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THE ORDER

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem



Grand
Prioral
Council

2026

New Orleans

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Priory of America

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THE ORDER

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

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

www.st-lazarus.us

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THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF THE SOUTH

Dear Confreres and Consœurs,

It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Grand Commandery of the South, to invite you to the 2026 Grand Prioral Council. The Grand Prioral Council will take place from SEPTEMBER 10th to 13th at the Higgins Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Higgins Hotel New Orleans, Curio Collection by Hilton, is located across Magazine Street from the WWII Museum. The hotel also offers panoramic views of downtown from Rosie's on the Rooftop, an indoor-outdoor bar serving light fare. It is also on the Magazine Street bus route, a five-mile shopping and dining experience that goes through the Garden District and Uptown. It's fun to take the bus one way and the streetcar back, or vice versa. The Magazine Street bus also runs one block over to Canal Street, Canal Place Shopping, and the French Quarter, where there's more shopping and dining.

Restaurants around the hotel include Cochon, Cochon Butcher, Peche, Sofia, Lula Restaurant and Distillery, Auction House Market, Gianna, Flamingo A Go-Go, Luke, Briquette, and The American Sector (in the WWII Museum), just to name a few. In the Quarter, there's Arnaud's, Bayona, Irene's, and Cafe Amelie. New Orleans is known for its fine restaurants, whether fancy or not. The food is good. Please feel free to ask about any of them.

Sites to see include the sculpture garden in City Park and the New Orleans Museum of Art, also located there. Frenchmen Street is filled with music and places to get a bite. There are also plenty of above-ground cemeteries all over. The hotel will have brochures to help with your planning.

Members of the Grand Commandery of the South will be able and willing to help make your visit memorable. Come early, stay late, and ENJOY OUR CITY.

Yours in service,

Michie Bissell

Commander of the Grand Commandery of the South



Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 10, 2026

8:00am	5:00pm	Grand Prioral Council Headquarters	Quebec
12:00pm	5:00pm	Registration, Information, & Custos Desk Open <i>Please note that the desk will be closed for lunch.</i>	Arcadia Terrace
12:00pm		Chaplains' Lunch (independent event)	TBD
4:30pm	6:00pm	Meeting of Communications Committee <i>coat and tie</i>	Commandery Suite
4:30pm	5:00pm	Postulant Orientation <i>required for Postulants – business casual</i>	Casablanca
5:00pm	6:00pm	Postulant Reflection Period <i>required for Postulants – business casual</i>	Casablanca
6:00pm	7:00pm	Grand Prior's Reception <i>business casual dress</i>	Patriot Circle
7:00pm		Commandery Dinners <i>Check with your Commander for details.</i>	Various Locations
10:00pm		Evening Prayer - Compline	TBD

Friday, September 11, 2026

7:00am	9:30am	Continental Breakfast	Arcadia Terrace
8:00am	8:30am	The Catholic Holy Mass	Petite East
8:00am	8:30am	The Ecumenical Eucharist	Petite West
8:00am	4:00pm	Grand Prioral Council Headquarters	Quebec
8:30am	9:30am	Veterans Networking Session	Arcadia C
9:00am	3:00pm	Registration, Information, & Custos Desk Open <i>Please note that the desk will be closed for lunch.</i>	Arcadia Terrace
9:00am	11:30am	Meeting of the Almoners and Hospitallers <i>coat and tie/business attire</i>	Overlord
9:00am	11:30am	Meeting of the Commanders <i>coat and tie/business attire</i>	Midway
9:00am	11:30am	Meeting of the Chaplains <i>daily clerical dress</i>	Casablanca
12:00pm	1:30pm	Grand Prioral Luncheon <i>coat and tie/business attire</i>	Arcadia Salon A/B
2:00pm	3:00pm	Postulant Vigil/Investiture Orientation <i>Chaplains & assigned Marshals should be present with postulants.</i>	Casablanca
2:00pm	3:30pm	Meeting of the Marshals	Overlord
2:00pm	3:00pm	Meeting of AASL Board of Directors <i>coat and tie/business attire</i>	Red Cross



Friday, September 11, 2026 | Vigil & Dinner

4:00pm	Buses load for transport to Vigil <i>Postulants should be on first bus.</i>	Side of Hotel
5:00pm 6:00pm	Vigil Service <i>service dress uniform or dark suit, cocktail dress & mantle This event is required for Postulants.</i>	Loyola Chapel
6:15pm	Board Bus to Reception and Dinner	St. Charles Avenue
6:30pm 9:00pm	Reception & Dinner <i>coat and tie</i>	New Orleans Country Club
9:00pm	Buses Return to Hotel	New Orleans Country Club
10:00pm	Compline	

Saturday, September 12, 2026 | Symposia, Investiture & Gala

7:00am 9:30am	Continental Breakfast	Arcadia Terrace
8:00am 8:30am	The Catholic Holy Mass	Petite East
8:00am 8:30am	The Ecumenical Eucharist	Petite West
8:00am 4:00pm	Grand Prioral Council Headquarters	Chartwell
9:00am 4:30pm	Registration, Information, & Custos Desk Open	Arcadia Terrace
9:00am 9:45am	Symposium #1 Father Razz Waff <i>The proper dress for the symposia is coat and tie.</i>	Arcadia A/B
9:45am 10:30am	Symposium #2 Brand Identity	Arcadia A/B
10:30am 11:15am	Symposium #3 Social Media II	Arcadia A/B
11:15am 11:30am	Break	
11:30am 12:30pm	Grand Prioral Meeting & AASL Meeting <i>coat and tie</i>	Arcadia A/B
12:30pm	Lunch on your own	
3:30pm	Buses Depart Higgins Hotel for Shrine of St. Lazarus	Side of Hotel
4:30pm 5:45pm	Investiture Ceremony	Shrine of St. Lazarus
6:00pm	Buses Depart for Higgins Hotel	Shrine of St. Lazarus
7:00pm 7:45pm	Reception <i>white tie/dress uniform; dark formal gown/evening formal dress; decorations</i>	Arcadia Terrace
8:00pm 10:00pm	Formal Dinner and Gala with dancing	Ballroom

Sunday, September 13, 2026 | Sunday Liturgy & Departure

9:00am 9:30am	The Sunday Holy Mass	Petite East
9:00am 9:30am	Sunday Ecumenical Eucharist	Petite West

From The Grand Prior Welcome to New Orleans



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

Grand Prior,
Grand Priory of America

Dear Friends,

First, as many of you know, our friends and colleagues in Hawaii recently suffered a massive flood when Hurricane Lāla battered the island, and the Hawaii Cadre, under the leadership of Steve Brock, Anthony Selvanathan, and Fr. William (Pila) Tulua, responded quickly and decisively to help those in need. All of you received an email about this, and if you are able to, please do what you can to support their ongoing recovery efforts.

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer, albeit hot and rainy everywhere! With school out for some, I know many have traveled around the country and the globe, collecting photos and memories that will last a lifetime. These memories are to be cherished, as I remember as a child myself traveling with my family all over, a benefit of being an Air Force brat!

The leadership of the Grand Priory of America has been very busy over the summer, and you will learn more about this at the upcoming Grand Prioral Council meeting in New Orleans. To summarize, the past two years have been spent reviewing our current infrastructure and financial platforms to make the GPA more efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to our members and our charitable programs. During this process, we also partnered with the Tulane University Business School to review and analyze the Order of St. Lazarus from a marketing and branding perspective. You have seen some of these results over the past year, and you will hear more in New Orleans.

Additionally, we entered into a contract with a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software company, Neon One, to streamline our communications, membership, and

financial processes, and this will be completed by 12/31/2026. Concurrently, we reviewed our two tax entities that comprise the GPA and will move to a single 501(c)(3) for the entire GPA, with an implementation date of 1/1/2027.

In our review of our very dated infrastructure and financial platforms, we also realized that we have not kept pace with inflation and the costs of “doing business” over the past many years, compared with just about all similar organizations like us. This has resulted in a significantly increased workload for our volunteer leaders and our inability to maintain an efficient database, communication platforms, and membership outreach. More importantly, it has limited our ability to help those we serve in an even greater capacity. We have had an antiquated dues and charitable contribution structure for many years, and you will hear in New Orleans our plans to make the Grand Priory of America significantly more efficient, cost-effective, and responsive to our members and our grant recipients, and to elevate the Order to the level it rightfully deserves.

