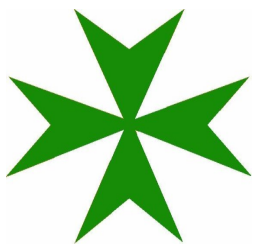


Spring 2023



SAINT LAZARUS[©]

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter

From the Editor

I have been pondering in recent months over what it is that motivated us all to join the Order of St Lazarus - and what it is that keeps us all engaged. There are a number of possible answers:

- Historicity – starting during the 2nd Crusade
- Spirituality – the Order's ecumenical breadth
- Order - the uniforms and ceremonial
- Mutuality - comradeship and camaraderie, especially at local commandery level
- Charitable endeavours – to 'give something back'

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What is our *raison d'être*?

Fundamentally, it is our focus on caring for others.

Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) will always be a primary focus; but what about nearer home? 'Small acts of kindness' marked the COVID pandemic period. The pandemic may have passed but the needs of less advantaged individuals and families have not. The worldwide economic downturn has reinforced these, and we must respond. So, we know why we are here but,...

Why would anyone wish to join us?

The first answer is a further question – why did we? That has to be the basis of our answer.

This, of course, is not a new question but its answers change as time goes on and the needs of those around us change. We need to be sensitive to what our communities need and develop what we can offer to meet that need. Every generation has different priorities, and expects organisations to which they belong to respond to them - especially addressing social need and environmental sustainability. In the IPRCC we are working on how we might be able to assist in recognising these efforts at international, national and local levels.

How then do we get the message across to potential postulants? What do they see in us which will make them want to join us?

Watch this space!

Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ

Deputy Grand Information Officer, & Chair, IPRCC



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Why Go On Pilgrimage?

The concept of pilgrimage has resonated with Christians throughout the centuries. As a community of believers, we have a history of making journeys to places of religious significance in order to strengthen and invigorate our personal relationship with God, whether that be as a solitary journey, or one shared with others with whom we have a common association.

In recent years, the Order of St Lazarus has resurrected (excuse the pun) the notion of an International Pilgrimage. These have proven to be very popular. By their very nature, these sojourns to foreign lands have provided members of the various International Jurisdictions the opportunity to come together in fraternity as the 'Lazarus Family', and to enjoy each other's company in a convivial setting.



The Shrine at Walsingham, Norfolk—site of the 2014 international pilgrimage

It also affords the membership an opportunity to meet and share time with the Grand Master and members of the Grand Magistral Council, as well as to meet or re-acquaint ourselves with members from other Jurisdictions.

In many respects, the gathering of the Order on pilgrimage becomes the Order writ large. It's understandable that at times, within our respective Commanderies, or indeed even within our respective national Grand Priories or Grand Bailiwicks, we may feel a sense of being dislocated from other constituent parts of the Order.

Coming together on pilgrimage enhances that sense of being part of something bigger; of reinforcing the reality that each Commandery within each National Jurisdiction is an essential and functioning part of the Order's international identity and, as such, plays an integral and valuable role in contributing to the success of the Order and its national and world-wide mission.

This also contributes towards encouraging and supporting smaller national jurisdictions who might otherwise not have the opportunity to have the same level of contact with their overseas confreres and consociates.



Lazarus pilgrims gather in the Knights' Chapel at Monreale, during the most recent international pilgrimage

The gathering of the Order on pilgrimage becomes the Order writ large

The pilgrimage facilitates a focus on the Order as an ecumenical family and, by extension, as a strong Christian witness in a much divided world

Just as importantly, the pilgrimage facilitates a focus on the Order as an ecumenical family and, by extension, as a strong Christian witness in a much divided world.

The Order in Malta and Gozo are preparing to host the Pauline Pilgrimage in February 2024. Malta, the diadem in the midst of the Mediterranean, will provide a beautiful backdrop for the wonderful opportunity this pilgrimage will offer to those intending to travel. It will be a pilgrimage of friendship, of encouragement and fun.

So, in answer to the question, "Why go on pilgrimage?"
Why not?!

V Rev Fr Ian A Evans ECLJ CMLJ
Chaplain-General Emeritus, Grand Priory of England & Wales



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

*General Magistral Council Meeting
& International Pauline Pilgrimage*

February 8-9th, 2024
Valletta, MALTA

In conjunction with the International Academic Meeting
February 6-7th, 2024



The Order will be organizing an International Pauline Pilgrimage in Malta on **Friday 9th February 2024** [see *Acts of the Apostles Chap 28*].

