



THE ORDER

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem



Chaplains Assemble!

Learn about our spiritual leadership

The Green & Scarlet

Cardinal Gregory gets mantle of The Order

Intercession Assured

Chaplain reflects on praying for others

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Priory of America



Dr. Juan José Francisco Sal Del Va
Dra. Gloria Imelda León m

13



16

INSIDE

- 3 The Grand Prior looks ahead for 2024
- 4 The Ecclesiastical Grand Prior reflects on The Transfiguration of Jesus
- 5 Our Chaplain General introduces us to the Chaplain Corps
- 6 Monthly giving for our Pentecostal Appeal launches online.
- 7 One of our chaplains shares the need and power of intercessory prayer
- 8 The Grand Prior in Canada invites all to their Chapter General.
- 9 A familiar face will assist the Grand Master as the new Grand Commander
- 10 Meet some of our new postulants
- 11 Get ready for Newport Beach, the site of our next Grand Prioral Council in 2024.
- 12 Our chaplains take part in a Zoom chat
- 13 A manual for medical professionals from our Mexican delegation
- 14 Updates from around The Grand Priory and its Sub Delegations
- 16 Cardinal Gregory receives members in audience at St. Matthew's Cathedral



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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

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Good Works Ahead in 2024

Dear friends,
The holidays are over, school has long since restarted and for those of us still working the daily grind continues. Those that may follow with curiosity the Chinese horoscope know that 2024 is the Year of the Dragon, predicting authority, prosperity and good fortune which I think all of us would like to have! But all truly good things take careful planning and hard work to accomplish and not just a reliance on horoscopes, and this year the Grand Priory of America has some good plans lined up.

Our mission and goals haven't changed – help those less fortunate and in need. How we get there, though, is changing somewhat this year. All of you know by now we are reallocating 50% of what we all give for our Pentecostal Appeal back to our local jurisdictions to support local charitable projects. This not only enhances our exposure within our own local communities (recruitment) but can also reengage those members who may wish to get more involved on a local level rather than on a national or international level (retention). When you couple this with the dues “thirds” that are already returned annually to each sub jurisdiction that can add up to a sizable amount of grant funding available to your local communities. This expanded plan to help those in need in our own communities only works if each of us pays our dues by March 31 each year and contributes at least twice the amount of our dues to the Pentecostal Appeal by December 31 of each year, now made easier than ever with up to a 12-month deferred giving plan, also previously announced.

Our international funding continues with our support of the Infant Welfare Center in Jerusalem and leprosy programs in Mexico and India. We are working with other partners on the Tanzania hospital project and more will be announced about this later this year. Our auction of the original paintings of “The 2023 Lazarian Legacy – Portraits for Peace” (michaelgraciano.com) and subsequent sales of limited-edition prints raised over \$15,000 for our Ukraine Relief Support Fund.

If we all follow our vow of “I shall serve” and honor the financial commitments we all made when we joined the Order of St. Lazarus, we can do so much more. In 2023

we achieved just a 69% rate of members contributing to the Pentecostal Appeal, which left so many proposed programs unfunded or underfunded and this is preventable.

The Order of St. Lazarus sponsored an international Heads of Jurisdiction Meeting and Pauline Pilgrimage in Malta this past February 5-12, 2024. It was truly a memorable event, starting with two days of academic presentations, including one by our own David Rease, CLJ, followed by Heads of Jurisdictions and Hospitaller meetings. On the Friday following these meetings, we joined the pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Paul in Rabat, including a visit to the Grotto and Crypt of St. Paul beneath the Basilica and a tour of the nearby catacombs. Our visit also included a trip to Hagar Qim, a World Heritage site of ruins older than Stonehenge. It concluded with a visit and lunch at the Torri ta-Lanzun hosted by the members of the Grand Commandery of the Castello in Malta.

There were more than 120 people attending this pilgrimage and meeting, and it concluded with a fantastic gala dinner on Saturday night. The highlight of the dinner was the announcement by our Grand Master, Don Francisco de Borbon Graf von Hardenberg, GCLJ, that Chevalier Ken Moritsugu, GCLJ, our own Grand Prior Emeritus, had been appointed as the new Grand Commander for the Order of St. Lazarus, replacing the retiring Grand Commander, Chevalier Ted White, GCLJ, of Canada. It was a spectacular evening, and this appointment was a fitting ending for a wonderful week in Malta! We also had the privilege of having Archbishop Michael Pennisi (Monreale, Sicily), the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior of the Order of St. Lazarus, in attendance at our services and events. Those members of the GPA attending this pilgrimage were Chevalier John Byrnes and Dame Anna Byrnes, Chevalier Ken Moritsugu, Dame Marny Gilluly and David Rease. Our very good friend and Grand Prior from Canada, Dame Jane Anema, also attended this meeting.

The GPA will be hosting our annual mid-year leadership meeting in Dallas, Texas, from April 12-14 th , and our 2024 Grand Prioral Council meeting, hosted by the Commandery of the West, will take place October 24-27 in Newport Beach, California.



H.E. The Chevalier John F. Byrnes,
GCLJ, GMLJ, GCMLJ

Grand Prior,
Grand Priory of America

The final plans are just about finished, and more information will be sent when available, but the room block is now open, so book your rooms before the block rate is gone!

I look forward to working with all of you this year in our quest to help those in need here in the US and around the world. Together we can do so much more if all of us honor what we committed to do as ladies and gentlemen and Knights and Dames when we held the sword during a Vesper service and said, “I shall serve”.

I wish you and your families a healthy and safe 2024! ✨

Transfiguration: "...a glimpse into the future"

The liturgy of the Second Sunday of Lent is polarized on the image of two mountains, privileged places that God chooses to reveal himself: Mount Moriah reminds us of the sacrifice of Abraham and Tabor the transfiguration of Jesus Christ.

One is a scene of sacrifice, the other is a scene of glorification. It is a very significant juxtaposition that highlights the two inseparable aspects of the Paschal Mystery: darkness and light, death and life.

Abraham, our father in faith, is presented to us at the most dramatic moment of his life. The strangeness of Isaac's unfulfilled sacrifice lies in the fact that he is the son of God's promise, which, with this command, seems to contradict the covenant made with Abraham. Despite this apparent contradiction, Abraham obeys God and receives Isaac no longer as the son of his human abilities, but of the promise founded on God's faithfulness.

The generous gesture of Abraham's offering prefigures the infinite love of the Father, who sacrificed his Son for us, and the love of the Son, the new Isaac who lives in full obedience to the Father. God reveals himself as Love, who does not contradict himself when he sacrifices his Son to give us eternal life.

The transfiguration that takes place on a high mountain, a symbol of distance from men and women and of closeness to God, shows the beauty of the divine light that shines on Jesus and reveals his true identity and mission as the beloved Son, whom the Father will have sacrificed for our salvation and will glorify with the Resurrection. Jesus appeared to his beloved disciples in a new light, in which they understood, by the express revelation of the Father, that he was the beloved Son.