I returned from Ukraine on August 22nd after a very productive medical mission trip, and you will hear more about it in this newsletter. Another of our newer members, Greg Urquhart, also traveled to Ukraine this past June, and you can read his report in this issue as well.

We have a great GPC meeting planned for New Orleans, and registration is already at record levels! If you haven’t already registered, please do so as soon as possible, as you don’t want to miss this meeting!

Anna and I wish you the very best as the summer ends. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!



From The Chaplain General

A Fresh View of Who We Are

This edition's column is hands down my favorite to write for. With it, we are about to gather for our annual Grand Prioral Council and, on behalf of the Order of St. Lazarus, welcome our newest members into the Grand Priory of America. As we do so, we will once again welcome a fresh view of who we are and who we can be.

If you are a new member of the Order, you will have a wonderful perspective on helping us do even more than we can imagine, and we need to capture your insights, as you may see things we have missed. If you are a current member but have not been a regular attendee, or if this is your first GPC since being invested, you can do much the same for us. You are doing this in a setting akin to our annual "family reunion." It is a great opportunity to connect or reconnect with the larger Grand Priory. It is also an opportunity to get to know fellow members of your local commandery. One of our greatest challenges, especially if you live a great distance from one of our hubs of activity, is the "tyranny of geography," and it can be easy to feel cut off and marginalized. However, technology can help you stay connected and make a difference right out of the gate. Become a member of one of your commandery's committees and join in via Zoom. You can even go "national" by joining one of the Grand Priory's committees and gaining a deeper understanding of who we are and what we do. Please do take the opportunity to take the plunge, as it will be as rewarding for you as it will be for us.

If you are a member who has been fortunate enough to attend our GPCs regularly, please reach out to our newest members and welcome them as they hear unfamiliar language not commonly heard in contemporary society and try to navigate this new reality. Remember what it was like at your first GPC and be the welcoming face that hopefully greeted you in your new Lazarus experience.

For those of you who are receiving promotions, awards, and appointments in the Order of Merit, these are two-fold honors: They recognize the remarkable work you have done at the Commandery and/or Grand Priory level and mark you as someone from whom much more is now expected. Take a well-earned pat on the back, and realize that being so honored means much is expected. The military phrase for this is that you have just become a "victim of your own competence." That is great news for your Commandery and the Grand Priory, and it also means that you are now going to be ratcheting up your game.

For family members and friends who are reading this edition of The Order in New Orleans and seeing uniforms and customs that are rarely found in the 21st century, you have not entered a time warp. Rather, you have found successful laypeople and clergy who are already remarkable leaders in their local communities and who have answered a call that dates back centuries. At its core, it is very simple: They have chosen the Order to serve those around them, and on Friday night at the Vigil they will answer a call to service and leadership with three simple words—"I shall serve." ✱

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

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living 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. Grant us to perceive what is right and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



H.E. The Reverend
Razz D. Waff,
MG, USA (Ret), DSM, BCC, GCLJ,
OMLJ, GMLJ, DC3rdLJ, DMin

Chaplain General,
Grand Priory of America



Welcome our
new postulants!



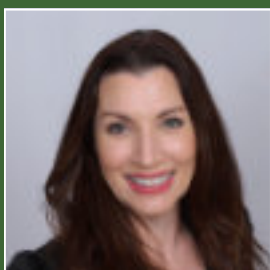
Nicolas "Scott" Anderson, OLJ
Catholic
Experian Vice President, Corporate Communications
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA
Grand Commandery of the West



Charles Louis Burrows, OLJ
Episcopal
Retired Military Officer & Federal Cybersecurity Professional
Crowley, TX
Commandery of the Southwest



Jeff Gibson, OLJ
Catholic
Business Owner, Political Consultant
Coto de Caza, CA
Grand Commandery of the West



Barbara P. Cohn, OLJ
Catholic
Licensed Realtor
New Orleans, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Frank Aurelio Gomez, OLJ
Catholic
Modem Data Center - AI Hyperserver information systems design
Menifee, CA
Grand Commandery of the West



Joseph Anthony Fraga, OLJ
Catholic
Executive Director - The Pelé Foundation
Dumont, NJ
Commandery of the Atlantic



Nicole Andree Quinlan-Yerkes, OLJ
Catholic
Financial Advisor
Orange, CA
Grand Commandery of the West



Michael John Skillman, OLJ
Christian
Institutional Investment Consultant
Newport Beach, CA
Grand Commandery of the West



Steven Edward Gorski, OLJ
Catholic
Commercial Banker
Los Angeles, CA
Grand Commandery of the West



Welcome our
new postulants!



Dr. Melanie Marie Mier, OLJ
Catholic
Physician
Youngsville, LA
Imperial Calcasieu Delegation



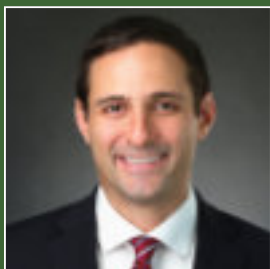
Logan Lannoo, OLJ
Catholic
Small Business Owner & Travel Agent
Youngsville, LA
Imperial Calcasieu Delegation



Paul Bruce Southers, OLJ
Lutheran
Senior Project Manager
Hebron, KY
Commandery of the Atlantic



Glenn Joseph Moore, OLJ
Catholic
Senior Contracts Manager
Sulphur, LA
Grand Commandery of the South



Robert Christian Gunn, OLJ, JD
Presbyterian
Attorney at Law
Houston, TX
Commandery of the Southwest



Scott Earl Shaver, OLJ, DNP
Baptist
Nursing Informatics
Cypress, TX
Commandery of the Southwest



Yvonne M. Rasmussen, OLJ
Catholic
Real Estate Property Management
Orange, CA
Grand Commandery of the West

PROMOTIONS & AWARDS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Order, and in consultation with the Grand Prior, the Grand Master is pleased to approve the following promotions:

For their service and contributions to the Grand Priory of America:

- ✠ Chevalier Ernest E. Aitchison, KCLJ, KMLJ – to the Rank of Knight Grand Cross of Justice (GCLJ – J)
- ✠ Chevalier Michael R. Milner, RADM, USPHS (Ret), KCLJ, KMLJ – to the Rank of Knight Grand Cross of Grace (GCLJ)

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

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

- ✠ The Reverend Pedro Julio Prada, ChLJ, MMLJ – to the Rank of Senior Chaplain (SchLJ)
- ✠ Andrew Buckley Lapeyre, CLJ – to the Rank of Knight of Grace (KLJ)
- ✠ Guy Victor Winstead, CLJ, MMLJ – to the Rank of Knight of Grace (KLJ)
- ✠ Donald H. Espenan, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)
- ✠ Janice Mary Foulks, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)

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

- ✠ The Reverend Fr. William Matekihelotu Tulua-Álvarez, ChLJ, CMLJ – to the Rank of Senior Chaplain (SchLJ)
- ✠ Elizabeth Ann Burke, OLJ, CMLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)
- ✠ Anthony Rosario Vultaggio, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)

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

- ✠ The Reverend Deacon Mark Francis Arbeen, ChLJ, MMLJ – to the Rank of Senior Chaplain (SchLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Christopher Andrew St. Victor de-Pinho, LTC, NYNG, KLJ, CMLJ – to the Rank of Knight Commander of Justice (KCLJ-J)
- ✠ Charles Douglas Harvey, CLJ, CMLJ – to the Rank of Knight of Grace (KLJ)
- ✠ The Reverend Raul Ernesto Ausa, AChLJ – to the Rank of Chaplain (ChLJ)
- ✠ The Reverend Stephen Michael Morris, AChLJ – to the Rank of Chaplain (ChLJ)
- ✠ Alberto Salustiano Llanes, OLJ, PhD – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)

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

- ✠ William Daniel Corrente, CLJ – to the Rank of Knight of Grace (KLJ)

- ✠ Richard Preston Tonkinson, CLJ, MMLJ – to the Rank of Knight of Grace (KLJ)
- ✠ The Reverend Nicholas Caleb Tyler, CPT, USA (Ret), AChLJ – to the Rank of Chaplain (ChLJ)
- ✠ Ernesto Juan Anaya, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)
- ✠ John Conner Cintron, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)
- ✠ Chilo Brackett Garrou Forsyth, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)
- ✠ Gary R. Putnam, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)
- ✠ Alexander Reveron-Casanova, OLJ – to the Rank of Commander (CLJ)

