and food gift cards. St. Patrick's Cathedral volunteers and members of the NY Cadre, along with His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Fr. Salvo, Rector, brought these care packages to migrants and homeless in May of 2023.



Watch a Video about this project!



Unidos Somos Iguales

This project was funded with a \$1500 matching grant from the Delegation of Mexico and one from the AASL along with a personal commitment of \$2000 from two of our members who took a personal interest in the project for a total of \$5000. Unidos is Mexican nonprofit which works with individuals with disabilities, expanding their ability to better engage in society and bring about a more civil and conscious society.



Ukraine Emergency Relief Grant

I refer readers to the great article in this newsletter from our Grand Prior who has been intimately involved in international partnerships to amplify our grant of \$15,000 coupled with his Grand Prior's Emergency Discretionary Grant of \$10,000. Funds were used to deploy needed medical supplies and landmine induced amputation support for the modern day "leprosy limb loss" associated with the unprovoked Russian invasion into Ukraine over a year ago. The world has not seen this level of limb loss since World War I.



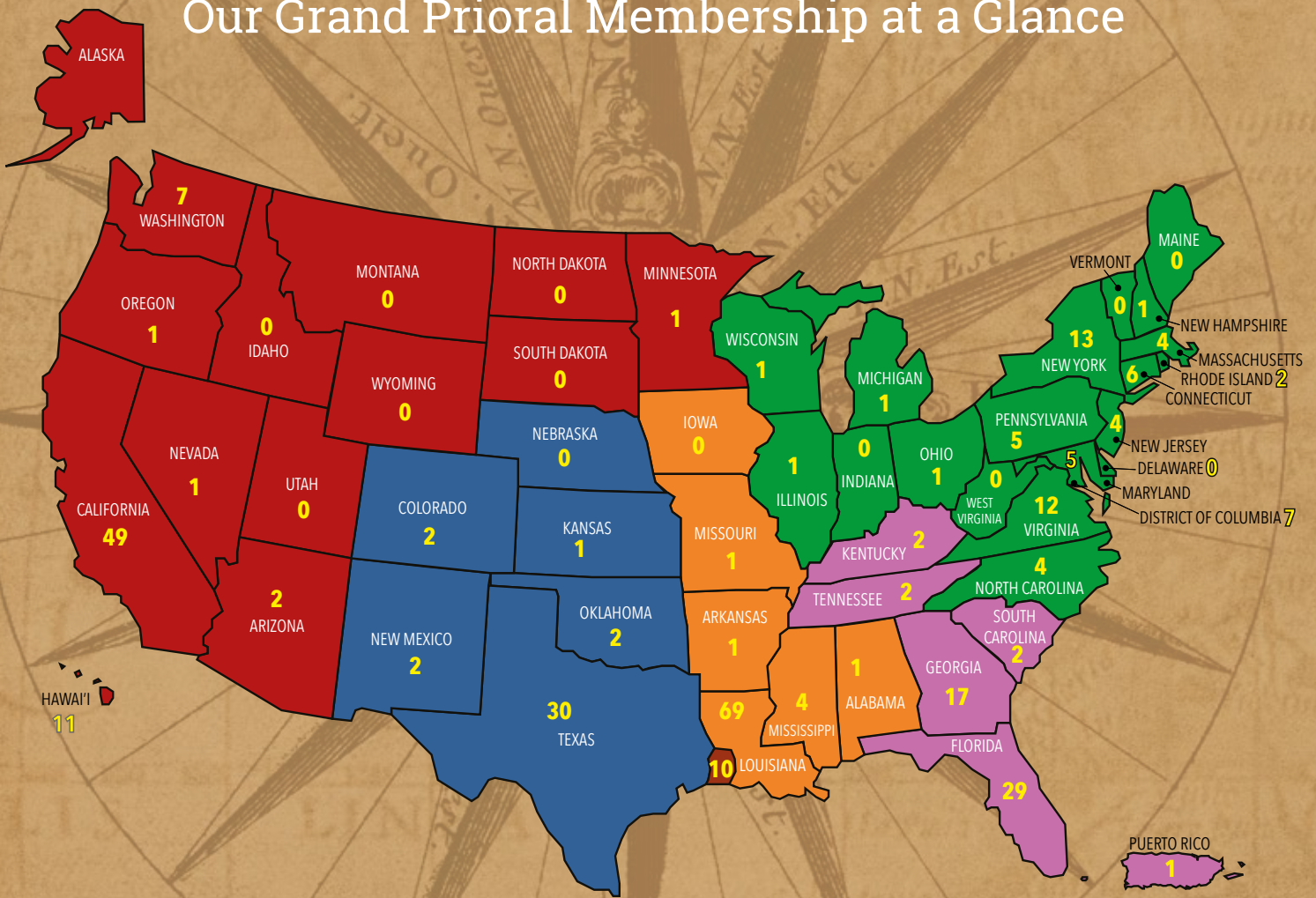
This is just a snapshot of some of the projects we funded starting in January 2023 with your donations. Most of these projects will continue through the remainder of this year and several will be considered by our Hospitaller/Almoner Working group at the GPC for sustainment funding starting in 2024.