In the experience of the Transfiguration, the divinity of Christ is manifested to the disciples, not only under the sign of Truth and Goodness, but also under the sign of the Beauty that is offered to men. Jesus, the beauty of God incarnate and crucified, is transfigured, but not without glimpsing his passion and death in the background.

In the disciples who go up to the

mountain we see the search of today's man for the meaning of life and we ask ourselves how the paradoxical beauty of the Crucified and Risen One can bring salvation to this cynical and disenchanting humanity.

In the disciples who live on the mountain, we see the beautiful experience of the revelation of the Father and the beloved Son, wrapped in the cloud of the Spirit.

In the disciples who come down from the mountain, we see the need to live the faith with a sincere impulse of renewal, in the harshness of our daily existence.

The Transfiguration is a glimpse into the future to confirm the faith of the disciples in the face of the scandal of the Cross and an invitation not to fear, because God living in Trinitarian communion, an ancient and ever new beauty, reveals himself as a love that saves and overcomes the silence and loneliness of death.

The Transfiguration is an experience of fullness, harmony and peace, which helps us to keep hope alive, despite the hardship of the journey.

However, we cannot always contemplate the glorious Christ, as Peter wanted. We too must descend from our Tabor of moments of enthusiasm, to the ordinary ways of our daily life often so monotonous, insignificant, perhaps painful.

The memory of the fascinating encounter with the beauty that emanates from Jesus Christ does not make us stop in the face of our pettiness, nor scandalized in the face of our denials, but helps us to overcome them in the certainty of his divine love capable of infinite forgiveness.

The beauty of the transfiguration experience cannot be stopped while we are still on our way to Jerusalem. Divine beauty, reflected on the face of Christ, is not a possession, but a gift, and as such it must be given, not kept for oneself. We too are called to continue our pilgrimage behind the Cross of Christ to the heavenly Jerusalem, knowing that our life is beautiful and it is good to commit ourselves to the Kingdom of God.

The task entrusted to us is to contemplate the divine humanity of Christ in the sunny beauty of his face and in the whiteness of his garments; it is to listen to him as the definitive incarnate Word of God; it is to



H.E. The Most Reverend
Michele Pennisi, GCLJ

Archbishop Emeritus of
Monreale &
Ecclesiastical Grand Prior



follow him more closely as the supreme manifestation of the Father's love; it is to love him as the object of the Father's pleasure and the source of our happiness, and to share with all the Beauty that saves the soul, the world. ✦

Chaplains Serve by Looking Up and Reaching Out



H.E. The Rev. MG Razz Waff,
USA (Ret), DSM, BCC, GCLJ, OMLJ,
DMin

Chaplain General,
Grand Priory of America

In this edition of The Order, you will see an article about some of GPA's chaplains and what they do in and outside of the Order, and I will be the first to admit that I learned some remarkable things about some of them I was never aware of. What a remarkable gift we have in our Chaplain Corps! In what could be a first for GPA, not just the first member of 2024 is a chaplain, but the first two members of GPA are chaplains, and it appears a third new chaplain could also be in the pipeline. I will also add that the demographics are skewed to a much younger age bracket.

On the last weekend of April, we will see the Mid-Year Meeting of GPA, where we will bring together some hard-working members- chaplains and lay members- who, once again, at their own expense- come together for prayer and decision-making on "what's next" for the rest of the year. Part of this will also be an update with the final tuning being done for our Grand Priorial

Council in Newport Beach, California the last weekend of October.

As you read this, it should be the week before the Western Church observes Palm Sunday, with Holy Week and Easter to follow. With that in mind,

LET US PRAY: Almighty God: You give us the season of Lent to cleanse of our own iniquities to prepare us for the Resurrection of your Son our Lord, and to know him in the breaking of the Bread; so give us the strength and stamina to live the oath we took at our Vigil "I shall serve." In your name we pray.

Amen. ✨

FROM THE GRAND PRIORAL ALMONER

New Goals and New Ways to Give



H.E. Dame Mary Ann Straub,
GCLJ, DMLJ, ScrlJ, DC2ndLJ, MEd

Grand Prioral Almoner,
Grand Priory of America

This year we are introducing a new hospitaller process for charitable giving. Your sub jurisdiction will have a monetary goal calculated on the basis that each member in your sub jurisdiction gives the recommended rank/twice dues donation. Donations received by December 31, 2024, will be divided equally between your sub jurisdiction to fund local charitable projects and the AASL to fund national or international charitable ministries. For example, if each member of the Atlantic contributes at the recommended level, the Atlantic Commandery will have \$25,185 to fund local charitable ministries, and the AASL will have \$25,185 to fund national or international ministries.

Pentecostal Charitable Appeal Goals by Sub Jurisdiction

Atlantic:	\$50,370	Calcasieu:	\$8,220	Mexico:	\$5,500
South:	\$55,930	Southeast:	\$44,050	Southwest:	\$23,960
West:	\$51,610				

As members of the Order of Saint Lazarus, we are called to fulfill our mission to relieve human suffering by giving generously and sacrificially through our annual Pentecostal Charitable Appeal. In March, you will receive the traditional Pentecostal Appeal mailing. For members who wish to spread out giving, we are offering the opportunity to make your 2024 Pentecostal Charitable Appeal donation in 12 monthly recurring payments beginning in January. If you would like to ensure your sub jurisdiction reaches its goal, you're looking at the following:



Make a Miracle happen with a donation to the 2024 Pentecostal Charitable Appeal which will fund our Tier 1, 2, 3 Grants.

[Click here](#) to donate online or mail your check to the American Association of the Order of Saint Lazarus, Inc, c/o Jennifer St. Victor-de Pinho, DLJ, 38 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877.

GCLJ, KCLJ, DCLJ, ECLJ:	\$900	or	\$75.00/month
KLJ, DLJ, SchLJ:	\$830	or	\$69.17/month
CLJ, ChLJ:	\$690	or	\$57.50/month
OLJ, AchLJ:	\$550	or	\$45.83/month

Or, you may prefer:

Donat Cross 1st Class	\$15,000	or	\$1,250.00/month
Donat Cross 2nd Class	\$10,000	or	\$833.33/month
Donat Cross 3rd Class	\$5,000	or	\$416.67/month

To begin your recurring gift, login at www.st-lazarus.us and go to *Online Payments* → *Annual Pentecostal Appeal Donation* → *Donate*. While you may donate using a recurring gift anytime within 2024, each month you wait decreases the time allotted for payment. For those who wish to donate by check, mail your contribution to The American Association of the Order of Saint Lazarus (AASL), c/o Dame Jennifer St. Victor-dePinho, DLJ, 38 Peaceable Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877.