For his service and contribution to the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation:

- ✠ Kyle Joseph Bourque, CLJ, MMLJ – to the rank of Knight of Grace (KLJ)

For his service and contribution to the Delegation of Mexico:

- ✠ Pedro Casillas Capetillo, CLJ, MMLJ – to the Rank of Knight of Justice (KLJ-J)

In accordance with the Constitution of the Order, and in consultation with the Grand Prior, the Grand Master is pleased to approve the following awards:

For their service and contributions to the Grand Priory of America:

- ✠ The Reverend Fr. William Matekihelotu Tulua-Álvarez, ChLJ, CMLJ – the Gold Cross of Merit (GCrLJ)
- ✠ Dame Catherine Michie McHardy Bissell, DCLJ, DMLJ – the Gold Cross of Merit (GCrLJ)
- ✠ H.E. COL The Chevalier John J. Halloran, Jr., USA (Ret), GCLJ, KMLJ – the Gold Cross of Merit (GCrLJ)
- ✠ Dame Mary Patricia Ettari, DCLJ, GCMLJ, MPH, PA – the Gold Medal of Merit (GMLJ)
- ✠ The Very Reverend Marcos J. Gonzalez, ECLJ, KMLJ – the Gold Medal of Merit (GMLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Guillermo D. Salas Vargas, KCLJ, CMLJ – the Gold Medal of Merit (GMLJ)
- ✠ H.E. The Reverend William D. Razz Waff, MG, USA (Ret), GCLJ, OMLJ, DMin – the Gold Medal of Merit (GMLJ)

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 contributions to the Grand Commandery of the South:

- ✠ The Reverend Jean Alden McCurdy Meade, ECLJ, OMLJ, PhD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Commander (CMLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Larry Lee Merington, Col, USAF (Ret), KLJ, CMLJ – the Bronze Cross of Merit (BCrLJ)

- ✠ Cathy W. Espenan, OLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Ruth Dunn – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)
- ✠ Anne Simms Pincus – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)
- ✠ Jessica Scott – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)

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

- ✠ Chevalier Steven Douglas Brock, KCLJ, KMLJ – the Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Ryan Wallace Burke, KCLJ, CMLJ, JD – the Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)
- ✠ Meli Watanuki – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Commander (CMLJ)
- ✠ The Reverend Lane Kalani Akiona, ss.cc, SChLJ, CMLJ – the Bronze Cross of Merit (BCrLJ)
- ✠ Anthony Rosario Vultaggio, OLJ – the Bronze Cross of Merit (BCrLJ)
- ✠ Alfredo Jaime Cacho-Sousa, CLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Norbert Palea – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ The Honorable Kimo Alameda, PhD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)
- ✠ The Honorable Josh Green, MD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)
- ✠ Dr. Scott Miscovic – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)
- ✠ Msgr. Gary Secor – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)

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

- ✠ Dame Jennifer Sinclair St. Victor de-Pinho, DLJ, OMLJ – the Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)
- ✠ Megan Kendal Eunpu, CLJ – the Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)
- ✠ Michael Peter Graciano, CLJ, MMLJ – the Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)
- ✠ Dame Michelle Bo Kay Kwong, DLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ The Reverend Stephen Michael Morris, AChLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)

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

- ✠ Chevalier Jorge Alberto Valencia, KLJ, MMLJ, JD – the Silver Medal of Merit (SMLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Thad Denton King, KLJ, OMLJ, JD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Commander (CMLJ)
- ✠ Dame Barbara B. McCue, DLJ, OMLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Commander (CMLJ)

- ✠ John Conner Cintron, OLJ – the Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)
- ✠ Benjamin James Cline, OLJ – the Bronze Medal of Merit (BMLJ)
- ✠ Dame Sheila DeMatteo Duncan-Peters, DLJ, MMLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Dame Linda Ruth Edenfield Greene, DLJ, MMLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Steven R. Moore, CAPT, USPHS (Ret), KLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Chevalier Jerry Kimball Nicholson, KLJ, MMLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Reverend Melvin Karl Rigsby, KLJ, ThD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)
- ✠ Ana Isabel Hume, OLJ, PhD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)
- ✠ Jodi Lin Valencia, CLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Member (MMLJ)

For their service and contribution to the Commandery of the Southwest:

- ✠ The Reverend Kevin Paul Fausz, ChLJ, OMLJ – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Commander (CMLJ)

For their service and contribution to the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation:

- ✠ The Reverend Deacon Joshua Reed LeBlanc, ECLJ, MMLJ, ThD (cand) – the Bronze Cross of Merit (BCrLJ)
- ✠ Dame Carlotta Hill Rotman, DLJ, MMLJ, MD – the Companionate of Merit in the Rank of Officer (OMLJ)

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

- ✠ Donald H. Espenan, OLJ – the Donat Cross 3rd Class (DC 3rdLJ)





Project Lazarus: A Work of Mercy, Dignity, and Christian Burial

Among the most ancient works of Christian mercy is the reverent burial of the dead. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood that caring for the deceased is not simply a practical necessity, but a sacred responsibility, rooted in our belief in the dignity of the human person and the hope of the resurrection.

It is in this spirit that Project Lazarus, an initiative of the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, was established in partnership with Holy Family Cemetery in New Iberia, Louisiana.

Project Lazarus is a charitable burial initiative created to ensure that no person is denied a dignified and reverent burial because of financial hardship. The project provides a permanent and sacred resting place for those who might otherwise remain unburied.

The project takes its name from Lazarus of Bethany, the friend of Our Lord whom Jesus called forth from the tomb. The name reminds us that Christian burial is ultimately an act of hope. The grave is not the end of the Christian story. As Christ proclaimed before raising Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life."

An Initiative of the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation

Project Lazarus grew from the desire of the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation to put the mission and charism of the Order of St. Lazarus into action within the communities it serves.

The Order's centuries-old tradition of Christian service calls its members to recognize Christ in those who are vulnerable, forgotten, suffering, or in need. Project Lazarus extends that ministry even beyond death by ensuring that poverty or difficult circumstances do not deprive someone of the dignity of a reverent burial.

Through this initiative, the members of the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation have embraced

one of the traditional Corporal Works of Mercy: to bury the dead. It is a practical expression of the Order's commitment to service, one that responds directly to a need within the local community.

Meeting a Growing Need

For some families, financial hardship can make the costs associated with burial and final disposition difficult or impossible to meet. In other circumstances, there may simply be no one with the resources necessary to provide a permanent place of rest for the deceased.

Project Lazarus offers another path.

Through cooperation among the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation, Holy Family Cemetery, funeral homes, and community supporters, those in need can be provided with a dignified and permanent place of rest at Holy Family Cemetery. Rather than being forgotten or left without a final resting place, the deceased are entrusted to sacred ground and remembered as members of our human family.

The Project Lazarus memorial serves as a visible reminder that every life has dignity. Those laid to rest through the program may not have elaborate monuments or costly memorials, but they are not forgotten.

They have a place. They are remembered. They are buried with dignity.

A Community United in a Work of Mercy

The Imperial Calcasieu Delegation has not undertaken this work alone. Project Lazarus has demonstrated what can happen when the Order, the Church, funeral service professionals, businesses, fraternal organizations, and individual benefactors unite around a common work of mercy.

Community partners include Evangeline Funeral Home, Pellerin Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Frioux Funeral Home, Oubre Marble & Granite, and Knights of



A rendering of the ossuary to be built.

Columbus Council #1208.

Their generosity and participation have helped transform the vision of the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation into a permanent ministry capable of serving those in need for years to come.

The project is also an important reminder that the mission of the Order of St. Lazarus does not have to be expressed only through large international endeavors. The charism of the Order can be lived just as authentically when a delegation recognizes an unmet need within its own community and responds with faith, compassion, and action.

From Vigil to the Tomb

Christian care for the dead reflects something profound about what we believe.

We believe that human dignity does not disappear at death. We believe that the human body deserves reverence because it was created by God. We believe that death does not sever the communion of the Church. And above all, we believe in the resurrection.

Project Lazarus gives tangible expression to those convictions.

For members of the Order of St. Lazarus, the

project is especially fitting. We bear the name of the man whom Christ called from the tomb. Our green cross identifies us with a centuries-old tradition of faith, service, hospitality, and care for those whom others might overlook.