Looking ahead to 2024, at this point in our annual cycle, it is clear that our Pentecostal Appeal donations are substantially below where we were at this time last year. For all of 2022, just over \$179,000 was donated, but as of this writing in late August 2023, we have not yet hit \$150,000! We had a nearly \$180,000 shortfall in 2022 between what was requested by our Hospitaller/Almoner Working Group for funding with what was the trend for 2022 donations. As was briefed last year by myself and our AASL Vice Chancellors for Finance during our GPC in Washington, there was agreement to tap into our endowment funds to amplify our member's donations expectations, due to the clear need that was visible in the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic. The financial advisors of our Grand Priory have already warned us about market declines that will make any additional funding from the endowment impossible this year. I hope that all members who take the time to read this newsletter will make an extra commitment to dig a little deeper in support of our charitable giving in the coming weeks. It is very likely that no final AASL board decision will be made in our 2024 final grant funding during the GPC in Tampa; we will likely use a "Tiered system" again this year as we did during the pandemic, prioritizing the grant applications based on need, impact and opportunities to promote our Order to others.

Imagine how much more we could do if ALL our members gave the suggested "Twice their annual dues" donation. Senior leadership and I remain optimistic that our members will rise to the occasion to raise their giving level and bring our "Lazarometer" over to the top. Don't forget that donations can be made at www.st-lazarus.us/giving.

Patty and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Tampa at the GPC!