Thank you for making a significant impact on the lives of the men, women, and children our Order serves through your generosity. ✨

Intercessory Prayer for Christians

The Reverend Jean McCurdy Meade,
ECLJ, OMLJ, PhD
Grand Commandery of The South

I recently visited an old friend I had not seen for a while. He is now in his wheelchair most of the time in an assisted living facility. A professor at Notre Dame Roman Catholic Seminary in New Orleans, he has degrees from Northwestern, General Seminary, Oxford, and a Doctorate from Rome. He also served for years as the Pastor of one of the oldest and most active Roman Catholic parishes in New Orleans, St. Patrick's. Full of energy, enthusiasm and erudition, and a very good preacher, Fr. Stan Klores was a beloved dynamo who rarely rested from his labors.

Now in his 80s, but still of sound mind and faithful heart, he questioned just what his vocation could be. When retired Archbishop Alfred Hughes came to see him he asked him: What is a Christian priest with his calling to do all day in his circumstances? The archbishop replied, "Intercessory prayer." He accepted without hesitation, even joy. I asked him exactly what that means to him day by day and how he does it without growing weary in well-doing. He didn't think it was difficult, but rather, that it was a privilege. My thinking – "But that is your new vocation, with all your learning and experience?" Many of us have "prayer lists" for our daily devotions like the prayer lists of our parish for the Prayers of the People. But that is often the extent of it: mentioning the names and perhaps the plight of those who need our prayers and those we love. A vocation to intercessory prayers includes offering prayers for other people, whose names have been given to us, even those who are unknown to us personally.

Names on a list represent individuals whom God loves, so it is important, I think, to know the name of the person, not just "my mother" or "my friend." It reminds me of baptism, when the minister asks the parents "Name this child" before baptizing her or him, using their name. The Lord knows what we need before we ask and our ignorance in asking, of course, but also knows us all by name.

When we consider the prayer Jesus taught us, "The Lord's Prayer," there is intercessory prayer implied, I believe. It's a communal prayer – the prayer of the Church whether two or three gathered together or a Cathedral full. The first person plural is used throughout in addressing our petitions to Our Father. "... Give us this day our daily

bread, forgive us as we forgive others, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. But, as we say this prayer in our private daily devotions, we are actually praying for others too. We can intentionally populate the prayer with our families, friends, those who have asked us for our prayers, and all the Church throughout all the world.

Jesus certainly set an example of retreating to prayer often in his ministry, but he also specifically prayed for his disciples. When he foretells Simon Peter's denial he says first, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren." (Luke 22:31-32) Chapter 17 of John's Gospel is called the "High Priestly Prayer." He is praying for his disciples before the end of his earthly life, and not for them only but for "those who believe in me through their word." That includes the rest of us down through the centuries who have learned to believe through the continuation of their witness generation after generation. Jesus also prayed for his executioners, asking God to forgive them: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." He didn't actually say "I forgive you" to them – it was intercession on their behalf.

In the apostolic age the famous passage in the epistle of James 5:16 about the prayer of a righteous man being very efficacious – pace Martin Luther – comes to mind. Evidently one does not have to be an elder but "only" righteous to offer effective prayer for someone else.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

This passage is linked to anointing for healing by the elders and also says that the sins of the suffering one will be forgiven by the Lord because of this intervention of prayers and anointing for, "the prayer of faith will save the sick man." That is following the example of Jesus, of course, who said, "Your sins are forgiven" to the crippled man before healing him as a sign of his authority for those who questioned his ability to do the former.

St. Paul often begins his Epistles by assuring his recipients of his prayers for them. He writes to the Roman Christians

he has never met, "that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers." To the Philippians he writes, "I thank my God in all remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy..." and to the Thessalonians, "We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers."

In the Revelation to John the "golden bowls full of incense are prayers of the saints" are in front of the throne of God and the Lamb that was slain. That image reminds us of the 141st Psalm that we quote in Evening Prayer:

Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice!

That incense can be for others who have asked for our prayers, as well as for ourselves.

And considering the Psalms, the one book of the Bible in which we speak to God instead of God speaking to us, some of them bear little relationship to the circumstances of our lives, being concerned as they are with enemies, imprisonment, false accusation, and danger. But as a nun who taught me Spiritual Theology advised, we can pray those psalms of David on behalf of those in prison whether justly or unjustly, those chained by addiction, and those suffering guilt, estrangement and ridicule, whoever they may be.

Another practice in intercessory prayer is the discipline of praying for another person the moment he or she asks for our prayers, regardless of where we are, I had a dear friend, a layman, who said he always prayed with the person right away when asked for prayers. That is not just so one will remember to do it, but perhaps because, at the moment of asking, the person is most ready to receive the Lord's blessing we ask for them and/or for the one who is suffering. The last time I did that was when a person I did not know very well, whose grown son had just been diagnosed with cancer, saw me at the hardware store and told me. She was distraught. Recalling my old friend's advice, said let's pray right now – in the plumbing aisle -- and we did.

Intercessory prayer can be a intentional calling for all of us, one that we can continue as we grow older and more frail. Thank God for those Christians who have already taken this task upon them. It really helps in a time of trial to know that, in the communion of saints, there are those who intercede for us every day! ✨

Kingston, Ontario to Host 2024 Meeting

Dear colleagues,
After many hours of work and planning, the final details for the 2024 Chapter General have come together and I am pleased to formally invite you to attend. I know that the commandery team has worked hard to provide an event that will both inspire and educate those in attendance. This will be a grand opportunity to welcome our new postulants, honour those who will be receiving promotions and awards and celebrate our good works.

The preferred method for registration is to use the online links, which can be found on our website [below].

Like every organization, we have been impacted by increasing costs, but I know you will find value for the money spent with the opportunity to learn and meet members from across the Country. Some of our American colleagues will be joining us and the Grand Master has indicated that this event is on his calendar.

I look forward to being with you in Kingston. ✧



H.E. Dame Jane K. Anema,
GCLJ, GOMLJ

Grand Prior
Grand Priory in Canada



Chers collègues,
Après de nombreuses heures de travail et de planification, les derniers détails du Chapitre général de 2024 se sont assemblés, et je suis ravi de vous inviter officiellement à y participer. Je sais que notre équipe a travaillé ardemment pour organiser un événement qui inspirera et instruira tous les participants. Ce sera une occasion formidable d'accueillir nos nouveaux postulants, de rendre hommage à ceux qui recevront des promotions et des distinctions, et de célébrer nos œuvres bienfaitantes.

La méthode privilégiée pour l'inscription est via notre site web [en bas], où vous pourrez trouver les liens nécessaires.

Comme toutes les organisations, nous avons été affectés par l'augmentation des coûts. Cependant, je suis convaincu que vous trouverez que l'investissement en vaut la peine, grâce à l'opportunité d'apprendre et de rencontrer des membres de tout le pays. Certains de nos collègues américains seront également des nôtres, et le Grand Maître a confirmé que cet événement figure sur son agenda.

J'ai hâte de vous retrouver à Kingston. ✧

www.saintlazarus.ca/chapter-general



The Grand Master pictured with the new Grand Commander at the Grand Prioral Council in Washington, D.C.

