

Hospitaller Order of Saint John

WHITE CROSS GAZETTE



AUTUMN 2012

Gazette of Official Appointments



Grand Officers of the Grand Priories

H.E. Bailiff Heikki Jalas, KH appointed as Chancellor of the Grand Priory of the Baltic, effective October 10, 2009.

Dame Oili Yikleemola, DH appointed as Prelate effective September 17, 2011.

Officers of the Commanderies

Knight Commander Alfred Garcia, KH, appointed to the office of Commander of the Commandery of Jefferson City, effective November, 01, 2010.

Knight Commander Antti Jääskeläinen, KH appointed to the office of Commander of the Commandery of Auranmaa, effective September 17, 2011.

Dame Commander Gillian Taylor DH, appointed to the office of Commander of the Commandery of Edmonton vice the resignation of Dame Commander Maureen Haberstock DH, effective November 26, 2011.

Knight Commander Graham Peacock, KH appointed to the office of Director General of Insignia effective November 26, 2011.



Promotions and Membership Updates

At ceremonies of Investiture conducted under the authority and in the presence of the Grand Master, the following new members were received into the Order.

June 25, 2011 - Edmonton, Canada.

Robert Bradstock J.H. received into membership as a Jurat in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.

Sandi Clarke J.H. admitted to membership as a Jurat in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.

Richard Easton J.H. received into membership as a Jurat in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.

Kathryn Fletcher J.H. received into membership as a Jurat in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.

Sherry Jane Maslyk J.H. received into membership as a Jurat in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.



September 17, 2011- Turku, Finland.

Seppo Illmanen, C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Aki Juhakorpi, C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Risto Lihr, C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Kari Pitkainen, C. H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Jethro Rostedt, C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

At ceremonies of Investiture conducted under the authority and in the presence of the Grand Master, the following members were promoted within the Order.

June 25, 2011 - Edmonton, Canada.

Heather Diane. Dettman, D.H. created a Dame of the Order in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.



September 17, 2011 - Turku, Finland.

Juha Hammaren, K.H. created a Knight of the Order in the Commandery of Ylä-Lohja, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Matti Sillanpaa, K.H. created a Knight of the Order in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Chevalier Ralf Sundgren, K.H. created a Knight of the Order in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Oili Mara Yikleemola, D.H. created a Dame of the Order in the Commandery of Auranmma, Grand Priory of the Baltic.



November 26, 2011 - Edmonton, Canada.

Chevalier Kevin Casper, KH, created a Knight of the Order in the Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada.



The Grand Master's Message



Over the past year I have attended Investitures in Finland and in Canada. On each occasion old members as well as the new members of this Order were reminded that our first responsibility as members of this Order is to uphold its ancient tradition as a Christian organization. We are first and foremost dedicated to the improvement of the condition of the poor, helpless and indigent within our communities in the name of Christ and St. John. The ancient Hospitallers fulfilled this mission in the Holy Land during the Crusades by providing hospices wherein pilgrims could receive medical care, sustenance and protection from danger during those turbulent times. Later, when they were required to take up arms in defense of that region they built great Crusader fortresses to consolidate their power base. Krak de Chevalier, the greatest of these, situated strategically north of Jerusalem near what is now the Jordanian border in Syria is regularly designated by popular media as a Templar stronghold but was in fact a Hospitaller castle. Many such fortresses were built throughout the Holy Land but the inexorable expansion of Muslim power rendered them untenable in the end and the Order was forced to withdraw from that area completely and repair to the island of Rhodes until that fortress was surrendered to Suleiman

the Great in the 15th century. The Order fell back to their island fortress on Malta and successfully held there until they were expelled by Napoleon at the end of the eighteenth century. You might think that the role of the great Christian military and religious Orders would have ended at that time but such did not happen to the Hospitallers. The Knights Templar were destroyed at the beginning of the 14th century by Philip the Fair of France. The Templars had grown fabulously wealthy through their commercial and banking activities. A draft drawn in any Templar prefecture could be cashed at any other prefecture in the Templar world, for a fee of course, and their trading fleets were the largest in Europe. Phillip coveted the Templar treasure and on Friday the thirteenth of May 1314 moved to imprison their leaders and confiscate their holdings. He never did acquire the great horde of treasure they were said to have accumulated and its whereabouts remain a mystery to this day.

After the fall of Malta, the Knights Hospitaller scattered to their birth countries there to revive their calling under friendlier circumstances. And so began the diaspora of Hospitaller Orders. The Pope maintained the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Order of St. John of Jerusalem restricting membership to Roman Catholics and housing that segment of the Order in the Vatican. In both Protestant and Orthodox Christian countries the Order sought the protection of sympathetic monarchs and so the Imperial Russian Order was formed, as was the Johanitter Orden, created under Brandenburg protection. In my own birthplace of Scotland, Hospitallers had long ago established a presence and many hospices and priories had been independently active throughout the centuries. There were Hospitallers present within the ranks of the Scottish regiments sent to London in what was then known as Upper Canada in 1824 and from these small beginnings Hospitaller activities in

Canada and the USA and Mexico began. In 1965 King Peter II of Yugoslavia provided his protection to a surviving group of Hospitallers in the USA and Canada and his Fons Honorum provides for the continuing Sovereign validity of this Order. Nevertheless, it is the work and the charitable activities of this Order, which provide for its continued existence as a chivalric benefactor of humankind in Christ's name. There has been a great deal of controversy with regard to the continued existence of Orders of Chivalry in the present day. The internet is full of indignant treatises on the validity or non-validity of this or that Order. Our own Order has suffered from such vilification with an expelled faction claiming that Robert Formhals was the last true Grand Master of our Order ignoring the past service of Richard Flach de Flachslanden as Grand Master from 1991 to 2005. Such efforts to belittle the achievements of others are undeserving of any true Christian's attention.

