As our wonderfully moving sojourn at the Order’s Chapter General in Rome now settles into inspiring memories, we must take stock of our tasks and talents as the next three years will be particularly important for the Order. Internationally, we march towards achieving canonical status as an Association of the Faithful, which several of our Grand Priories have already attained nationally. We must continue to work hard to grow our order. We must also do more to spread our message of hope, by helping those who are lost or in need. Yes, our work is fun and we are energized by our mission of mercy! So let’s give thanks for our growth in spirit, in numbers, and in our contributions to making a better world. Let’s also rejoice that our Grand Master H. E. Jan Count Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz was admitted to the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great in the rank of Knight Commander on 10 December 2016 (See Page 2 story: “St. Lazarus Grand Master, Knighted by the Pope). This was bestowed upon him for doing what he loves: pursuing justice and mercy to the call of Atavis et Armis!

Commander Thierry de Villejust, Grand Prior
The 50th Grand Master of the Order of St. Lazarus, under the protection of the Royal House of France was made Knight Commander in one of the Pope’s five personal (as opposed to religious or military orders) of knighthood: the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory the Great. This is conferred on notable Catholics and exceptionally worthy non-Catholics for service to the Church, the Pope, or humanity. This is a very rare honor from Europe’s oldest temporal monarch, and, more importantly, the spiritual successor to St. Peter and inheritor of the Keys to Heaven. Count Dobrzenský received this honor through His Eminence Dominik Cardinal Duka O.P., Archbishop of Prague and Chaplain General of the Order of Saint Lazarus.

Unlike the Military and Hospitaller order of St. Lazarus, there are no service or dues obligations associated with the order of St. Gregory. It is a purely honorific knighthood bestowed for extraordinarily meritorious service. Such orders are sometimes called orders of Merit.

Aside from his apostolic role, the Pope, is the sovereign head of the Vatican City state. As such, he holds a temporal fons honorum (fountain of honor), as does our own protector, the head of the Royal House of France. The Pope’s temporal “fons” is the source of St. Gregory’s rare status as one of the worlds most distinguished orders of knighthood. However, compared to St. Lazarus, the Order of St. Gregory is relatively young. It was instituted by Pope Gregory the XVI in 1831.

Papal Equestrian Order also Conferred on St. Lazarus Knight

On the same occasion, the Herald of Grand Priory of Bohemia, Chev. Zdirad Jan Křtitel Čech, received the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Sylvester Pope and Martyr in the rank of Knight. This is also a papal order, although lower in precedence than the order of St. Gregory. Still, as a Papal honor, it is unquestionably one of the world’s premier orders of Chivalry. Like St. Gregory, St. Sylvester is awarded by the Pope to those who have supported the Church in some significant way. It is often reserved for professionals who have supported the church in their specialty areas, professions, or for humanitarian merit in the applied arts and sciences. As the Bohemian Herald, Chev. Zdirad Jan Křtitel Čech, is the Grand Priory’s officer of arms and chief consultant on coats of arms and genealogy.

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The white enameled Maltese Cross of the Order of St. Sylvester carries, on the obverse, the image of the Saint and Martyr surrounded by the gold inscription: “SANC. SYLVESTER P. M.” The reverse bears the motto “1841 Gregorius XVI restituit.”
Brother Tom Von Jess Readies the Cavalier Volunteers

Brother Tom von Jess, commander of the OSLJ volunteer auxiliary corps, the “Cavaliers” urges every member of the order to pitch in with some one-on-one recruiting. “Our order is fast growing,” said Grand Prior Thierry Villejust, and Brother Tom has his house in order. I think the new certificate is not only handsome, but will serve as a reminder that the person whose name is inscribed upon it has made an important contribution that leverages the Order’s good works in significant ways.

Tom adds, “we need to build the organization, to grow our auxiliary to help promote our sole goal of doing good works of mercy and care. That’s our mission and we want our volunteers to know exactly what kind of organization they are joining.”

The order isn’t simply looking for volunteers. It is looking for real talent, gifted and compassionate Christians from any mainstream denomination, with genuine commitment. We want members who can grow and serve, both actively and spirit, or if possible, by providing financial support to our causes.

Recruiting begins with our present members of the Order and the Volunteer Auxiliary itself. Simply ask a qualified family member or friend to sign up. All they have to do is log into the order’s webpage and fill out the very brief application at: > http://www.ordersaintlazarususa.com/volunteer-corps < Dues are a mere $120 per year, which covers the costs of volunteer insurance, the membership pin (right) and the official certificate (below). These signify the bearer’s right to wear the order’s coat-of-arms emblazoned clothing and attend the order’s events, although most of the fees support the order’s charities.

“Joining was so simple,” said Ela Nelson, new Cavalier. “I love attending the order’s galas, where I met Princess Clotilde of France, and now I feel like a real part of the team,” she smiled. And I know how hard the order works to help the poor and to defend Christianity in places where it is under attack. So many good causes, and so much important work to do. I am so glad to help.”

Abbey Retreat

Have you made plans to attend the upcoming spiritual retreat at the breathtakingly beautiful Subiaco Monastery in Arkansas? Don’t miss this perfect chance to jump off the Hamster wheel of life, at least for a moment, to re-charge your soul, freshen your mood, and rekindle your spiritual journey. This special break will be held the very last weekend of September 2017 (Sept. 8 to October 1 2017).