Grand Master Announces The Retirement Of The Grand Commander Of The Order, And The Appointment Of Successor Grand Commander

At the biennial meeting of the Heads of Jurisdictions of our Order in Malta on 10 February 2024, our Grand Master HE the Chevalier Francisco Bourb6n Graf von Hardenberg, announced the retirement of our Grand Commander, HE The Chevalier Edward White, and his appointment to Emeritus status in recognition of his faithful and exceptional service to the Order.

At that same ceremony, the Grand Master announced the appointment of HE RADM The Chevalier Kenneth Moritsugu as the new Grand Commander of our Order. The appointments are effective immediately.

The Grand Commander serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the International Order and reports directly to the Grand Master. ✨

Meet The New Grand Commander: **Kenneth Moritsugu**

H.E. Rear Admiral the Chevalier Kenneth Moritsugu is a retired Rear Admiral in the United States Public Health Service and has served as the Surgeon General of the United States during his 37 year career in uniform. He earned his Medical Degree from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in 1971, and a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of California at Berkely in 1975. He is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians (Edinberg), the National Academy of Public Administration, the Royal Society of Public Health, the Royal Society of Medicine, as well as the Honorary Fellow of the Association of Diabetes Clinical and Education Specialists.

Chevalier Moritsugu entered the Order in Seville, Spain in 1995, and received promotions to Knight Grand Cross, with the Grand Collar, in St. Pollen, Austria in 1999. He has received the Knight Grand

Cross of Merit in 2012, and the Alan Weaver Hazelton Award in 2002. Further, he is the recipient of the Silver and Gold Crosses of Merit in 2003 and 2006, as well as the Cross of Justice in 2016, and the 20 year Meritorious Service Decoration of the Order.

Internationally, he has served as the Grand Hospitaller of the Order from 1997 through 2012, a member of the Grand Executive Council and Grand Magistral Council from 1999 through 2012, a member of the Joint Reunification Commission, and of the Evaluation and Succession Committee. In 2012, he was named Hospitaller Ambassador and Grand Hospitaller Emeritus.

As part of the Grand Priory of America, he served as the Grand Prioral Hospitaller from 1997 to 2008, Bailiff from 2008 to 2012, and Grand Prior from 2012 through 2021, at which point he retired as the Grand Prior Emeritus. He served as a member of the Board of Directors and President of the

American Association of St. Lazarus from 2012 through 2021.

Throughout his career, he has served on numerous non-profit and for-profit boards of directors. His contact details are: 1 samurai@cox.net

At his investiture ceremony, Chevalier Moritsugu addressed the gathering of senior officers, acknowledging the legacy of the Grand Commanders who preceded him and thanking the Grand Master for appointing him. He focused on his direction from the Grand Master to "grow the Order," in numbers, in visibility, and in impact. He further challenged the senior Officers to work collaboratively to achieve this goal; he committed to visiting each jurisdiction to listen to the executives and the members, and to share with them the collective knowledge, skills, and resources of our Order. Refencing the vow that he and each of us take upon our investiture into our Order: "I shall serve," he concluded with the challenge to everyone, "WE shall serve!" ✨

I SHALL SERVE

A Warm Welcome
to our New Postulants



The Rev. Raul Ernesto Ausa, AChLJ, MDiv
Episcopal
Priest
Allendale, NJ
Atlantic



**Chaplain (CPT) Reuben Timothy
Ramdath, AChLJ, DMin**
Episcopal
Active Duty Army Chaplain
Clay, NY
Atlantic



Dennis Michael Mulhaupt, OLJ, MPhil
Catholic
Commonwealth Partners, Inc. Managing Director
Pasadena, CA
West



The Very Reverend Marcos J. Gonzalez, ECLJ, CMLJ, SMLJ, MDiv, MS

Commander, Commandery of The West

GRAND PRIORAL COUNCIL 2024 · NEWPORT BEACH, CA

THE MILITARY & HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

SIEMPRE ADELANTE! ALWAYS FORWARD!

Dear Confreres and Consoeurs,
On behalf of the Commandery of the West, I am delighted to invite you to our 2024 Grand Prioral Council in Newport Beach, California, October 24 to 27, 2024. Our GPC 2024 Planning Committee has been hard at work to ensure that we have a most enjoyable and spiritually fruitful annual meeting. Since we will be in California amidst the great Missions which brought the gospel to this part of the country, our theme will be "Siempre Adelante! - Always Forward!" This was the motto of the great apostle of California, St. Junipero Serra. It is also a fitting motto for us as the Order of St. Lazarus as we continue our almost thousand year tradition of chivalry and outreach to the sick and needy of our world.

The site of our meeting in 2024 will be the fabulous [VEA Newport Beach, A Marriott Resort & Spa](#). This is a newly renovated resort property overlooking the Pacific ocean in a magnificent setting. I think you will be very pleased with the beautiful rooms, amenities and facilities of the resort. We were able to negotiate a very competitive rate of \$299 per room in a hotel in which the same class of rooms regularly sells for over \$600 per night. This is an incredible discount to our members who take advantage of early booking, which I strongly recommend.

The Newport Beach location offers many advantages to our members:

- Very close to John Wayne Airport (SNA)
- Also accessible to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- Disneyland is nearby!
- Spa, beach, hiking trails, golf, harbor cruises and so much more!

By registering as soon as possible you can take advantage of this greatly reduced rate. There is a limited block of rooms so

I encourage you to take advantage of it. The GPC registration application will be available early next year.

For our Friday evening Vigil we will be using Queen of Angels Catholic Church and for the Saturday Investiture we will use Christ Church by the Sea United Methodist Church. Both of these are near our hotel. At the Vigil we will be treated to the singing of the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey and will have the privilege of having the relics of St. Damien de Veuster and St. Marianne Cope (brought from Hawaii for the occasion) present during our prayer service.

Right across the street from our hotel is the huge Fashion Island which includes many exclusive shops as well as excellent restaurants for our Commandery dinners on Thursday evening.

Our Friday evening dining will be in a beautiful outdoor setting overlooking the Pacific and bluffs and cooled by ocean breezes. Our Hawaii Cadre will be arranging a Hawaiian/Polynesian evening of delicious dishes and beautiful entertainment. Our formal Saturday evening gala dinner will be in the resplendent ball room with a magnificent band for dancing the night away.

Our official Thursday morning excursion (optional) will be to the very interesting [Richard Nixon Presidential Library](#) and Museum. Other tours can also be arranged to the [San Juan Capistrano Mission](#) or [St. Michael's Abbey](#). Both are well worth visiting!

Our 2024 Grand Prioral Council promises to be a wonderful occasion to renew our bonds of friendship, chivalry and Christian service and have a fabulous time doing it! I hope to see you all there! ✨



HOTEL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Scan the QR Code or [click here](#).