Through Project Lazarus, the Imperial Calcasieu Delegation is carrying that tradition forward in a simple but profound way: making certain that even those without financial means can be laid to rest with dignity and reverence.

There may be no greater measure of a Christian community than the way it cares for those who can offer nothing in return.

Project Lazarus represents the Order's ancient mission finding a new and distinctly local expression in Louisiana, a ministry of mercy at the grave, a witness to the dignity of every human life, and, above all, a proclamation of our Christian hope that death never has the final word.

At the tomb of Lazarus, Christ called, "Come out." Project Lazarus exists because we believe that same promise of resurrection belongs to every child of God. ✠



Hurricane Lālā

The West responds to the hurricane's aftermath.

Steve's Deployment to Ka'ū

Our beloved Cadre Leader, The Chevalier Steve Brock, KCLJ, deployed to Ka'ū from August 19 through August 21. The Order of Saint Lazarus was among the first organizations to mobilize and put boots on the ground in Ka'ū, working alongside diocesan and community partners to address immediate needs.

Steve and the team arrived in Hilo on August 19, secured a U-Haul, loaded supplies brought over by John Fielding, Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 5000 at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, a postulant of the Order of Saint Lazarus, and an active partner in the response, purchased additional relief supplies, and transported them south to Nā'ālehu and Pāhala.

They coordinated with Fr. William "Pila" Tulua; Auntie Michelle Andrade, Fr. Pila's parish secretary; and Fr. Bob Stark of the Diocese of Honolulu's Office for Social Ministry, who is serving as the designated on-the-ground coordinator for disaster response, including coordination with HOPE Services Hawaii. They also worked alongside EPIC Ministry, the Knights of Columbus, and other responding partners.

Over the course of the three-day deployment, the team:

- ▶ Delivered relief supplies to Holy Rosary in Pāhala and Sacred Heart in Nā'ālehu
- ▶ Provided Fr. William with cash for immediate needs
- ▶ Installed Starlink service at Sacred Heart Rectory, restoring reliable internet access
- ▶ Delivered batteries, power strips,

extension cords, water, tarps, and other requested supplies

- ▶ Helped distribute and position potable water resources
- ▶ Assisted with cleanup at Sacred Heart, including removing storm debris and standing water from storage areas
- ▶ Supported direct humanitarian assistance to residents in urgent need
- ▶ Helped prepare the parishes for the approaching Tropical Storm Moke

Steve reported extensive storm damage throughout the area. While many homes remain standing, numerous residences sustained significant flood damage, and some homes were swept away or rendered uninhabitable. Utilities and local infrastructure also sustained substantial damage.

At the same time, Steve witnessed an extraordinary community response. Hundreds of volunteers and relief workers have been active across Nā'ālehu and Pāhala, with EPIC Ministry, HOPE Services Hawaii, local organizations, labor groups, first responders, community volunteers, and others providing food, water, propane, cleanup assistance, direct outreach, and other support.

One particularly moving encounter involved a Nā'ālehu resident named Ned, whose home was swept from its foundation and who lost nearly everything. Through funds made available for direct assistance, Riley, who was volunteering alongside John Fielding, was able to present Ned with \$1,000 in emergency aid. Riley then led those gathered in prayer with him. It was a powerful reminder of why this work matters. ▶

By Steve's final day on August 21, the situation had clearly entered a new phase. Many of the initial emergency gaps were increasingly being met by a much larger community relief effort. The Order of Saint Lazarus' role can now evolve toward supporting these ongoing operations through fundraising, targeted assistance, communications, and other needs as they emerge.

The principal unfinished item from Steve's original deployment plan is establishing Starlink and a charging station at Holy Rosary in Pāhala. The necessary equipment has been left in place, and we are confident that one of our partner agencies will be able to secure a generator and assist Holy Rosary with completing the installation.

Steve also had the opportunity to see Dallas and the EPIC team in action and expressed his deep appreciation for the tremendous work being done by EPIC, HOPE Services, and the many local volunteers serving these communities.

Fr. Pila, Tyler, and the Ka'ū Community

Needless to say, we cannot forget our very own dear Fr. William "Pila" Tulua, pastor of the Ka'ū Catholic community, and Tyler Johansen, a member of EPIC Ministry, a young adult Friend of the Order, and someone who hopes to seek membership in the Order in the coming years.

Both have remained present to their communities throughout this disaster. From what I have heard from friends in Ka'ū, Fr. Pila has been a true pillar of strength for his people as they process what has happened and begin the difficult work of recovery.

We have also heard remarkable accounts of Tyler and his family taking selfless and courageous action during the height of Lālā on Saturday night and Sunday morning,

working to divert floodwaters threatening their neighbors. Those who have shared these accounts with us believe their actions helped protect lives and may have prevented an even greater loss of life. I hope, in time, their story can be more fully documented and appropriately recognized.

Fundraising and Continuing Support

The Order of Saint Lazarus has now shared the HCCF relief appeal through our national social media channels and through our international platforms. We hope these efforts will continue to generate meaningful financial support for the coordinated humanitarian response now underway.

An Invocation of Divine Assistance

Through the intercession of Malia O Ka Malu, Our Lady of Peace, may God protect our islands from harm, remain close to all those affected by Lālā as they rebuild their homes and lives, and strengthen and protect the relief workers who continue to provide aid to our communities.

Mahalo nui loa for your prayers, leadership, trust, and partnership throughout this response.

Na ke Akua Mana Loa e noho pū me kākou a ho 'opōmaika 'i mai iā kākou i kā kākou mau hana i ko kākou lawelawe 'ana i ke kanaka ma lalo o ka hae o Sana Lazaro! "May the Almighty God be with us and bless us in our endeavors as we serve humanity under the banner of Saint Lazarus!" ✕

This report is an abridged excerpt from an email to the Bishop and Bishop Emeritus of Honolulu as well as leadership within the Diocese of Hawai'i prepared by Chev. Anthony Selvanathan, KLJ, MMLJ, BCrlJ, MBA, MA



Earthquake Relief and Ongoing Projects

The Southeast provides help to many organizations

Earthquake Relief to Colombia

Our members in Colombia, Mr. Camilo Rojas, OLJ and Ms. Natalie Fiallo, OLJ deserve special recognition for their humanitarian efforts following the devastating August 10, 2026, 7.4-magnitude earthquake in Colombia. They have been actively involved in assisting various relief efforts and supporting those affected by this tragedy. Their service exemplifies the spirit of our Order and our continuing commitment to the care of those in need.

Hospitaller's Report

By Rev. NC Tyler III, CPT, US Army (Ret.), AChLJ, MMLJ

This year, the Southeast Commandery has supported four major charitable projects, with funds either already deployed or projects currently ongoing.

Golden Isles Veterans Village Brunswick, Georgia

The Southeast Commandery provided more than \$1,200 to Golden Isles Veterans Village to purchase emergency water heaters for use during hurricanes and other severe weather events. Golden Isles serves homeless veterans by providing housing, support, and rehabilitation to help them successfully transition to independent living. This project has been supported by the Southeast Commandery for several years and is championed by H.E. Jack Schroder, GCLJ, GCMLJ.

Honor Mark Foundation

The Order will serve as the top sponsor of the Honor Mark 5K, with a \$5,000 contribution. The Honor Mark Foundation provides charitable grants to veterans, first responders, and their families who are experiencing hardship. This marks the second consecutive year of support from the Southeast Commandery. The project is championed by Brian Harlow, OLJ.

Hermano de la Calle – Hearts for Life Maternity Home

The Southeast Commandery provided a \$6,000 grant to Hermano de la Calle in Florida, specifically supporting the Hearts for Life Maternity Home. The home assists single and expectant mothers who have experienced abuse, abandonment, or neglect, providing a safe environment, essential supplies, medical care, transportation, parenting education, and job-readiness training.

Since opening in 2024, the home has welcomed 25 expectant mothers in crisis, and 12 healthy babies have been born while receiving support through the program. This important ministry is championed by Alberto Pontonio, OLJ.

Exodus Road – Counter-Trafficking Operations

The Southeast Commandery provided \$8,000 to Exodus Road to support counter-trafficking operations in South America and Asia. Through operations partially funded by this grant, three major human-trafficking actors have been brought to justice, approximately three businesses or organizations involved in ►

trafficking have been shut down, and multiple victims have been rescued. Two additional investigations remain ongoing.