Chevalier Orlando Benedict, M.D., head of the U.S. Grand Priory’s Western Commandery, is organizing this wonderful event so that we can intimately commune with god, religious folk, and fellow knights and cavaliers. The order’s Ecclesiastical Commander Fr. Paul Brezinski and Chaplain Dom Gregory Pilcher a priest of the Abbey, will nurture our devotional practice. Fr. Pilcher, reminds us that “the foundation of our knightly service is Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve. In conjunction with that service, he also gave us a model of prayer and detachment. In these few days, away from the activities that divide our minds, we can renew ourselves in our Faith. Jesus calls us “Come away for a while.” For more information contact Chev. Benedict at: oibenedict@yahoo.com
Attorney Len Shoemaker, KLJ, is forging multi-faceted relationships with the refugee’s who are housed and supported by Maryland’s Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE). This is a growing 501 (c) 3 organization now headed by Tiffany Nelms, and supported by sisters from various religious communities in the area. About 25 closely vetted asylum seekers who risk renewed persecution if they return home, are being aided by AWE. Shoemaker not only stands ready to provide legal support if needed, but he is now honing his pedagogical talents by teaching English as a second language. This is part of the AWE Employment Education Program. “AWE offers basic to advanced English instruction classes,” he explains. “Most of them speak very clear English, but in the advanced classes we work more on grammar and idioms. I really enjoy it.”

The order helps out in other ways. Shoemaker describes the refugee’s gratitude when they received toiletries gathered by the order: combs, shampoo, soap, deodorant and so forth were delivered as requested, ” he beamed. Chancellor Pat Davis, KLGC, explains that the order is poised to do more, much more. “To start, we are scheduled to meet with the Maryland Food Bank to tap into their resources to help feed these traumatized and near destitute women.” We marvel at their strength and are encouraged by their progress as they prepare to proudly enter society as self-supporting contributors. The Order continues to explore other ways to help and members are urged to pray for this mission. AWE is most grateful for the order’s positive outreach.

The order grows steadily one brick at a time. Our sturdy foundation, built to help the poor, is buttressed, brick-by-brick, by our faith driven good works in words, deeds and donations. These red clay and sand blocks, fashioned from the earth’s soil, baked by the sun and blessed by God, fit together in seamless masonry, affixed by the mortar of our faith. One of such symbolic slab, was literally laid, by our Vice Chancellor, Peter von Jess, KLJ, who bought the one pictured above to honor our order. It lies on the walkway into his own beloved St Mary Magdaline Catholic Church in Apex NC. It is a simple, stable, and steadfast symbol honoring our ancient bedrock prize to safeguard those in need.
Miss Sherry Cutrer SLJ asked and received a Mass be offered for the intention of Grand Priory Vice Chancellor Peter von Jess, KLJ, and the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem. The order was humbly honored and deeply grateful for the benefits of this Eucharistic Sacrifice. “I have simply come to the obvious conclusion that Sherry must be an Angel,” exclaimed Grand Prior Thierry de Villejust. “There are no other plausible explanations at this point,” he concluded. “Keep Sherry and all our members in your prayers,” added Chevalier von Jess.

St. Lazarus physicians Dr. Orlando Benedict, KLJ, and Dr. Claudine Holt, DLJ, the Grand Priory’s Chiurgeon (pictured left), remind us that the ancient scourge of Leprosy is way down, but not out. The dreaded disfiguring and deadly disease that forged our Order’s founding as a Leper hospital in 12th Century Jerusalem, is no longer a major threat in the U.S., says Dr. Colt, but it still afflicts nearly seven thousand people stateside, and is growing possibly due to immigration.

Dr. Benedict asks us to think about the prior to being released to mix with the general population they remained quarantined at Ellis island until medically cleared. Tuberculosis (TB) was the plague of the early twentieth century and at that time no cure was available,” he explained. Ironically, TB along with Leprosy are making a comeback. Benedict conjectures that this is “maybe because some public officials are too confident in the ability of modern medicine to treat infectious conditions. Overconfidence is always dangerous, these two contagious illnesses have developed resistance to antibiotics that (Continued on Page 6)
(“Doc Talk” continued from page 5) used to provide cures readily. Alertness is key to safety. Adults need to remember to get immunized against whooping cough, specially if they are in contact with children.

Although not a great threat, reflects Holt, the increase in Leprosy is troubling “and it would be great if we could get involved somehow... And it fits perfectly with the history of the OS LJ and we have members in TX, FL and NY where the numbers seem to be highest and where we could take some meaningful action.

Heeding this call, Grand Prior Villejust urged the doctors to continue their thinking and to consider a plan of action for some project in the US just as many of the order’s brothers and sisters are doing overseas. “this is a fine way to keep connected with our roots,” said Villejust, “and to meet the call of Atavis et Armis, but using the modern weapons of medical know how, exercised through the gifts of voluntary giving.

Order of Merit conferred Chief Chaplain Fr. Breczinski in Rome.

Count Dobrsensky (above right) Confers the Order of Merit on Ecclesiastical Commander, Fr. Paul Breczinski. His tireless efforts have touched many lives through his nurturing pastoral care and thoughtful outreach to knights, dames, brothers, and sisters. His heart-helping presence in times of both need and celebration are a constant reminder of our higher calling and to whom we give all thanks. His official duties as Chaplain General puts him at the center of the order’s ceremonies. We count on his prayers, blessings and scripture-informed advice, especially as we march towards becoming an Association of the Faithful. His beautiful singing voice and powerful, pristine speech inspire our investiture ceremonies, lifting the assembled chivalry in euphonyous bond. Congratulations and thank you Fr. Paul.