Chaplain Corps chats about what brings them into ministry



H.E. The Rev. MG Razz Waff,
USA (Ret), DSM, BCC, GCLJ, OMLJ,
DMin

Chaplain General,
Grand Priory of America

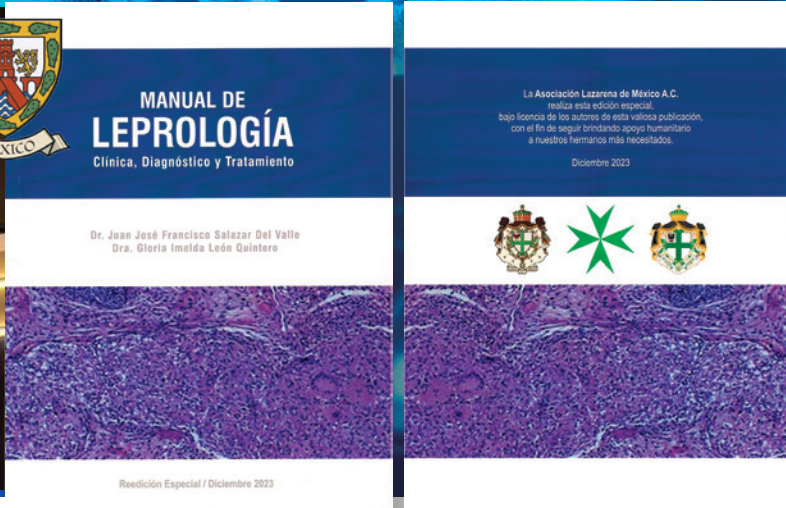
The comments below were submitted by one or more members of the Order who seemed to have enjoyed their time on the Zoom call!

Recently 12 of our Grand Priory of America chaplains gathered around laptop and phone screens for a Zoom meeting with the Editor of The Order, George Zimmerman, the the Chaplain General, Fr. Razz Waff, to discuss what brought them into the Order, what they do for the Order and /or what they do in their judicatory authorities and local communities and share time learning about each other. These chaplains included some who have been in the Order for fifteen years or more, and also included our most recent chaplains of the past two years plus our first two GPA members for 2024, who both happen to be chaplains.

The most senior chaplains on the call were Rick Miles (32 years) and Jean Meade (32 years) with the most junior chaplains being Stephen Morris (1 year), Raul AUSA (1st GPA member of 2024) and Reuben Ramdath (2nd GPA member of 2024). Five were from the Atlantic commander, four from the South, one from Calcesiu and two from the West.

As to what brought them into the Order, two of our newest chaplains, Stephen Morris and Raul AUSA stated it was a sense of heraldry, Reuben Ramdath stated that he appreciated the charitable nature of the Order. Among the work of the Order that chaplains appreciated was Pila Tulua highlighting the work of GPA in commemorating the work about the leper community of Hawaii by Fr. Damien and Mother Mary Ann Copley, the ecumenical outreach of the Order by Winston Rice and his colleagues Jean Meade and Buddy Noel. The many gifts that chaplains brought to GPA were Jean Meade's religious writings that have appeared locally in the Commandery of the South and her fellow commandery chaplain Winston Rice having been the chaplain for GPA's two most recent pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and Pedro Padra's remarkable gift to recruit secular members to GPA.

Two things were evident on our time together: This was a wonderfully energizing time for all of us, and perhaps the Chaplain General and Deputy Chaplain General may want to start doing this on a quarterly basis! ✨



After attending our customary yearly Thanksgiving Mass at our Chaplain Father José's parish on December 2nd, we had a very amiable luncheon with most of the members who live in Mexico City and their spouses.

Since the start of this year, our nuns at the clinics in Morelia and Irapuato have been visiting patients every working day, doing pastoral work, and providing them with blankets donated by Mr. Ignacio Morales, MMLJ, as well as food packages donated to us by Hérdex food packaging company. Furthermore, our M.D.s have continued providing low-cost consultations

to needy people in both clinics. It should also be mentioned that our nuns have organized Catholic Masses ending with social reunions for the benefit of the patient population and their families on certain Sundays. They have also organized some talks on health issues in alliance with other Church-related groups.

Last December, our Delegation had 100 copies printed of the recently updated "Leprosy Manual" written by our Chancellor for Irapuato, Dr. Juan José Salazar, M.D., KLJ, OML, and his co-author (and wife), Dr. Gloria Imelda León, M.D. Fifty of them were presented to our friend and ally at the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Illnesses of

the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr. Martha Angélica García Avilés, MMLJ, who is the Vice Director of the Mycobacteriosis Department (which includes leprosy and tuberculosis). She, in turn, sent manuals to the physicians responsible for the early detection of new cases of leprosy and their timely treatment in the 32 States of the Republic of Mexico.

As you may see, our edition of the manual was very professionally done. We have translated the one-page preface signed by our current Delegate, Pedro Casillas, OLJ, for your benefit, as well as the table of contents, which may be of interest mostly to M.D.'s. ✧

Preface

The Lazarene Association of Mexico, A.C. represents in our country the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, which has a presence in various European countries and Australia, as well as in the three countries of North America. This Order is an ancient Christian-inspired institution, founded in the year 1098 during the First Crusade, whose primary historical vocation has been to benefit sick and needy people, particularly those who have contracted leprosy. Although currently our dermatological centers in Morelia and Irapuato attend to people afflicted by various diseases, we continue to pay special attention to the early detection and timely treatment of those who contract any type of leprosy. It is in this context that we present this edition of the Leprology Manual written by Dr. Juan José Salazar del Valle and Dr. Gloria Imelda León Quintero. Both are eminent dermatologists, who have generously collaborated with our Lazarene Association for the past 28 years. It is our great pleasure to participate in this way in the important task of disseminating updated knowledge about this distressing disease, so that doctors and other personnel of the institutions dedicated to detecting and treating new cases and preventing its contagion, have access to this recently updated material.

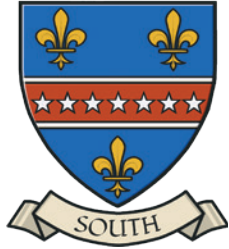
"Atavis et Armis"

Pedro Casillas Capetillo

President of the Lazarene Association of Mexico, A.C.

Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Definition
- Statistical Data
- Etiopathogenesis
- Classification
- Immunology
- Indeterminate leprosy
- Dimorphous group
- Tuberculoid leprosy
- Lepromatous leprosy
- Complications
- Erythema nodosum
- Erythema multiforme
- Necrotizing erythema
- Osteopathy
- Hansen's neuritis
- Functional exploration
- Diagnosis
- Lepromin test
- Histopathology
- Laboratory
- Differential diagnosis
- Treatment
- Treatment of reactional episodes
- Bibliography



Bastion: Helping Veterans Heal

Recently, Commander Michie Bissell joined Louise Jacobbi, Bill Coe, and Hugh Straub for a tour of Bastion, a New Orleans-based injured veteran community. The Veterans Administration does not provide all the services needed by injured veterans. Bastion seeks to address those unmet needs by providing living arrangements, therapy, meals, a community food pantry, and counseling for our local injured veterans.