Because of the sensitive nature of these operations, the individuals championing this project will remain unnamed.

These efforts reflect the continuing commitment of the Southeast Commandery to the mission of the Order: to serve, to protect, and to care for those in need. ✖

This report was compiled and reported by H.E. The Chev. Jorge Alberto Valencia y Guevara, KLJ, MMLJ, J.D., Commander of the Southeast



Leprosy Vaccine Development

Did you know?

Here is a concise summary of the current global status of leprosy vaccine development:

- ▶ **Current Status (BCG):** No specific vaccine is licensed. The tuberculosis BCG vaccine provides partial cross-protection and is standard for newborns in endemic countries, but not in Europe.
- ▶ **LepVax Candidate:** This is the first specific leprosy vaccine. Combining the recombinant polyprotein LEP-F1 with the GLA-SE adjuvant, it prevents infection and reduces severe nerve damage.
- ▶ **Clinical Trials:** Following a successful Phase 1a safety trial in the US, Phase 1b is ongoing in Brazil through the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) to evaluate safety in BCG-vaccinated adults. A Phase 2a trial is planned.
- ▶ **Funding & Strategy:** Driven by non-profits like DAHW, development depends on humanitarian infrastructure. Until approval, early diagnosis, Multidrug Therapy (MDT), and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP4LEP) remain the standard field treatment regimens.

From Mike Millner, Grand Hospitaller: Thanks to my colleague on the International Hospitaller Commission who provided these statistics, Dr. Michael Feurstein, KLJ, a Specialist in Surgery and General/Family Medicine and the Hospitaller of the Grand Bailiwick of Austria.

Editor's Note: This originally appeared in the Summer edition of our 2026 newsletter.

From The Grand Prioral Hospitaller The Order Works Through You!



H.E. The Chevalier
Michael R. Milner,
RADM, USPHS, (Ret), DHSc,
PA-C, KCLJ, KMLJ, SMLJ

Grand Prioral Hospitaller,
Grand Priory of America

Welcome to New Orleans for the 2026 Grand Prioral Council Meeting!

Patty and I hope you are as excited as we are to make it to NOLA for our annual GPC. This meeting is the highlight of our year of service, and we are proud to honor all those who have sacrificed their time, talent, treasure and testimony to make our world a better place. There is so much that must come together to make this meeting the success that it always is. The members of the Grand Commandery of the South under the leadership of Dame Michie Bissell and Chevalier Larry Merington have done a truly outstanding job as our hosts here in New Orleans. Thank you all!

Our Order has done some amazing work since we last met in San Antonio a year ago. Thanks to the new paradigm we started back in 2024, half of the Pentecostal Appeal donations you make every year stay with your local Commandery, Delegation or Cadre. Your local leaders, with your help, have created special projects that help to improve the lives of your neighbors and lift those less fortunate in the communities where you live. These local projects also showcase our Order to likeminded folks like

yourselves who accept our mission, "I Shall Serve". The remaining 50% of your Pentecostal Appeal donations allow our Grand Priory to assist

those in need in other parts of the world, especially in places many of us have visited on past pilgrimages. The more you give, the more we can do!

In the Holy City of Jerusalem, we are a primary sponsor of the Infant Welfare Center, a center in downtown Jerusalem that provides care and support for children of all ages. Given the situation there since the attack in Gaza in 2023, the IWC has shifted their mission a little bit to bring in their elderly neighbors who need help. Those older folks become involved in caring for the children, making their meals and helping with their learning projects and, as a secondary gain, get to feel valued and needed during this time of stress for everyone living there. Our Grand Priory has supported the Infant Welfare Center for many years, and they rely on our annual generosity.

Another very critical infrastructure location that we support in Jerusalem is the French St Louis Hospital, a palliative care facility just outside the New Gate of the walls of the Holy City. Last year, through your generosity, we were able to support the construction of a second elevator inside the facility to assist the staff with safer patient movement. It also allows patients and their families to go to the roof of the hospital and enjoy the splendor and beauty of the area around the hospital. For those of us who visited that facility in the past, this addition has been needed for ►



many years and with the leadership of our Bailiff, H.E., the Chevelier, Harold "Pent" Penton, GCLJ, we were able to "make it happen." A second critical need that we supported in 2026 is the remodeling of an unused area of the hospital into a new outpatient care center, where patients can be provided needed treatments on an outpatient basis. That process is still underway and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. We have been asked to help next year with upgrading their radiology equipment which is going to cost close to \$100,000 and with your generosity, we hope to help them, at least partially, reach their goal. The Grand Priory of America is going to promote this hospital project to the International Hospitaller group, of which I am a member, in hopes that a few other worldwide jurisdictions will offer to pitch in to close the funding gap. Please keep this project in your prayers and in mind when you make your Pentecostal donation. If your heart tugs at you, consider a "directed donation" to this project or others we support. Once you have met your annual PA donation level based on your rank, you can always "direct a little more" to something we do that pulls those heart strings. Please contact me if this is of interest to you.

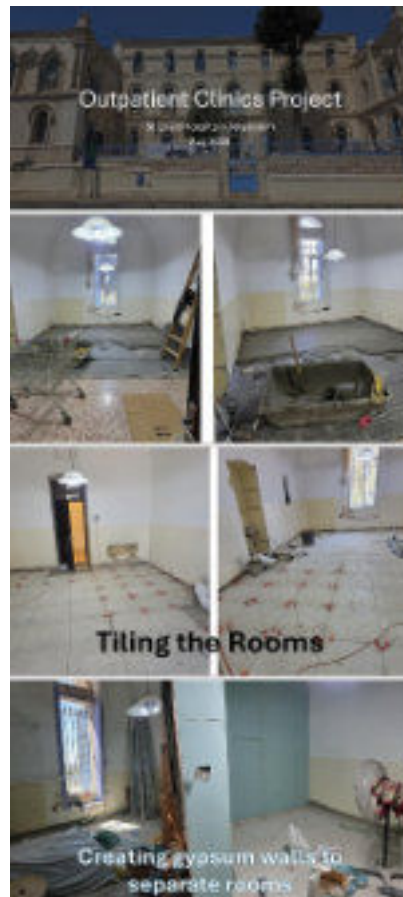
In the last edition of the Order Newsletter, June 2026, we had a great two-page article about the incredible work being done to help those with leprosy by our Mexican Delegation. If you missed that article, take some time and go back and review it. The Christian Works of Mercy that are being delivered to those affected by this stigmatizing disease, also known as Hansen's Disease, in Morelia and Irapuato, Mexico are amazing. Your Pentecostal Appeal donations help us continue that mission to provide clinical care services, food, prosthetic

assistance, and medications. All this is provided with the love and compassion of the nuns on site who support and minister to the families impacted. Please remember them in your prayers tonight.

Our Grand Prior, H.E., The Chevalier, John Byrnes, PA-C, GCLJ, has an article in this newsletter about his recent 10-day humanitarian medical mission to Ukraine. This mission, which was amplified by other Grand Priories of our Order in Europe, was supported by your donations as well. This project's value was amplified exponentially by additional medical supply donations from hospitals in the USA, thanks to members of our Order. You have all heard the phrase, "it takes a village." Well, this project brought together a real village of our GPA members, international members of our Order, local NGOs in the area and a network of "dots" that were all connected at the right time. The planning and personal sacrifice of our members to provide front-line trauma care kits and combat medic training in the field under constant threat of attack is reminiscent of

the heroism of Hospitaller Knights of Lazarus in the days of the Crusades. Serving those less fortunate during times of struggle is our mission!