Italian Grand Prior Giovanni Ferrara (uniform center) warmly greets his American guests during one of the elegant semi-formal dinner parties at the recent Chapter General meeting in Rome Italy. Chevalier Ron Cormier enjoys the elegant company of two of the Order’s ladies: Chevaleresse, Dame Claudine Holt, the Grand Priory Chirurgeon and Sister Sherry Cutrer who is organizing the upcoming investiture in quintessentially French New Orleans (May 19-20).
In solemn procession, Grand Prior, Lord Thierry Pauquet of Villejust carries the redemptive sign of our Lord’s sacrifice accompanied U.S. Grand Priory Chaplain, General Fr. Paul Breczinski in Rome.

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U.S. Grand Priory Heeds Italy Earthquake Relief Call

It was a plea that hurt to hear. Chevalier Giovanni Ferrara, St. Lazarus Grand Prior of Italy, was compelled to repeat his call for help from his American brethren. His people had once again been brutally victimized by earthquakes. “There are not enough words to express our grief and our anger at the loss of innocent lives.” He lamented. In sharing this pain he asked America to lend “a fervent and helping hand to aid our brothers and sisters” in trembler traumatized Italy, “as you did twice before, in the L’Aquila earthquake in 2009 and that of Emilia in 2012.” As Grand Prior Villejust noted, “immediate assistance was needed.” Villejust quickly authorized a $2,000 donation and pushed out a call to respond to the Italian online subscription site for fundraising. Other jurisdictions answered the call with equal rapidity in the first wave of aid. The Italian Grand Prior’s gratitude is expressed below:

Dear Thierry,

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you and all the members of your jurisdiction for the great gesture of solidarity with the people of Central Italy accomplish by the earthquake. These actions are the North Star that distinguished people and especially the Knights of the Order of St. Lazarus always ready to help.

It brings our thanks to all of your members who will not be present in Rome. I want to personally thank those who will be present at the Chapter.

A big hug

Giovanny

A magnitude 6.2 earthquake virtually levels in the Medieval village of Amatrice Italy: Many died, history destroyed, St. Lazarus responds!
“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

The order rejoices in the innocence of the young. We especially look to meet the needs of the unfortunate small ones everywhere, born and unborn. Take a mindful moment and smile at your memories of the little ones who have brightened your life, or be in the moment when you play with and teach the youngsters around you now.

On this page (and in future ones) we will celebrate the children of our Order and its friends. Our “world premier” picture (below) is a future Dame of the order. Baby Sadie is the adorable granddaughter of our Vice Chancellor, Pete von Jess, KLJ. Sadie was born Oct 5th, 2016, and weighed in at 9 pounds 15 oz. and 23 inches. She is the perfect picture of health, purity and happiness. Congratulations grandad Pete (below)!

Order of St. Lazarus: Part of the Safe Haven for Newborns

Nick E. Silverio, KLJ, founded Safe Haven, a 501(c)3 non profit foundation established in honor of the beloved memory of his late wife Gloria. Safe Haven offers a real chance at life and new hope to the baby’s of distraught parents who, for whatever reason, cannot raise their infants. Safe Haven offers hope by lawfully accepting their baby’s custody, in full confidentiality, giving infants a chance at a love filled future.

Nick reminded the order recently, of his inaugural rescue. Little Carol Gloria was his first saved baby. He recalls how he “was overwhelmed that morning with tremendous joy” as he shared a brand new story of yet another saved life, the 247th precious newborn, a healthy girl named Mila, born in Florida. Little Mila now shares an un-severable bond with Gloria and 245 other newborns in Florida, 3 babies in other states, and one Honduran infant. They all avoided the looming dangers of abandonment, poverty, or worse and have truly blessed families that were more than eager for the joys and sacrifices of parenthood.

Mila will grow up in a loving home just like the five Safe Haven children who attended foundation’s recent 6th annual gala with their parents—a tremendously fulfilling (continued on page 9)
It was so heartwarming to see the love these parents had for their babies.

As Nick has said from the very beginning of his mission, “if we saved only one life all of our efforts would be worthwhile. What is more important than giving a precious innocent child a chance at life,” he beamed. For the Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus the answer is simple: “nothing.” Nothing is so precious as an innocent child, and no responsibility is greater than giving a new life a chance to grow roots within a loving home — a safe place to sprout wings and fly high as a valued member of society.

MHOLJ will continue to regularly support Safe Haven and our fellow Chevalier Nick and his beautiful cause: http://www.asafehavenfornewborns.com

Member Spotlight:

H. E. Wayne E. Parthun, GCLJ

night of the Grand Cross, H. E. Wayne Earle Parthun (pictured left, in 1998), is the longest continually serving member of the Order of St. Lazarus in the United States. Invested as a “member,” in 1971 by the Army’s former Chief Chaplain Major General, H. E. Patrick Ryan. Parthun’s boundary spanning career has greatly contributed to the growth and strength of the order.

Born in Cicero, IL, in 1938, Wayne’s ambitious and productive youth is reflected in his becoming an Eagle Scout in 1957, and by his ABA degree electrical engineering, but his humanitarian urges pulled him in other directions before being the drafted in 1961.

After Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood and Adjutants General school at Ft. Ord California, Private Parthun was assigned as the Senior Chaplain’s (continued page 10).
(Parthun continued from page 9) assistant to the Post Protestant Chaplain at the Presidio in San Francisco. His quest for pure learning pushed the technically inclined soldier to pursue his education at San Francisco State where he graduated with a BA in Humanities.