The Pilgrimage will be preceded by:

- an academic meeting about the history of the Order organized by the International Academy on 6-7th February, and
- Heads of Jurisdictions & Hospitallers' Meetings on 8th February.

An optional tour visiting the World Heritage Neolithic Temples Hagar Qim - Mnajdra and Torri ta' Lanzun (see *Page 4*) will be further organized on 10th February.

Those interested to know more are asked to contact H.E. Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura at csavonaventura@gmail.com. Further details will be circulated in due course.



People & places

Marking two 50th Anniversaries of Torri Lanzun

On 12th May 1973, Castello Lanzun, or *it-Torri ta' Lanzun* as it is known in Malta, was formally opened by the then Grand Master, H.E. Don Francisco de Borbón y Borbón, as the official worldwide headquarters of the Order of St Lazarus and also as the home of what is now the Grand Commandery of the Castello, a Malta-based, ecumenical and international jurisdiction of the Order.

Eventually as membership and charitable giving increased, the jurisdiction was elevated to the level of Grand Commandery by the late 49th Grand Master, H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis of Almazán who became its first Grand Commander. In October 2018, he was succeeded by the current Grand Master H.E. Don Francisco de Borbón Graf von Hardenberg, to continue a tradition going back half a century.

Built in the 18th Century, *it-Torri ta' Lanzun*, stands at the edge of what was originally a small hamlet called 'Mensija', which in Maltese means 'the forgotten' or 'the abandoned place'. More detailed architectural information is available in a research paper by Chev Anton Valentino on the Grand Commandery website at grandcommanderymalta.org/architecture.



The ground floor consists of an Entrance Hall, an ecumenical Chapel dedicated to St Lazarus, and a central Courtyard. The largest room has been appropriately converted into the Knights' Hall decorated with a number of heraldic adornments. Most charitable fund raising events are held in the Knights' Hall in the cold months or in the Courtyard during the summer months.

On the first floor is the Grand Commandery's Council Chamber which leads into the Order's Archives Room. A flagpole with a green eight-pointed cross adorns the top part of this rare example of a fortified farmhouse. The Castello was scheduled as a Grade 1 Building by Malta's Planning Authority in 1984.

The acquisition of Torri Lanzun was the first time that the Order of St Lazarus was able to re-establish a permanent headquarters since it was dispossessed as a result of the French Revolution. Torri Lanzun is available to all Members of the Order and can also be visited by appointment.

Help for Ukraine

Thanks to the help of the Grand Prior of Poland, Chevalier Pawel Skowronek, the Grand Priory of France has been able to make a generous practical donation to the Ukrainian Hospital for Children in Lviv.

6000 masks and three Dräger Caleo incubators were presented to the hospital and received by neonatalist Dr Zoryana Ivanyuk. The incubators are controlled by a microprocessor which is able to regulate and maintain the appropriate temperature inside the crib.



Congratulations to Professor Michael Ross - Grand Officer of Arms Emeritus

Professor Michael Wallis Ross has been appointed Grand Officer of Arms Emeritus by the Grand Master for his extensive work on behalf of the Order. Professor Ross was appointed Grand Officer of Arms in mid-2011 and served in this position for 10½ years. He greatly expanded the Order's heraldic records into a significantly enhanced system meeting world class standards. Professor Ross served with distinction and used his extensive knowledge of heraldry to enhance his work.



He was the first Chairman of the Order's Insignia Committee, masterfully leading a review and revision of the Order's insignia, a challenging but very successful endeavour that was long overdue. He was also the first Chairman of the Order's Uniform Committee, responsible for leading a team that developed the new uniforms, a demanding effort that produced excellent results.

Professor Ross also worked with the Grand Archivist and Historian to produce a thorough historical review of the Order that corrected misconceptions about the Order through the years. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the International Academy in Malta.

Professor Ross is semi-retired as Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Minnesota. He continues to work on his NIH-funded research projects in East Africa.



A new Chaplain-General for Sicily

Gualtiero Isacchi was born in Lecco, then in the province of Como and archdiocese of Milan, on 7 September 1970, and grew up in Seregno. He studied in Merato and Seveso, and at the John Paul II international philosophical-theological seminary in Rome, before obtaining a bachelor's degree in sacred theology at the Pontifical Lateran University.