During our time together here in New Orleans, please feel free to "bend my ear" and let me know your thoughts on ways that our team of GPA Hospitallers can better serve those in need. We need your feedback and ideas and are grateful for your donations which allow our Order to make things a little better in this world. Have a wonderful time at the GPC and we look forward to welcoming you to our "neck of the woods" in 2027 in Newport, Rhode Island. Safe travels home everyone.✠



Our National Shrine

The Shrine dedicated to St. Lazarus at the Old Ursuline Convent continues to teach about The Order and center our work in Divine Worship

The Reverend Val Ambrose McInnes, OP, EGCLJ, CMLJ, PhD†

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

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

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

Adjoining the convent in the Archbishop Antoine Blanc Memorial is St. Mary's Church (formerly Our Lady of Victory Church), which was erected in 1845 as the chapel of the Archbishops of New Orleans. During the 1990s, the church was restored to its original splendor; until Hurricane Katrina in 2005, it served as a house of worship for neighbors and tourists. The former private chapel of the Ursuline Nuns connects St. Mary's Church with the convent and now forms the National Shrine of our Order. This small, intimate chapel, steeped in tradition, was selected by the Grand Commander of the South, with the cooperation of H.E. Archbishop

Philip Matthew Hannan of New Orleans and Monsignor Earl C. Woods, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese and the Rector of Our Lady of Victory Church at that time. The site had been recommended by the late Charles Reed Gresham, GCLJ, the well-known architect and founder of our Southern Jurisdiction. The National Shrine renews the ancient bonds of the Ursuline Convent with the founding patron and symbolizes the importance of the Order in the United States.

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

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



▲ Top: The sanctuary of St. Mary Church adjacent to the St. Lazarus Shrine hosts The Grand Commandery of the South's Annual Celebration of St. Lazarus' Feast Day.
Bottom: The bas-relief on which the story of St. Lazarus is told forms the backdrop of the shrine chapel. It is surrounded by flags and mementos of The Order.

Shrine symbolizes the important spiritual and religious works of the Order.

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

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



MISSION: UKRAINE

Our Grand Prior leads the fourth medical mission and continues to extend the hand of The Order of St. Lazarus friendship with those in harm's way.

H.E. The Chevalier John F. Byrnes, GCLJ, GMLJ, GCMLJ | Grand Prior, Grand Priory of America

The Grand Priory of America's fourth medical mission trip to Ukraine since the war began in 2022 started on August 12th and concluded on August 22nd, 2026. The team consisted of members John Byrnes, GCLJ, as Team Leader in Ukraine, Brian Harlow, OLJ, providing logistical support in the US, and Sean O'Donnell, OLJ, already working in Ukraine since October 2025. Brian had joined us on this trip for the past two years but was unable to join us this year. Nevertheless, he provided very valuable networking and support while we were there.

After arriving in Warsaw, I was met by our good friend Yaro, our in-country Ukrainian team member who worked with us last year, and we began our long drive to Ukraine and to our various meeting locations throughout the country. Our goal once again was to provide and personally deliver medical supplies and to train combat medics as needed on the use of these advanced combat medical supplies.

Our first stop was Lviv, where we met our friend Ben (from Florida), whom we worked with last year. When the war started, he moved to Ukraine from Florida and has been doing a series of "creative" work with his group of western volunteers. With the constant power outages, generators and battery chargers have become essential and Ben and his team are making lithium battery chargers from recycled electric bike and scooter batteries, courtesy of a Dutch NGO, and providing them to the front lines. We purchased 20 of these lithium battery chargers from Ben and his team and donated them to the medics we met on this trip. His team is also working on new ground drones, batteries for these drones, and other electrical components. Other members of his team are taking recycled rebar and converting it into shrapnel to be used by Ukrainian drones on the front lines.

Our second stop was Kiev, where we met with an American friend and his Ukrainian colleagues and talked about their needs and their recent experiences on the southern front lines where they were stationed. Medical supplies were

delivered to this group, and we had been to their area on prior trips.

Thanks to Brian Harlow, a veteran of the Ukraine war and a member of the GPA, I was put in contact with several of his colleagues in Ukraine and we then spent some time with the White Angel organization on the eastern front lines. This non-profit group assists with evacuations of families from hard-hit areas, and I accompanied them on an evacuation mission to a town called Kramatorsk to do just this. This involved driving on roads heavily damaged by tanks and under fishnets to confuse drone targeting and requiring drone jammers on top of the vehicles. I held a portable handheld drone detector and a weapon if the drones weren't successfully jammed. We were very fortunate that no drones were able to get through, and the family was successfully evacuated to a safer location. I then gave some medical supplies to our team leader, a former New Zealand Special Forces operator now working in Ukraine, for use by his medics on the southern front lines.

The following day we headed to Kharkiv, a large city just 19 miles from the Russian border. We met up with Sean O'Donnell, a GPA member who accompanied us last year and returned to work full-time in Ukraine in October 2025. Sean and his team were working in the eastern frontlines and met us in Kharkiv for our delivery of a significant amount of much-needed medical equipment and training as needed.

After spending the day with Sean and his team, we then drove back to Kiev where I met with the leadership of the civilian Hospitaller battalion of Kiev. This volunteer group has been working since before the war started to help wounded civilians and soldiers throughout Ukraine, and I was given a tour of their base outside Kiev. They do absolutely incredible work in concert with the Ukrainian military medics and civilian hospitals, risking their lives every day to help those wounded by this unjust war.

The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem was itself started as a ►

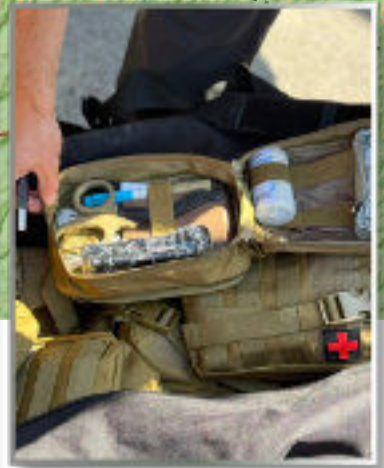


Hospitaller group of monks tending to leprosy victims during the Crusades, and in my opinion the Hospitallers of Kiev is an organization that the entire Order should start supporting as they take us back to our roots of more than a thousand years ago.

I would like to thank and acknowledge another one of our GPA members, Greg Urquhart, OLJ, who made a separate trip to Ukraine in June following a military meeting in Europe. You will find his report in this newsletter issue on how he provided medical supplies and training to a group of medics we put him in contact with through our growing network of friends in Ukraine.

When you return from a trip like this it takes some time to think and decompress, which I am doing right now. You see many things, some very nice and some not, but all tell the story of a beautiful country under siege. This trip encompassed more than 11,000 air miles and almost 3,000 driving miles, and every minute was worth it. The GPA provided a grant of \$50,000 for supplies and logistics, and additional donations totaling more than \$15,000 were made as well. The Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans contributed \$5,000 for advanced combat tourniquets, thanks to Dr. Lamar Teaford, and AdventHealth Orlando, where I work, contributed more than \$10,000 in medical supplies.

The Grand Priory of America has done an admirable job of supporting medical care for the injured and wounded in Ukraine and is leading the Order of St. Lazarus in this endeavor. While there is unfortunately no lack of need in this world today for humanitarian support, hands-on support is so much more meaningful to both the giver and the recipient. You don't have to go to Ukraine or any unsafe place to help – the GPA supports many initiatives in the United States, and all could use a helping hand and a smile!✠



Prayer In Time of War

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

For the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in you will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Lazarus Speak

or What Do All These Medieval Words Really Mean?

H.R. (Pent) Penton, GCLJ, KMLJ, SCrLJ, DC3rdLJ, PhD
Bailiff, Order of Saint Lazarus

First, let me welcome our Postulants and members to the 2026 Grand Prioral Council of the Order of St. Lazarus, Grand Priory of America. 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 with what seemed to be a foreign language, both written and spoken, used 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, 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) of what these weird words mean.