His helpful approachability made Parthun the Army’s right pick to be scout master for the military dependent’s Scout Troop. In 1963 this work was interrupted by a tour in Viet Nam in a headquarters company in Saigon, thereafter returning stateside to the Sixth Army Headquarters before being honorably discharged in 1967.

Always looking for opportunities to make a meaningful difference, Parthun became a youth counselor with the Illinois Department of Corrections in the Forestry Camp Division where he dedicated himself to changing lives. His helping impulse led to subsequent work with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Chicago and eventually the American Cancer Society. His work history also includes a stint at the Allendale School (a private residential treatment center), as the Director of Operations and Development, while simultaneously serving as an Assistant Fire Chief of the Antioch, IL Volunteer Fire Department and as a Paramedic with the Lake Villa, IL Rescue Squad. Later he became the Fire Marshal for the North Maine Fire Protection District in Des Plaines, IL, eventually rising to the rank of Fire Chief in Riverdale IL until he retired in 1993.

Gathering no moss, Parthun launched a post-retirement career doing higher level security work for major businesses and hotels including a stint on a security detail for President Bush and V.P. Chaney when working for the Loews Hotel Chain. He continued to support veterans by spearheading a range of events through the American Legion and other warrior associations. His veteran outreach continues in his hometown of Hopkinsville KY where he is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and serves as the Southwestern representative of Department of Defense sponsored Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committee.

The bulk of his time with the Order was as the Secretary and Marshal of Midwest Commandery. He eventually became a part of the Grand Priory’s Marshal Corps and ultimately its Chief Marshal overseeing Investitures in all Major Commanderies in the U.S, as well as Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Portugal in addition to assisting the Chief Marshal in Canada. Parthun has received the order’s 20 year longevity award, the Silver Cross of Merit, the Bronze Medal of Merit was made a knight of the Grand Cross. In 1999 the order awarded him the “Alan Weaver Hazelton Award” for humanitarian service.

His highest honor, as a single male, was the adoption of his two sons in the mid 1980’s: Jason Waters and Marty Swiderek. Both are now married and have rewarded him two beautiful Grand Daughters, LeAnn and Kenley.

Grand Marshall

The Grand Marshall is the chief of protocol in the military orders of chivalry and in other military or quasi military organizations. He is invariably the highest ranked officer in charge of parade or processional events. A Marshall is the chief safeguard of martial tradition and the arbiter of all ceremonial concerns. Marshall’s were also high figures in Medieval royal courts.
De la Rome antique
à la Nouvelle Orléans, nous rallions!

Investiture: A new beginning in NOLA,
A grand Gala in the Big Easy!

Mark your calendars now for May 19 and 20th when the flower of French Royalty, and the order’s most Noble Grand Master, Count Dobrzensky will gather in magnificent “New Orléans.” Easily the most European city in the Western Hemisphere, New Orleans is named after Phillippe I Duc D’Orleans founder of the House of Orléans and a direct grinderfather of our own Royal Protector, the current head of the Royal House of France. The glorious name of “Orleans’ conjures the blessed memory of the martyr, St. Joan, the Maid of Orleans, a French peasant girl who inexplicably emerged as armored leader of flower of French Chivalry to win the crown of France for Charles VII during the last stages of the Hundred Years War.

This year’s investiture will be truly historic as it will be graced not only by our Grand Master, His Excellency Count Jan Dobrzensky z Dobrzenicz, but also by royalty from House of Orléans, a direct descendent of the city’s namesake, and the last king of the French people who reigned from 1830 until 1848 and whose Bourbon routes go back to Hugh Capet in the 10th century.

This year the Royal House of France will be formally represented by HRH, Charles-Philippe d’Orleans, Duke of Anjou, Grand Master Emeritus, with his lovely wife, HRH Princesses Diana d’Orleans, Duchess of Cadaval. Princess Clotilde d’Orléans, whose radiant presence always casts our galas in the golden aura of old world charm will honor us once again. Also attending will be our Grand Capitular, His Excellency Lt. Col. Philippe Jourdain, author of the order’s recent history, “Leper Knights the Order of St. Lazar.”

The sacred vigil and investiture will be held in The Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France. There among memorabilia of the Order of St. Lazarus, you’ll see a stained glass window (see page 12) depicting King St. Louis IX compassionately helping a suffering everyman. Louis had a special concern for lepers and the destitute, and it was he who gave our Order permission to move its headquarters from the forlorn Christian outpost of Acre, the last stronghold of Kingdom of Jerusalem, to Boigny France where today, the 50th Grand Master Count Jan Dobrzensky z Dobrzenicz sits as commander.

This magnificent event will have been in planning for over a year, but thanks to the (Continued on page. 12).
Continued from page 11), tireless efforts of Sister Sherry Cutrer, who grew up in New Orleans, and who knows the Cathedral well. When Vice Chancellor Pete von Jess showed her an earlier edition of the St. Lazarus newsletter with a picture of the stained glass window depicting St. Louis (right) it was like hearing an old song that stirred a wonderful memory, “why not have our next investiture there,” she asked Pete. “Seeing this picture was when I really started recognizing the connection between the church and the order,” she explained.

Inspired by her past, Sherry, reached out to Kevin Charpentier, a native New Orleanian, and one event led to another. With the royal family, the Grand Master and the Grand Capitular attending our investiture as well as visiting the city named for the royal’s family, the interest of key members of New Orleans’ society also came forth to help our Order host a fantastic itinerary.