Currently, 58 injured veteran households live on campus, in addition to Bastion's van service, which brings veterans from around the New Orleans metropolitan area for counseling and occupational therapy.

A particular specialty is assisting those who have sustained traumatic brain injury. Working with specialists, the Bastion occupational therapists strive to return basic life skills to the veterans in their care. A vital element of this treatment includes virtual reality. This exciting new technology assists the brain injured in improving their abilities. To enhance its treatment capabilities, Bastion will seek a grant from the Grand Commandery of the South to purchase virtual reality headsets. We understand these will cost about \$800 per unit, so we hope to provide several.

Overall, we were very favorably impressed with both the personnel we met and Bastion's physical plant. Bastion's leadership has ambitious plans for the future, and we look forward to contributing to their success. ✦

Café con Inglés: South Supports English Tutorial Apostolate

Café con Inglés is an outreach ministry of St. Anthony of Padua Church Parish and the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University New Orleans. Founded in April 2012 by Dr. Sue Weishar, JSRI Migration Fellow and a parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua, the goals of Café con Inglés are to teach English to the adult immigrant members of the parish and to build a community of faith and friendship at the parish. Café con Inglés English as a Second Language (ESL) classes meet for approximately 1.5 hours in the parish's school cafeteria after the conclusion of the 9:00 AM Spanish-language mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church, which has the largest Spanish language congregation in the New Orleans area. Before class begins at 10:30 AM, students and volunteer teachers enjoy coffee, pastries, and conversation.

Café con Inglés is staffed entirely by volunteers from the parish and Loyola's Service-Learning Program. The ESL students the program serves are largely adult immigrants from Central America who had limited formal education in their home countries—most attended school for less than eight years. Many of the male students work in construction and the majority of the female students make a living by cleaning houses or as housekeepers in local hotels.

The ESL students the program serves usually start the program with very limited English. To keep such students interested and engaged in learning the English language, so critical for an

immigrant's successful integration into their new country, the program has always emphasized basic "communicative competence" and small learning groups of one to three ESL students per ESL teacher/tutor.

The program uses a well-regarded (but expensive) workbook/text book, *Side by Side*, by Steven J. Molinsky and Bill Bliss. Its core methodology is the guided conversation—brief dialogs that engage students in meaningful conversational exchanges within carefully structured frameworks. This easy-to-use textbook incorporates the essential principles of second language acquisition (i.e. is learner-centered with a focus on communicative competence, not memorization of grammar rules or vocabulary). Because the lessons are so clearly laid out and sequenced where one lesson builds on the last, teachers need not prepare lesson plans and are usually able to grasp what is required of them after one training/orientation session with the program coordinator.

The program has always had a big emphasis on building community—i.e. helping the ESL students get to know each other and their teachers. Participants are made to feel welcomed by being greeted as they enter the classroom (i.e. the school cafeteria) and provided refreshments (coffee, juice, pastries, and fruit) supplied by the program. Everyone wears a nametag (first names only) and before class begins ESL students and volunteers stand up and introduce themselves to the class. Then the coordinator usually "interviews" a volunteer, asking the volunteer simple questions about themselves (where they

are from, what they do, their favorite hobby, etc.) After such introductions the coordinator then “quizzes” the ESL students about what they just heard. In this way ESL students learn more about the lives of their teachers and of course practice essential English language skills.

Through the course of teaching their students volunteer teachers also learn about their students’ lives, including the challenges new immigrants face adjusting to life in the U.S., how they spend their leisure time, and some of the customs and traditions in their home countries. Volunteer teachers also gain a basic understanding of the methods and strategies for teaching English to non-English speakers.

A resource table with information about other ESL classes, health services geared to low-income immigrants, and Know Your Rights information is available at every class session. Each semester the coordinator conducts a basic Know Your Rights presentation on critical information an undocumented immigrant needs to know regarding ICE and police encounters.

Through the years students have organized special “pot-luck” meals at the class site featuring dishes from their home countries. Volunteer teachers have participated in celebrations at church that honor immigrant members’ home culture and traditions, like the feast day of the patron saint of Honduras, Our Lady of Suyapa, in early February. Birthdays are celebrated and frequently the group will pray together to support a student going through health or other challenges. These activities all help build a sense of community at the church.

Over the years program facilitators have seen deep friendships develop between ESL students and with their teachers. Conducting an ESL program immediately following Sunday church service is convenient for the ESL students and helps build a sense of belonging to the parish, in addition to teaching English and learning about the U.S. and available resources.

The Grand Commandery of the South joins in the hope that other churches in the New Orleans area with large immigrant congregations consider developing a community building like Café con Inglés program at their parish. ✦

Assitant Editor's Note: This article was compiled from the initial proposal made to the Grand Commandery of the South. The Order was able to provide \$5000 in funding for the purchase of the textbooks mentioned in the article as well as prgmr supplies like whiteboards, notebooks, pens, and refreshments.

"...in prision and you visited me..."



The Grand Commandery of the South aided family members of those presently incarcerated at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola in making a visit for the Christmas season. While the bus departed early, there were many smiles as this corporal work of mercy to visit those imprisoned was undertaken. ✦

The Grand Commandery of The South 2024 Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 21

Annual participation in Unity Sunday with services at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, lunch at Arnoud’s Cottage. Your \$75 per person check is your reservation.

Saturday, March 9

Lenten bible study at Barbara and Edwin Beckman’s home 1122 Fourth St., NOLA. Food drink to be provided.

Saturday, April 20

Spring social gathering at the home of Larry & Jan Merington, 301 Sena Drive, Metairie. Cocktails & hors d’oeuvres. RSVP required.

Sunday, May 19

Brunch at Pass Christian Yacht Club (120 S. Market St.) followed by tour of Michael Harold and Quinn Peeper’s house. RSVP required. Your check is your reservation.

Saturday, June 22

Healing service at St. Raymond & St. Leo the Great Church, 2916 Paris Ave, New Orleans. Lunch TBD. Your check is your reservation.

Saturday, July 27

North Shore event at David Moore’s home, 398 Perrilloux Rd., Madisonville, LA.

Friday, September 13

Fall social gathering at Rosie’s On the Roof at Higgins Hotel, Magazine St. Food & Cocktails pay as you go.

October 24-27

Grand Prioral Council: Newport Beach, CA. st-lazarus.us/events/2024-gpc/

Thursday, November 14

Advent bible study at the WWII Museum Chapel, with refreshments afterwards. Pay as you go.

Thursday, December 5

Celebrate the feast of St. Lazarus at The Shrine followed by dinner at the New Orleans Country Club. Your check is your reservation.