Our Grand Prioral Membership at a Glance



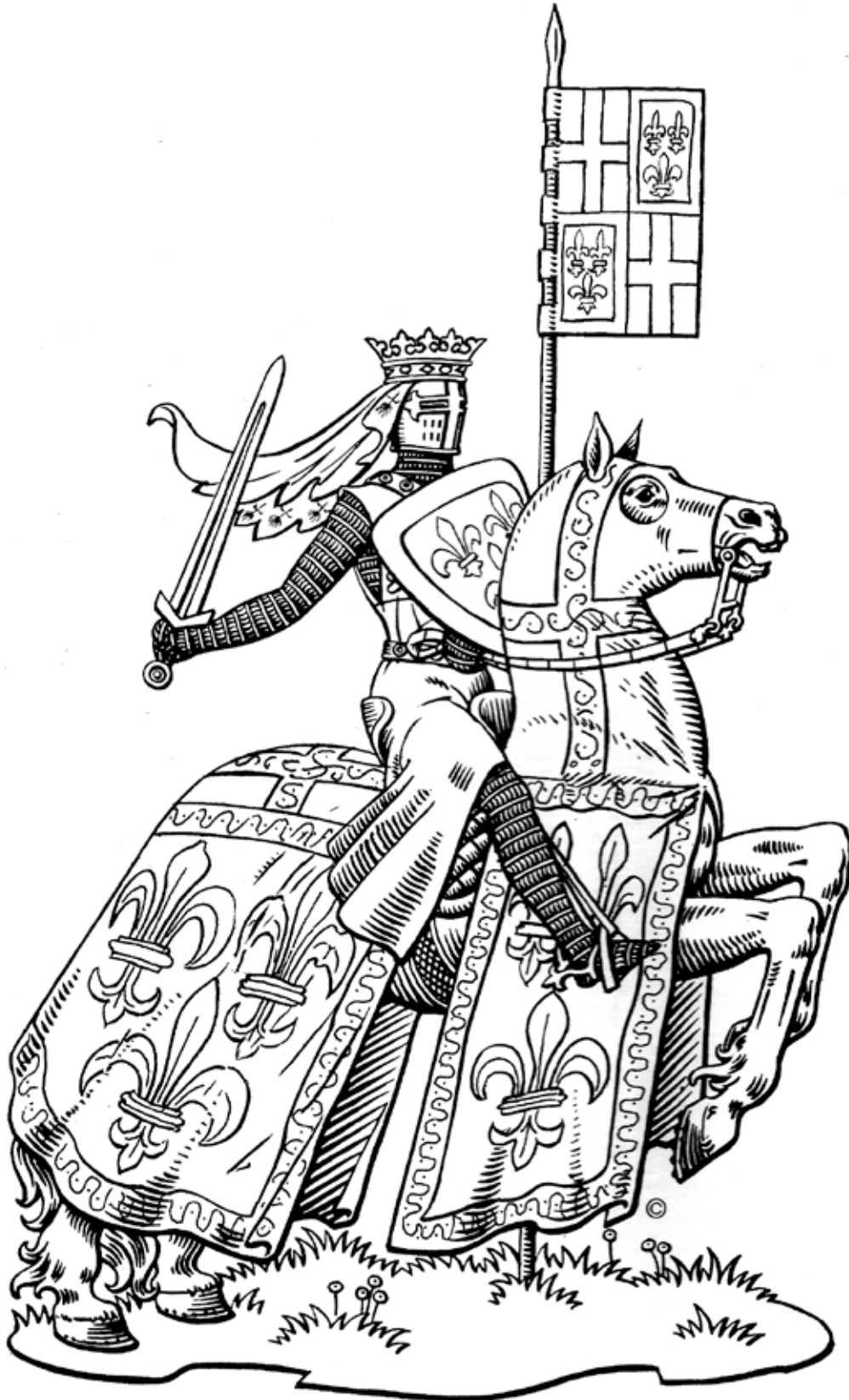
The Mission Statement of the Grand Priory of America

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.

Our mission is accomplished by an active Christian membership of lay and clergy men and women who support our goals through commitment of their time, effort, prayer, and charitable contributions. Members are dedicated to the historic principles of Christian chivalry and Hospitaller works.

Please use these pages to jot down anything that catches your attention.

Long meeting? A bit of free time? Make it look like you're taking notes. We won't tell.



Artwork by T.A. Keith-Hill

"LAZARUSPEAK"

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- COMMANDERY
- HERALD
- RECEIVER
- ATAVIS ET ARMIS
- POSTULANT
- HOSPITALLER
- BAILIFF
- MARSHALL
- GRAND PRIOR
- GRAND MASTER
- DELEGATION
- CUSTOS
- AIDE DU CAMP
- CADRE
- SCRIVENER
- BALLIWICK
- CONSOEUR
- CONFRERE
- BANNER BEARER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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PAGE 18-20: Images compiled from commandery reports by Mike Milner.

PAGE 23: Map information: Col. John Halloran; Background: Image by Dorothe from Pixabay

PAGE 27: Puzzle generated by thewordsearch.com

Lazarite Heraldry Cheerfully Illustrated

By Michael Ross & David Juliano | Illustrated by Brian Abshier



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THE PRAYER OF THE ORDER

Almighty God, who dost choose 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.