With the help of Kevin and other New Orleans locals, the investiture has been designed to showcase the magic of this historic city and church. Every detail will highlight the majesty and magic of the city as a way of welcoming our Order to the Crescent City. It has reconnected Sherry with her roots and she anticipates moving back to New Orleans as soon as she can.

Sherry’s hard work continues which is paying dividends. She was able to negotiate wonderful room rates at the Royal Sonesta Hotel (at 300 Bourbon St.) for only $170 a night. “I just want to make sure that members can get the very best accommodations at the very heart of all the activities.” “This is pretty much the best that could have ever happened,” exclaimed Grand Prior Villejust, “and with all the Royal VIPs, is absolutely unprecedented for any former Priory of our Order in the United States.” Unfortunately, due to the discounting of the hotel room - the hotel can’t take reservations individually without it skewing their accounting of true revenue. So, Sherry will create a rooming list and will respond to each e-mail with a confirmation. Contact Sherry at: sherrymcutrer@yahoo.com, with the specific days along with your name and the number of people staying in your room. Cut off is April 15th.

We will meet together during the weekend of May 19-20, 2017 in New Orleans.
Answering the Ancient Hospitaller call to the Holy land, the Order of St. Lazarus has recommitted to return to its Holy Land roots to help persecuted and fading Christian communities and their Kurdish friends and neighbors. Members of the Order have joined hands with Osprey Global Solutions to rebuild communities razed and ravaged by the murderous monstrosity of ISIS. Chevaliers Mike Cheney and Pete von Jess, have forged a partnership with Osprey’s President and CEO, Brigadier General (ret.) David Grange who is a postulant this year, and, as a flag officer, will be invested as a Knight of the order. His wife Holly will join us as a Serving Sister.

Cheney and von Jess had both served with Grange in the military: Cheney in a Ranger Regiment when Grange was a company grade officer, and later, in the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) at Fort Bragg NC. Vice Chancellor von Jess was a Task Force Logistics Officer of Task Force Pershing for Grange when he was the Task Force Eagle commander while also heading up the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red 1) in Bosnia/Croatia. The firm bonds of friendship and respect that grew between these veterans recently sprouted new wings to help bring back Kurdish communities and churches, like the order’s namesake, from the dead.

An key lynchpin to this humanitarian effort is Osprey Global Solutions (OGS). Osprey is a “Service Disabled Veteran owned Small Business (SDVOSB) that provides expert problem assessment and leadership to find and forge workable solutions to logistical and related security, support, and supply problems in hot spots or otherwise austere theaters of operation. This consummate can-do Lazarite team and the OGS are now on the move in Northern Iraq, especially in the Nineveh valley, home to an estimated 250,000 Christian refugees, with a clear vision for new hope in the Holy Land.

After Kurdish Peshmerga and Iraqi troops retook areas north of Mosul it was clear that peace loving Kurdish communities and especially the Christian centers and Churches had been defaced and all but obliterated by ISIS. Help, both material and symbolic, was needed and fast. Job one, explains Chancellor Pat Davis, was to rebuild the churches. “this was the people’s first choice, to rebuild their desecrated churches which are the center of the community. Their homes could come later,” Davis said. While the Grand Priory of the U.S.A. has already provided much needed medical supplies and other help, an equally needed moral boost would be to resurrect to full glory the spiritual heart of the community, the churches, replete with loud and proudly ringing bells.

The sounds and symbolism of church bells goes back to the early medieval church, where bells not only rang out the call to prayer and (Continued on p. 14)
(continued from page 13) chimed the beginning of Mass, but symbolically reflected heaven’s power against evil and today, in Kurd controlled Northern Iraq, are needed to sound out the “joyful noise” of the Psalms, signifying the community’s rebirth from the dark oppression of ISIS. To this end, the Order of St. Lazarus has bought the first of five bells to chime in the message of reclaimed peace.

Vice Chancellor Pete Von Jess, KLJ and Chancellor Patrick Davis, GCLJ with the first of Five Nineveh Bells with the multi-language label seen on the previous page.

More “Papal” Knights and Honorees within the Order of St. Lazarus

In addition to the knighting of our Grand Master into the order of St. Gregory and the Bohemian Herald’s initiation into the Papal order of St. Sylvester, another St. Lazarus Knight, Krzysztof Polasik-Lipiński (pictured above), was also recently invested into the rarified ranks of order St. Gregory the Great. Meanwhile, here in the states, one of our own members, Dr. Orlando Benedict, KLJ, was just admitted into Papally protected Sovereign Military and order of Malta (SMOM) as a Knight of Magisterial Grace. He joins fellow Lazarus Knights Felix Holewinski and Nick Silverio in this grade. Our own Grand Prior, French Nobleman, Thierry Villejust and Chaplain Fr. Dom Gregory Pilcher are also a knights of the Holy Sepulcher which is under the direct protection of the Pope. They join Dr. Holewinski who is a Knight Commander in this esteemed order. Hospitaller Dr. Wayne Nelson was recently accorded the Cross of Merit de Frei São Nuno Álvares Pereira from the Assembly of Portuguese Knights of the Sovereign Military order of Malta.

Above, In Rome, Commander Thierry de Villejust, U. S. Grand Prior is flanked by MHolJ members 1st. Lt. (USA) Jonathan Berman, BLJ, Dr. Orlando Benedict, KLJ, and Peter von Jess, KLJ

The order of St. Lazarus is comprised of Princes, Prelates, Priests, Patricians and Professionals from all walks of life, united in a commitment to God and Good Works to help those who may be in some ways less privileged, but who are more than equal in the eyes of God.