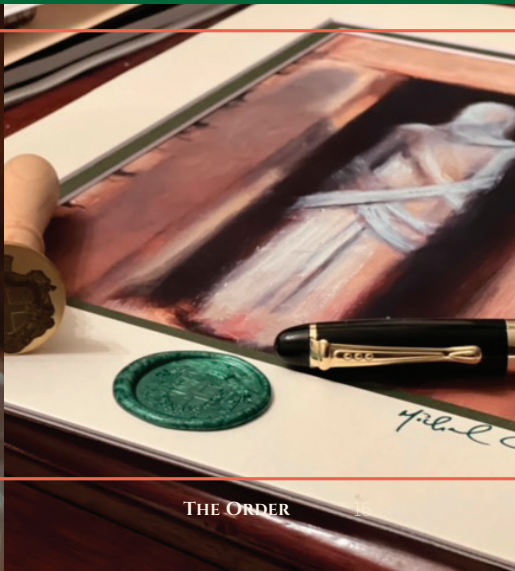


Cardinal Gregory Receives Mozzetta of The Order as Spiritual Counsellor

November 18, 2023, senior members of The Order of St. Lazarus and one of our newly professed were received in audience with His Eminence, The Most Rev. Wilton Cardinal Gregory of Washington, D.C. While there, he was presented with the ecclesiastical mantle of The Order. Known by its Italian nomenclature, the *mozzetta* is a garment worn by Catholic prelates and clergy professed in various organizations to indicate their membership and ecclesiastical rank. In the Order of Saint Lazarus, assistant chaplains and chaplains don the black mozzetta with green cross of St. Lazarus. Senior chaplains and/or bishops in the order wear a mozzetta of amaranth purple. Cardinals receive the green cross upon a mozzetta of scarlet. This deep red color is indicative of their hierarchical rank and suggests the theological significance of the martyrs of The Church, unafraid to shed their blood for The Faith. The mozzetta is a component of choir dress.

Along with the cassock, white surplice or *rochet*, clergy wear the mozzetta in public prayer or administration of the Sacraments outside of The Holy Mass. Following the initial presentation of the mozzetta in the Great Hall of St. Matthew's Cathedral, those in attendance visited with His Eminence and paused for a photograph.

Pictured from left to right are C. W. Gilluly, GCLJ Grand Marshal Emeritus; Marny Gilluly, GCLJ, Grand Chancellor; Danielle Moni Zoobo, OLJ, a newly professed member; The Rev. Razz Waff, GCLJ, Chaplain General; His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory, GCLJ, Spiritual Counsellor; John Byrnes, GCLJ, Grand Prior; Gregory Duncan-Peters, KCLJ, Deputy Vice Chancellor; Lisa Kory, CLJ; Hung Nguyen, KCLJ, Deputy Hospitaller; and RADM Kenneth Moritsugu, GCLJ, Grand Prior Emeritus and Grand Commander. ✦





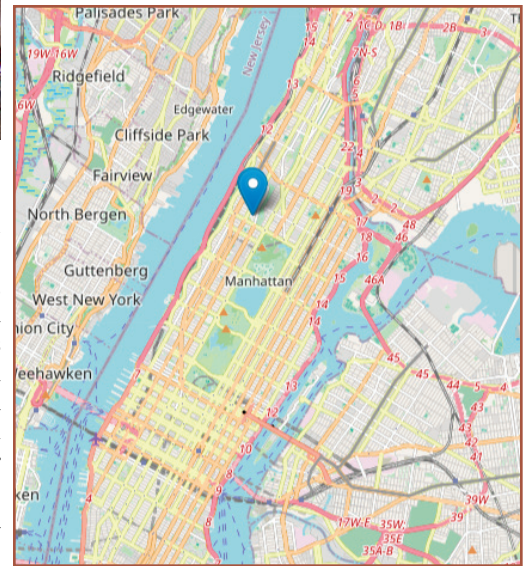
A Divine Visit

On January 13th, a crisp Saturday afternoon in Manhattan, several members of the New York Cadre and their guests gathered for a private guided tour of The Cathedral of St. John The Divine, the seat of the New York Diocese of the Episcopal Church and the world's sixth-largest church by area. The cathedral's grounds occupy several city blocks in the uptown Morningside Heights neighborhood near Columbia University.

The group first met for coffee at the famed Hungarian Pastry Shop across the street, a favorite meeting place for neighborhood residents and Columbia students, then proceeded for a two-hour tour of the cathedral, its multiple themed chapels, and the cathedral's extensive and unique art and artifact collection. Architecturally, the cathedral is an eclectic,

unfinished masterpiece, with only two-thirds of the proposed building completed. The original design, in the Byzantine Revival and Romanesque Revival styles, began construction in 1892, underwritten by large donations from prominent figures including John Jacob Astor IV and William Waldorf Astor, New York governor Levi P. Morton, banker J. P. Morgan, and businessman Cornelius Vanderbilt. After the opening of the crossing in 1909, the plan was changed to a Gothic Revival design. The massive Romanesque stone arches of the main altar area form a striking contrast with the slenderer Gothic front part of the cathedral.

After the breathtaking tour of the cathedral and its artifacts, members of the Cadre met at a nearby wine and tapas bar for lively conversation and camaraderie. ✨



EXCLUSIVE PRINTS STILL AVAILABLE

There are still some Limited Edition 3-piece print sets remaining from the Grand Priory of America's Inaugural 2023 Collection of The Lazarian Legacy: "Portraits for Peace" recently displayed at the GPC in Tampa, Florida. This limited series of 30 sets will never be reproduced as a complete set again. Each set of prints within this series contains all three Giclee quality works accompanied in matte frames signed by the artist, dated and inscribed with the number of the edition series. Furthermore, a wax seal of The Order of St Lazarus will be centered and applied on each of the frames. A Certificate of Authenticity accompanies your limited edition set which documents its exclusivity and scarcity. We value the artistic integrity and individuality of each set piece, along with our commitment to preserve the rarity of these limited print works. Therefore, once this set series of 30 is sold out, no additional reproductions of the inaugural 2023 collection will ever be made available again. Each Limited Edition 3-piece set is \$500 USD each, and unsigned individual prints are available for purchase for \$100 USD each. Please contact michael.graciano.art@gmail.com via email with your interest and for payment instructions. Remember that 100% of the proceeds go the GPA's Ukraine Relief Support Fund to help wounded amputees - soldiers, women and children - in Ukraine.