St. Lazarus Speak

Aide-de-Camp

Almoner

American Association of the Order of
St. Lazarus (AASL)

Archivist

Atavis et Armis

Bailiff

Bailiwick

Banner Bearer

Cadre

Chancellor

Meaning in the Common Tongue

Special assistant to the Grand Prior

Oversees charitable donations

501(c)(3) charitable arm of the Grand Priory of
America

Maintains Order's historical records

Ancestors and Arms (motto of the Order)

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

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

Carries the Order's flag at official ceremonies

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

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

Lazarus Speak or What Do All These Medieval Words Really Mean? (Continued)

St. Lazarus Speak

Meaning in the Common Tongue



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
St. Lazarus Speak	Meaning in the Common Tongue
Grand Master	Chief Executive Officer (by tradition, a Borbón family member)
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 "GPA")
Grand Prioral Council	Annual meeting of the Grand Priory of America
Grand <i>Whoever</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

Lazarus Speak or What Do All These Medieval Words Really Mean? (Continued)

St. Lazarus Speak

Meaning in the Common Tongue

Postulant

A new member who has not yet been invested at 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

Carries the Order's Sword at official events

Vice Chancellors

Grand Priory of America senior officers reporting to either the Bailiff or Chancellor

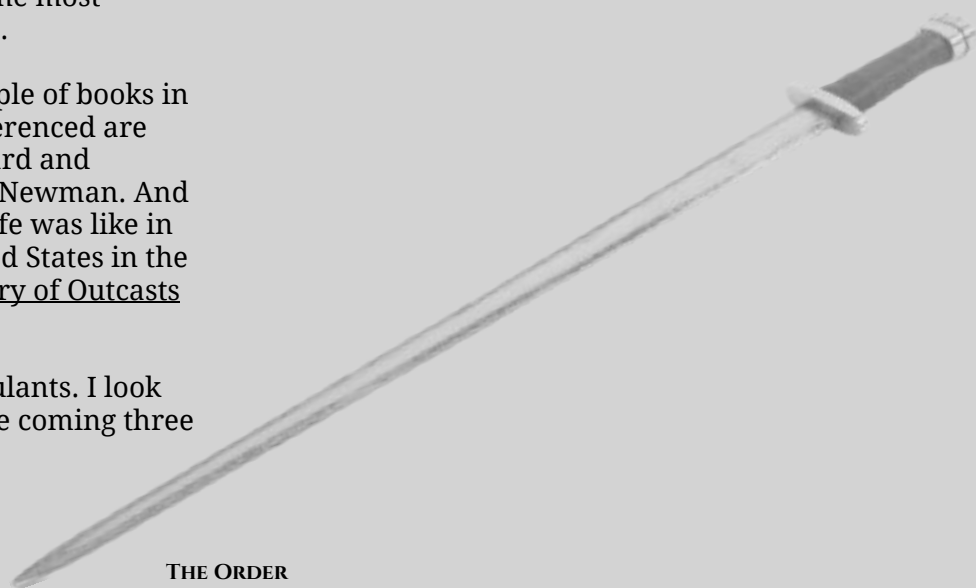
Webmaster

IT and Communications Director

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. ✚



First-Aid Training & Raising the Flag of St. Lazarus in Ukraine

A Report by Greg Urquhart, OLC, PhD | Grand Commandery of The West

After representing the Order in an international military ruck march through the rolling hills of the Luxembourg Ardennes in late May, I drove to the Polish/Ukraine border. My mission was to make contacts and conduct fact-finding to provide infrastructure and connections for future supportive medical care trips and training to both civilians and the Ukrainian military. Additionally, for this mission, I was bringing two duffle bags containing 200 Olaes pressure bandages, which can treat several different types of wounds. I was also to conduct modified versions of the combat life saver program, designed to teach first aid techniques for treating amputations, gunshot wounds and other combat-related injuries.

Right off the bat, I met some soldiers waiting in line for a train back to their country. We struck up a conversation, and I wasted no time in providing them with a block of instruction about the Olaes modular pressure bandage system. Their Colonel was very grateful for the training and supplies and excited to hear about the Order of St. Lazarus.

Upon arrival in Kyiv, I made contact with the first group of medic trainers with whom I conducted classes. We trained a mixed group of

civilians and soldiers in wound packing and the use of pressure bandages. The Canadian ambassador to Ukraine showed up as well for our training.

Later, during the deployment, I joined another medical group and headed further east to an undisclosed location, where more medical supplies and training were provided to the Ukrainian military. At this camp, I provided the camp commander with a small flag of the Order, which he was very happy to receive.

Before departing Ukraine, I had a few hours to visit the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, a monastery complex in Kyiv that is nearly a thousand years old. The Dormition Cathedral was one of the most beautiful churches I've ever seen with all its paintings and gold-leaf Icons. Sadly, the next day Russia hit it with a missile, which made my last day in Ukraine bittersweet.

While short, this deployment met all objectives. Contacts were made that will be of use for future deployments, several trainings for both civilians and soldiers were conducted, and critically needed medical supplies were distributed. Opportunities were also created to discuss the Order with key figures within the Ukrainian government and others in positions of influence. ✖





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 504.248.3900



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5 MIN WALK
 .25 MILES



TRANSIT ROUTES
 ON OTHER SIDE.

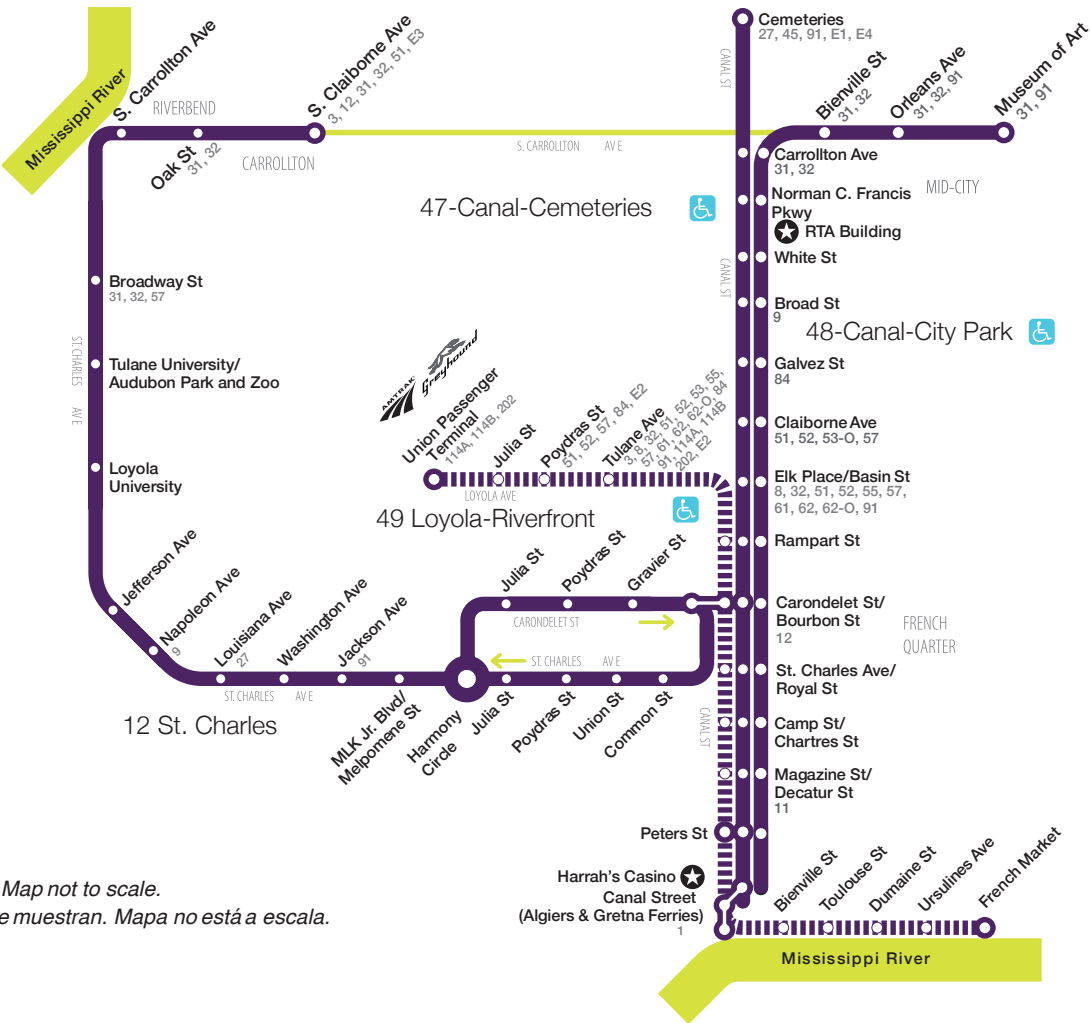
New Orleans Streetcar Routes

A MOVING HISTORIC LANDMARK

Streetcars first appeared in New Orleans in 1835. The first lines to open were the Poydras-Magazine, Jackson, and St. Charles lines. For the first few decades of operation, streetcars were pulled by small steam locomotives.

As areas along streets became more populated, the need arose for quieter operation. Eventually, steam-powered locomotives were replaced by horse-drawn carriages.

The St. Charles Streetcar railway is the oldest, continuously operating railway in the world. The Louisiana Landmarks Society is credited with helping to preserve the St. Charles Streetcar line by getting it placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. In 2014, the St. Charles line became a National Historic Landmark by the National Historic Register in Washington, D.C.