Remember always the Priests of St. Lazarus. They have ministered to us from the founding days of leper hospital in Jerusalem; stood with us through the terrible defeats at La Forbie in 1244 and at the final fall Acre, where St. Lazarus knights fought to the last. Our priests were always there giving us heart, and reminding us of the final victory over death and sin.

Davis’s Discourse

If you haven’t heard Chancellor Pat Davis’s talk about the Order of St. Lazarus, you owe it to yourself to do so. His passion and knowledge really shine through. The Cary area North Carolina contingent of members, Cavaliers, and Postulants gathered on January 26th to have a meal and visit with Davis. This was a memorable evening for fellowship and education as Pat provided many colorful and passionate perspectives on the order’s storied history. Seated from left to right: Cavalier Bill Moore, Jean Moore SSLJ, Paul Hausman (postulant), Mrs. Jane von Jess, Mrs. Justina Hausman RN. Second photo: (L to R) David Hayden SBLJ, Mrs. Lee Hayden, Mrs. Jola Hubisz, Deacon John Hubisz (postulant). Not shown were Chevaliers Peter von Jess and Mike Cheney.
“WHETHER A SISTER, KNIGHT, OR CAVALIER, YOU’LL STAND PROUD IN YOUR LAZARUS GEAR”

Cavalier Ela Nelson models a quality pleated soft and silky short sleeved blouse with the order’s high quality embroidered arms. $50.

Armorer Robert Klesko, sports a toasty warm dark green fleece full-zip jacket with the Order’s Coat of Arms—naturally! $40.

Polo on Klesko: a classic quality look for only $35.

Pale green V-Neck Sweater Vest. $50.

Above, classic men’s drifter Navy Blue, V-Neck sweater vest. $50.

Men’s Rugged Outrigger Anorack Jacket—light, waterproof with pocket and hood. $40.

Sartorially sharp high quality traditional collar (not shown) and button-down collar long sleeve white dress shirt. $50.

See full selection on the Order’s webpage. Armorer Robert Klesko will be selling these items and more in New Orleans. Proceeds support the Order’s Charities.
Rome: In this his second Chapter General meeting as 50th Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus, Count Dobrzenský’s message was strong, positive and resolute. His powerful affirmation of the order’s historic roots was buttressed by the ubiquitous presence and support of both the Royal House of France, as represented by H.R. H. Prince Charles-Phillippe d’Orléans, duc d’Anjou, and devotionally, by His Eminence Dominick Cardinal Duka O. P., the Order’s Chaplain General. The former bespeaks the protection of a sovereign *fons honorum*, the latter the spiritual protection of a Prince of the Church.

While acknowledging the importance of Christian unity, Count Dobrzenský stressed the order’s unflagging loyalty to its Catholic heritage wherein we “share the same values of other Christian ecclesial communities and come together in the name of Saint Lazarus and the Virgin Mary to serve Christ, our unseen captain,” he stressed. To that end, he pledged his commitment to achieving formal church recognition to differentiate our quintessentially Catholic essence and official French Royal aegis from the other Green Cross groups without such insurances. To stay strong, and grow, he confirmed that the order will continue to pursue options outlined in code 322 of Catholic Canon Law to become a Private Association of the Faithful at the International level which requires a formal decree from the Holy See. The Order will also continue its already successful initiatives of becoming Associations of the Faithful at the diocesan and national levels.

Dobrzenský enumerated the challenges facing the order today including the confusion about our status as an inherently Catholic chivalric institution as well as stressing two other overriding goals: to (a) attract and keep high quality Christians who can do the work necessary to (b) promote our *raison d’être*, which is to perform significant charitable works in the name of God to help those in need.
Pictured left and right are the white tie and tales formal evening attire. Black tie with tuxedo is slightly less formal but equally appropriate for a St. Lazarus gala dinner. The order does not publish guidelines for civilian attire but expects members to follow taste and custom for formal evening wear. No more than one neck decoration should be worn on a black tie ensemble. Although rare, two neck decorations may be worn with white tie and tales. It is considered the height of good taste to wear only a single star on a tuxedo.

Although up to four may be worn. Four is the maximum for white tie and tales as well. Four stars and one sash are the standard maximum for white tie and tales. These should be worn in order of precedence from higher to lower placement with the highest middle level star (in a triangle shape for three stars or a four star diamond design, see the figure at the right) being placed on the right. When a member is awarded a full size draped chest medal this may be worn on the occasion of the award, but should be exchanged for a miniature medal for subsequent events. Only good taste and discernable rules of precedence limit the number of miniature medals that may be worn on civilian formal dress. However, at a St. Lazarus function, only miniature decorations of internationally recognized orders of chivalry should be worn with military decorations and other appropriate awards.

The wear of the St. Lazarus Military style uniform is regulated by the order’s Grand Capitular. Only one neck order may be worn. Papal orders order’s take precedence over St. Lazarus decorations.

Papal orders are limited to knighthoods conferred by the Pope as head of the Vatican State. These are: the orders of St. Sylvester, Gregory the Great, Pius IX, the Golden Spur and the Supreme Order of Christ. The Equestrian order of the Holy Sepulcher and Sovereign Military order of Malta are recognized by the Pope, and may be worn, but they do not take precedence over St. Lazarus insignia. Wear of royal dynastic orders is permitted if they are unquestionably recognized as legitimate internationally. A good reference for this is Burke’s World Orders of Knighthood and Merit (Dr. Nelson has a copy) or you may contact the U.S. Priory’s Capitular, Dr Felix Holewinski at drfwholewinski@gmail.com.