Vision, Mission & Goals

Vision – To help humanity improve social cohesion through charitable Christian principles, with a focus on improving health and reducing poverty

Mission – To help people affected physically and spiritually by disease and poverty to secure adequate medical support, nutrition, coaching and educational assistance, to enhance their lives

Values – Ecumenism and spirituality, Chivalry, Charity, Faith, Confraternity, Commitment, Unity, Compassion and Respect

Goals – To build on our foundation of Christian values, humanity and confraternity; to move in a positive, forward direction; to grow and retain members; to grow spirituality; to work together across jurisdictions



Officers of the Grand Commandery of the South

COMMANDER:	Dame Catherine Michie McHardy Bissell DCLJ, DMLJ
VICE COMMANDERS:	Col. Larry L. Merington, CLJ
SECRETARY:	Chevalier Kevin George Mackey, KLJ, MMLJ
RECEIVER:	Andrew Lapeyre, OLJ, BMLJ, BSBA
HOSPITALLER:	Chevalier William C. Coe, Jr., KLJ, CMLJ
ALMONER:	Guy Victor Winston, CLJ
CHAPLAIN:	Reverend Winston Edward Rice, LD, SChLJ, JD
SWORD BEARER:	David Moore, OLJ
BANNER BEARER:	Penny Bankston, OLJ
MARSHALS:	Christopher Daniel, USNR, NDSM, OLJ, JD; Chevalier James Rolater Jeter, Jr., KCLJ, KMLJ, PhD; Chevalier T. Lamar Teaford, KLJ, MD



Description of 2024 Events

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October 24-27: GPC—Newport Beach, CA. Link: <https://www.st-lazarus.us/events/2024-gpc/>

Thursday November 14: Advent bible study WWII Museum Chapel, with refreshments afterwards. Pay as you go..

December 5: celebrate the feast of St. Lazarus at The Shrine followed by dinner at the New Orleans Country Club. Your check is your reservation.

2024 Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
Sunday Jan 21	Unity Sunday,	Our Lady of Guadalupe	11:10am w/mantles
Saturday Mar 9	Lenten Bible Study	Beckman Home	6:30pm
Saturday Apr 20	Spring Social	Merington Home	6:00pm
Sunday May 19	Pass Christian Lunch	P.C. Yacht Club & house tour	1pm
Saturday Jun 22	Healing Service	St. Raymond	10:30am
Saturday Jul 27	N. Shore Gathering	David Moore Home	12:30pm
Friday Sep 13	Fall Social	Rosie's Higgins Hotel	5pm
Oct 24-27	GPC	Newport Beach, CA	N/A
Thursday Nov 14	Advent Bible Study	Chapel at Nat WW II Museum	4-4:45pm
Dec 5	Formal Dinner: Feast of St. Lazarus	The Shrine, New Orleans Country Club	Park at NOCC then bus at 5:15 to Shrine

Note: the cost for TBD events will be announced 2-3 weeks prior to the event date.



The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem

Grand Commandery of the South 2024 Event Schedule



Aims of the Order

- to preserve and defend the Christian faith;
- to support, care for and help the poor, the sick and dying;
- to promote and maintain the principles of Christian chivalry ;
- to follow the teachings of Christ in all it does

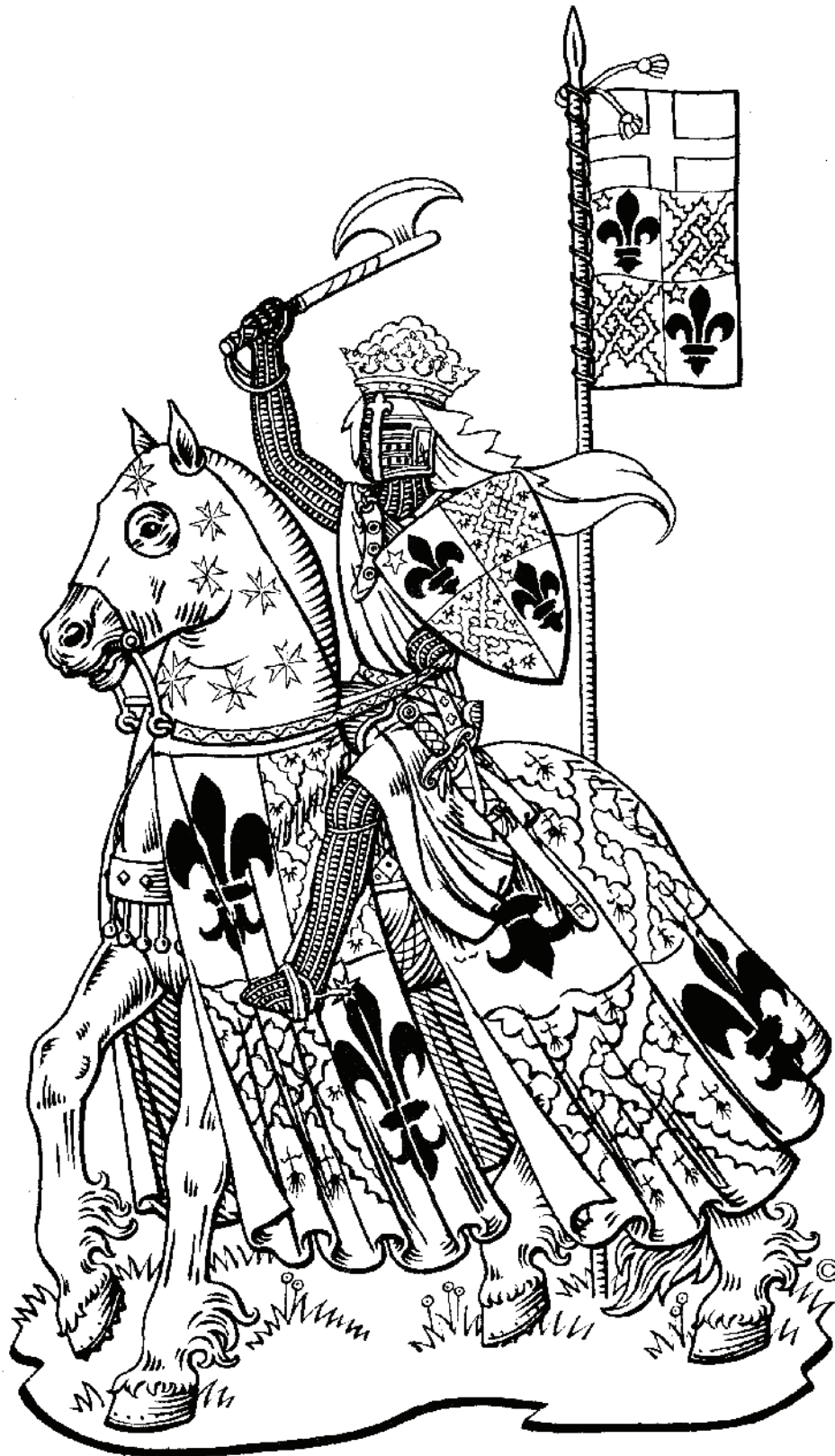


In recent years, The Grand Commandery of The South has published a combination recruitment brochure and schedule of events for its members. Sent via email and available for printing and distribution in PDF format, this brochure can be an effective part of your member retention and new member recruitment plan.

Please feel free to download a copy of the PDF and consider adapting some of the text describing the aims, mission, and goals of The Order in your publications.

You can find it on The St. Lazarus website by scanning the QR code below.





Drawing by T.A. Keith-Hill, GCLJ. Colored by you!

LAZARUS