Some streetcar stops not shown. Map not to scale.
Algunas paradas de tranvía no se muestran. Mapa no está a escala.

HELPFUL REFERENCES

WWII Museum to Audubon Aquarium

- 20 min (1.0 mi) via Magazine St and Poydras St
- 6 min (1.0 mi) via S Peters St

Caesars Superdome to Bourbon Street

- 20 min (0.9 mi) via Poydras St and Carondelet St
- 6 min (0.8 mi) via Poydras St and Carondelet St

Convention Center to Bourbon Street

- 24 min (1.2 mi) via Canal St and Convention Center Blvd
- 10 min (1.6 mi) via Tchoupitoulas St

The Prayer of The Order

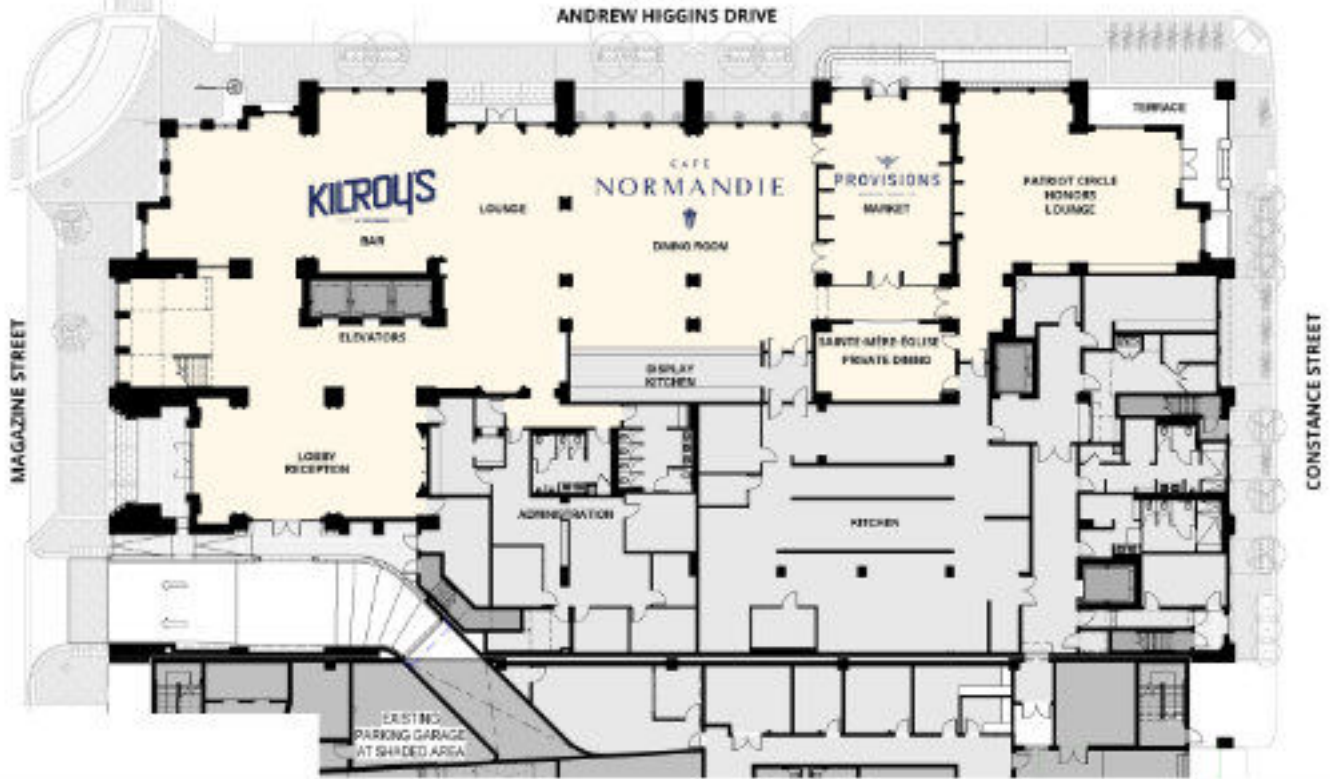
Almighty God, who dost
chose Thine elect out of every
nation, and dost show forth
Thy glory in their lives, grant
we pray Thee, that following
the example of Thy servant
Saint Lazarus, we may be
fruitful in good works to the
praise of Thy Holy Name,
through Jesus Christ, Our
Lord.

Lord, You Who are the Friend
of all mankind, were an
intimate friend of Lazarus
and his sisters. His death
brought tears to Your eyes
and power to Your voice
so that you called him forth
in life from the bonds of
death. Lord, may You who are
our life, now renew us
in the power of Your Spirit to
be concerned with the
lives and needs of others so
that one day we may all
share eternal life with You in
Your Heavenly Kingdom.
Amen.

Notes

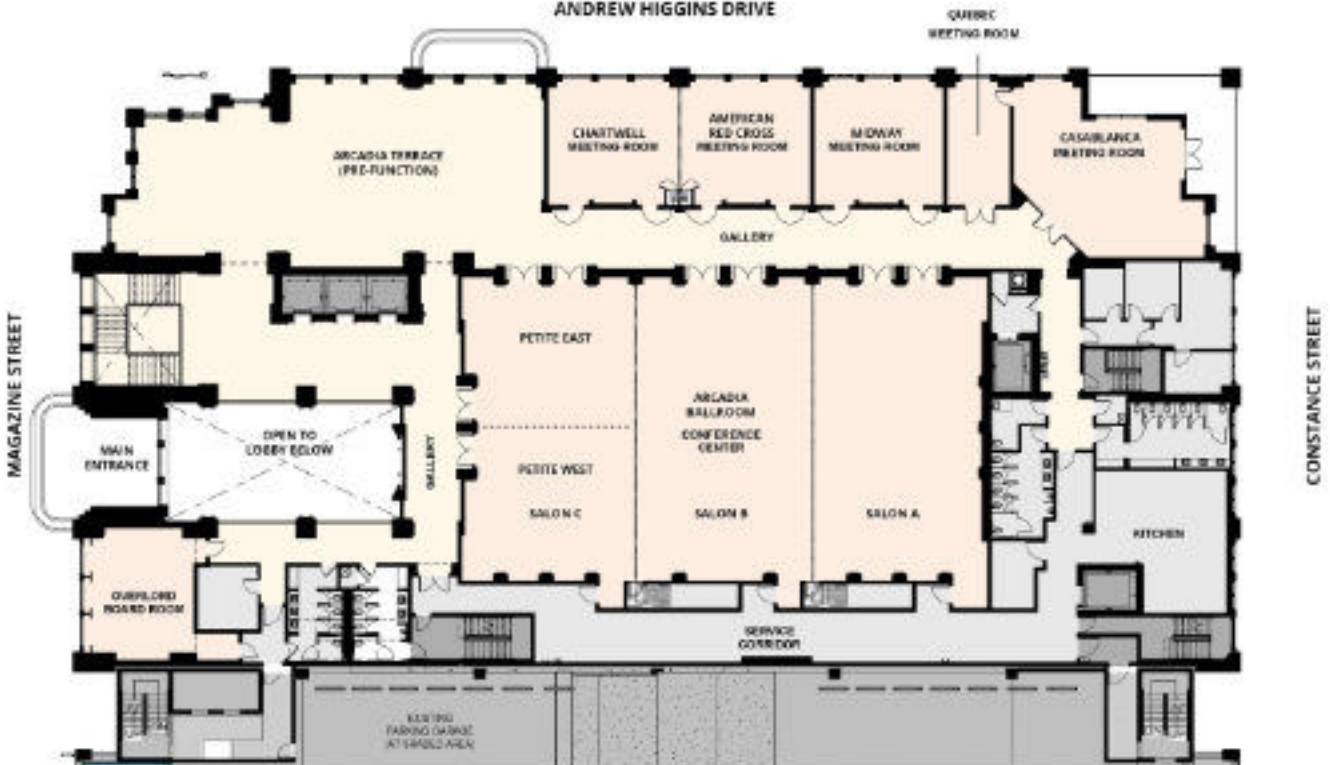
CURIO COLLECTION
by Hilton

ANDREW HIGGINS DRIVE



First Floor

ANDREW HIGGINS DRIVE



Second Floor

THE ORDER

LAZARUS



Grand
Prioral
Council | **New
Orleans**