Up to three stars from the above referenced Catholic Orders or from other internationally recognized orders of chivalry, including St. Lazarus, may be worn, but 2 is more appropriate. In addition, the green cross of justice indicating nobility, may be worn if authorized.

Only five miniature military or chivalric decorations may be worn on the left in order of importance. These may be free hanging (American style, shown above), or court mounted. Five is the absolute limit, including St. Lazarus miniatures. These should be worn in a single row, in order of precedence. Full size draped chest medals are not authorized on this uniform, but be worn on the occasion of the award, but should be exchanged for (Continued on page 19)
miniatures if available. Epaulet “sleeves” of the appropriate rank should be worn over the uniform’s button down epaulets. The order’s dark green belt is mandatory. Sword and chapeau-bra (fore-and-aft) hat are optional, and only knights or higher may wear the sword (and spurs on black boots). White gloves are required for all church services in uniform and when wearing the order’s black cloak. Gloves may be folded over the green belt on the left side when not worn.

Females have much more freedom when it comes to formal evening attire. It goes without saying that a “white-tie” event requires a full-length evening ball gown with jewelry as well as orders and decorations. Miniature medals may be worn on the left side of the dress, but this is not commonly seen, and fewer medals are always better than more.

A black tie event permits more options for women, who can choose from a near white tie level formal evening gown to a cocktail dress. In the U.S., a mix of white tie and black tie options are common. Wear of orders and decorations on cocktail dresses is optional, and if worn, should conform to Queen Augusta’s modeling at left, although a single bowed badge can be pinned to the left shoulder strap of an evening dress, which looks quite simple and smart.

Tradition holds that Dames of the Grand Cross wear one sash and one star, increasingly, seen internationally attached to the sash itself, but more traditionally worn on at the center left chest. Serving sisters, Dames and Dame commanders wear the badge attached to a bow on the upper left chest (see upper right).

Women should wear a black mantilla and white gloves during church services. A black dress is preferred on these sacred occasions.

Military uniforms are often seen at St. Lazarus events and international chivalric functions. The wear and appearance of military uniforms should adhere to the appropriate national and branch regulations. Strictly speaking, non-government chivalric awards are not authorized for wear on U.S. military uniforms, but are still seen often enough at formal evening events, although the wearer is technically “out of uniform.”

The Lazarite nobleman at left is wearing two stars of the Order of St. Lazarus, the neck badge of the Commander of Merit, the green cross of nobility, three miniature medals, and the required green belt—all perfectly turned out. Smart indeed!
There only one order of St. Lazarus, and that order is, once again, consistent with its long history, protected by the Royal House of France. It is true that Louis Philippe Joseph d’Orléans, the People’s King, pulled his fons honorum back from St. Lazarus in 1831. He had political reasons. But the order absolutely persisted, not only through the ongoing meeting of some die-hard members, but also as a canonical entity, a status which persisted will into the 20th century. It is very important to understand that Roman Canon 120 §1and §2 make it clear that unless the Vatican abolishes an order, that order continues, even without members or activities (which St. Lazarus had and did). Evidence is clear that St. Lazarus persisted both practically (Dumas, 1844) and legally (Canon Canon 120 §1and §2). This continuance, guaranteed by Canonical provision of even an entirely defunct order would last for 100 years after the death of its last regularly appointed knight (Ross & Savona-Ventura, 2015).

In the case of St. Lazarus, the most conservative metric would be an extinction date of 1957, which was 100 years after the death of the Marquis des Gouttes in 1857 who had been knighted under the Royal house of France (Sainty 2006). Now it is true, that other knights were appointed after the French revolution and after King Louis Philippe’ abeyance decision (see Savona-Ventura, C. & Ross, Summer 2013), and many more were inducted after that, right on down to when the current head of the Royal House of France reversed his great, great, great, grandfather’s imposed intermission. But the important point is that this act restored the order to its historic French roots assuring that, since 2004, only members admitted under the de Jure King’s protection may consider themselves true knights and members of St. Lazarus.

Now, we could follow another argument tracing the lines or death dates of knights appointed by the Count of Provence (later King Louis XVIII) of France in exile (e.g., in the painting of General Vasily Vasilievich Levashov, left, he wears a Lazar Cross of Justice awarded circa 1800). But we’ll just focus on the “canonical continuance” argument for now. This is because it is simple and more than adequately explains the critical bridge during the aforementioned, historically very brief, French royal recess (1832-2004). This alone, sufficiently justifies the legitimacy of the order’s actual endurance within the ongoing legal (i.e., canonical) foundation (Jourdain, 2015) as it is within this period that members looked to Francophile Lebanon to secure Melkite Catholic Patriarchal protection. This happened, first in 1841, as later confirmed, in 1911, by Melkite Patriarch Cyril VIII’s (above right) fundamental reorganization, which he did not call a (continued on page 21)
(Continued from Page 20), “revival.” He became the order’s protector, temporarily, as did later patriarchs. In this connection it is important to keep in mind that this was all long before the most conservative “supposed” canonical extinction year of 1957. Consequently, then, the chain of events assured the order’s unbroken continuance, albeit in somewhat altered form, the facts of which have been legally confirmed time and again by Melkite Patriarchs, most recently in the current Melkite Patriarch Gregoray III Laham’s Kavlaer declaration (2012).