He began his parish ministry following his ordination in December 1994, serving in Pavona before taking up various diocesan roles, including serving as rector of the episcopal seminary and episcopal vicar for pastoral coordination.

On 4 April 2009 Pope Benedict XVI conferred on him the honorary title of Chaplain to His Holiness.

On 28 April 2022 Pope Francis appointed him 58th Archbishop of Monreale, succeeding Mgr. Michele Pennisi, who had retired. The following July he received episcopal ordination in Monreale Cathedral from Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, with Archbishop Michele Pennisi, his predecessor, and Bishop Vincenzo Viva of Albano as co-consecrators. During the same celebration he took canonical possession of the archdiocese.



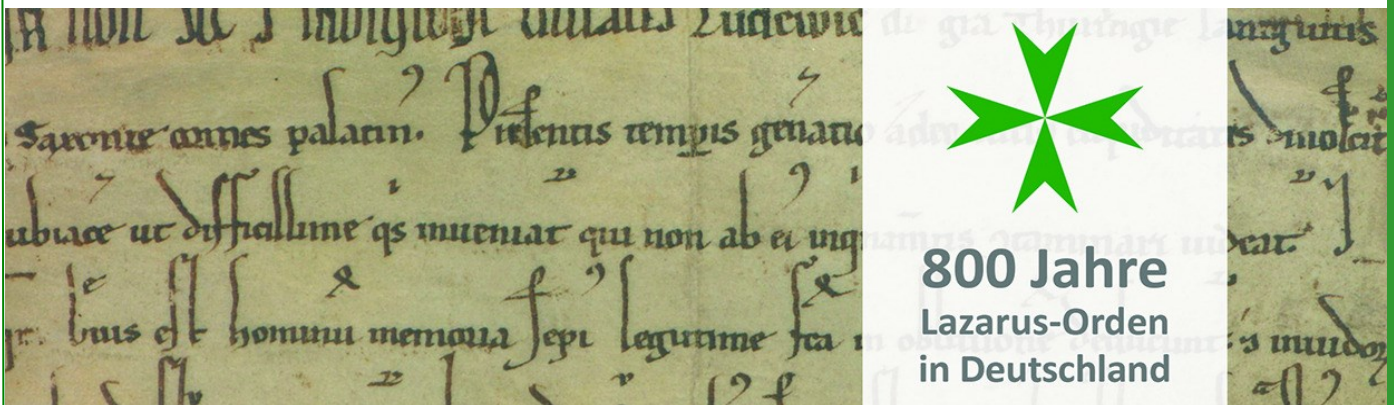
As Archbishop of Monreale he assumes the office of Chaplain General of the Grand Bailiwick of Sicily of the Order of St Lazarus, succeeding Archbishop Michele Pennisi, GCLJ, who retains the title of Chaplain General Emeritus and the office of Ecclesiastical Grand Prior of the Order.

Diary 2023

20-23 April	Grand Priory of America, pilgrimage to the Holy Land
12 May	Grand Commandery of the Castello, Torri Lanzun 50th anniversary
20 May	Grand Priory in Canada, Investiture, Calgary
17 June	Grand Priory of France, Investiture, Boigny
28-29 July	Grand Bailiwick of Germany, 800th anniversary celebrations, Gotha
7 October	Grand Bailiwick of Austria & HC Sighartstein, Investiture
13-14 October	Grand Bailiwick of the Netherlands, Vigil & Investiture, Den Haag
21 October	Grand Priory of England & Wales, National Investiture and Installation of Bailiff, London
25-29 October	Grand Priory of America, Vigil & Investiture, Tampa

Full details of all these and other forthcoming and recent events can be found on the international website

You can also find information about events and activities around the world on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/st.lazarus



The Grand Bailiwick of Germany is looking forward to celebrating the 800th anniversary of the foundation of the first commandery on German soil, the Mary Magdalene Hospital in Gotha.

The celebrations will begin with a meeting of the International Historical Academy on Friday 28 July and conclude with a charity ball on Saturday 29 July. Other events will include a Thuringian evening, a formal academic ceremony and an ecumenical service. Full details can be found on the international website or at www.st-lazarus-orden.de/gotha