In this context, it is important to note that Pope has ever ordered a Melkite Patriarch or any other Prince of the Church to desist in their protection, or drop any formal St. Lazar leadership role. Popes have not been shy about doing this with other orders and groups (Masons), including even, this year, when the Grand Master of the Order of Malta was “asked” to step down by the Vatican (The Telegraph, 2015). Conversely, many Catholic priests and prelates have served as open, safe and secure Lazar leaders (e.g., Carinal Duka, right). The Pope could have very easily said “non licet.” But this acceptance has been the case from the beginning until now. It is worth stressing how in assessing this key “Catholic Melkite Bridge,” Peter van Duren, the luminous chivalric scholar, emphasized that “only a papal interdict against the order of St. Lazarus or the Patriarch could have prevented... [any Patriarch] from agreeing to become the spiritual Protector of the Order” (van Duren, 1995 p. 510), and no such interdict ever occurred—ever.

Taking another look at the 1911 reorganization, it has been said that this represented a “secularizing” of the order. True, but only in terms of its temporal governance, and not its Catholic allegiance. In fact, one key result of the 1911 reorganization was a planned strategic march back to French Royal protection (Jourdain, op. cit.). This began with the re-organization of the Chancery in France under the full and final operational authority of the order’s Magistracy at Boigny (Ibid.). This, made the canonical extinction date irrelevant as the Papally allowed patriarchal protection and reorganization occurred fully within the constructs of an extant canonical entity. In sum then, only a few years (historically speaking) after French royal protection was lost (long after Louis XVI lost his head), the order continued as a former Papal order, then a French Royal and Catholic order, next a self governing canonical entity, then as a temporally secular but (Melkite) Catholic protected order, now returned home, to Boigny France, with plans to become a canonical entity once again as an Association of the Faithful.

Moving past all the 20th century splits, schisms, and sub splintering that can confuse any reader on the internet, we should focus on the year 2004, when, as mentioned, the head of the Royal House of France, Henri d’Orléans, Count of Paris, Duke of France, de jure King Henry VII, offered his protection, (just sanguinis), by blood right, to the Order of St. Lazarus, recognizing his nephew, Prince Charles Philippe, Duke of Anjou as its grand master. The Count’s font of honor (fons honorum) gave him authority to restore French institution of St. Lazarus to his protection (ius collationis) making the order Royal, once again. In March 2010 Prince Charles Philippe stepped down as Grand Master, turning over the ropes to his uncle, Jan count Dobrzenský z Dobrzencík as the 50th Grand Master (left).

In a historical aside, it should be noted that French Kings had long fought to keep the order of St. Lazarus French, even if it meant ignoring Popes. In 1489, for example, French King Charles VIII (1483-98), and his Lazarus knights ignored Pope Innocent the VIII’s Papal Bull cum solerti meditazione pensamus, which ordered the knights of Malta to absorb St. Lazarus (Savona (continued on page 22).
(Continued from page 21) . . . Ventura, 2009). Although other national Lazar priories complied, the French knights continued to admit new members contradicting cannon code (Herbermann, 1910). Subsequent papal efforts were also ignored showing, if nothing else, France’s iron will to keep the order French. Pope Gregory XIII went so far as to give St. Lazarus to the house of Savoy where it was joined to the Order of Saint Maurice and Lazarus which persists today. Meanwhile, the French Royal Order of St. Lazarus continued to manage hospitals in France, until 1608 when French King Henry IV, created the of Order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, making its first Grand Master a former Grand Master of St. Lazarus. This was done to appease the Pope, and the new amalgamation was eventually happily accepted back into the Apostolic fold, with the continued protection of the French Crown (Savona-Ventura, 2015).

References

Dumas, Adolphe. (1844), Temple et Hospice du Mont-Carmel en Palestine. Fain & Thunot, Paris, p.11–12


The above badge of a brother of true order of St. Lazarus is differentiated from similar Lazarus group’s by the _fleurs-de-lis_ between the arms of the eight pointed Maltese Cross. The three petals of the Lilly flower have been said to represent the Trinity, or, alternatively, in the day of St. Louis, chivalry, hope and wisdom (Wikipedia at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fleur-de-lis).

The eight points of the Lazar cross represent the beatitudes, but also represent the chivalric ideals “to live in truth, have faith, repent one’s sins, give proof of humility, love justice, be merciful, be sincere and whole-hearted, and to endure persecution” (The Maltese Cross: Its origin and importance in Malta retrieved at: http://www.maltauncovered.com/malta-
Wines of the Lazar Order

Fine wine that couples the spirit the vintner monks of old with the quality, aroma, and a pleasing range of flavors in varieties that match the order’s refined, noble and chivalric spirit. St. Lazarus only supports moderate drinking, but after a hard day’s work, a glass of one of the order’s six varieties of wines is a great way to unwind. Why not welcome the lengthening shades of evening with a comforting sip of spicy Zinfandel? Or savor a drink of dry merlot. What suits your fancy? We’ve got it. Even if you don’t drink, the “profits” support our charities. So why not invest in a case today? Each bottle is replete with magnificent heraldic blazon and the elegant “Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem” brand. It goes without saying that these bottles make very classy gifts. So why not please somebody on their special day, or stock up for Christmas. Having a party? Then the Order’s wines are a magnificent and befitting complement. You can review the selection at the webpage above.

Competitively priced between $15 and $22 per bottle, and is sold by case of 12. See the website to place an order:
www.saintlazarususa.com

A Princely Pleasure: Good company and fine wine. Our Grand Master Emeritus, Prince Charles-Philippe, Duke of Anjou with friends—smiles, sips and scintillating repartee—a perfect blend for a perfect evening.