The days of great fortresses and the military defense and protection of pilgrims has long past but the basic premise of our Christian duty as Hospitallers remains. We must now build fortresses of compassion and build bridges between the haves and have-nots in our society and throughout the world. That is our mission today and every day. Our motto "***Pro Fide et Pro Utilitate Hominum***" 'For the faith and service to mankind' establishes us as Hospitallers but the most important exhortation, '***Defend the Weak, Yea defend the Weak***' defines our mission.

Over the past few years members of the Order have continued to uphold our obligations as Christian Hospitallers by supporting Organizations which serve, the homeless, the hungry and those who have not benefitted from our affluent society. Unfortunately, however, the need for such services has increased significantly amidst the stress and dislocation of these troubled economic times. In some countries, the worst effects of the current financial problems that are causing such misery in the USA and turmoil in Europe have, so far, been mitigated by restrictions on the operations

of financial institutions and by enlightened policies towards social welfare. However, no country has been entirely immune from the current financial chaos as many can well appreciate when considering the dwindling values of their savings and other investments. But such concerns are as nothing compared to those who are homeless, those who struggle to survive a cruel northern winter or to find a meal or a warm place to sleep. It is our great privilege to support organizations which cater to the needs of these unfortunate citizens within our society and I commend our Commanderies in Canada, the USA and the Baltic for their efforts in this regard.

At the Marian Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, there is a mural depicting Christ at the Margins, lining up with the poor to receive comfort and perhaps a meal and warm clothes. It is a profoundly moving piece of art which, I believe, should be reproduced widely. One would hope that, such imagery would jog the consciences of politicians who continue to ignore the misery in our inner city streets and would rather build sports arenas that further the interests of wealthy capitalists than shelters or affordable housing for the poor. I further suggest that this image should also be displayed in legislatures where governments might be persuaded that the inherent humanity of the Christian ethic should supersede political pandering to wealthy corporate supporters, and it should most definitely be shown to the denizens of the Wall Streets of the world where greed and financial fascism have formed an unholy religion bereft of all Christian morality. Indeed, the imagery of this mural should remind us all of the axiom "How does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul". For we Hospitallers, let it also be a reminder of both the innate humanity and the necessity of our ancient and solemn obligation to "***Defend the weak, Yea, Defend the Weak***".

Ever yours in Christ and Saint John,
Robert D.O. Devine, K.H.



From the Grand Priory of the Baltic



Officers and Participants at the Investiture in the Holy Church of Turku – September 17 2011

The last two years, was a period of consolidation within the Grand Priory of the Baltic. Over that time period our members organized various educational and church events, fund-raising activities, theatre visits and summer trips which are the core activities pursued in furtherance of the Order's mission in Finland. The Grand Priory also addressed concerns about the "legitimacy" of the HOSJ in Finland that had been raised by some former members. Guided by information provided by the Grand Master and by other works performed and/or commissioned by the Grand Priorial Council, this potentially contentious issue was addressed to the satisfaction of our membership.

The highlight of the activities was the investiture held in the Holy Church of Turku on September 17th 2011. Under the eye of the Grand Master and the Grand Commander of the Order, five new Companions were formally received into our ranks, Companion Oili Yikleemola received the accolade of Dame of the Order and the Companions Matti Sillanpaa, Ralf Sundgren, and Juha Hammaren received the accolade of Knighthood within the Order.

The investiture was followed by a very pleasant dinner reception held at the historic Hamburger Börs hotel.

The week following the investiture (September 23-30, 2011), members also went on a trip to Cyprus to the "footsteps of the Knights". Among the events occurring on that visit were a trip to Nicosia to visit the Cathedral of St. John, a trip across the Troodos mountains to Omodhos to visit the monastery of the Holy Cross where ancient Knights had made Commandaria wine, a trip to the Castle Kolossi which had functioned as a hospital of the Knights and, later as a place for the Templars. We also attended a service in the Scandinavian church presided over by our Chaplain Martti Hirvonen.

We thus look forward with God's help and the commitment of our members, to the continuation of our mission in furtherance of the ancient and noble mission of the Order.

***Lea Passoja-Mikkola DH
Rauno Mikkola KH***



The Grand Prior's Investiture Address – September 17 2011

H.S.H Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, H.E. Grand Commander Christa Devine, esteemed members and guests. We have gathered today for the biggest annual event of our Order here in Finland, the Investiture. The church event has been held once again in the dignified national shrine, the Holy Church of Turku and the evening festivities now being held in the historic Hamburger Börs Hotel. Today, in solemn ceremony, we received into our Order six new Companions all of whom I cordially welcome into the Baltic Commanderies and remind them always to remember the vows which they made in the church today. We have also elevated in our ranks a Dame and four Knights to whom I offer my respectful congratulations. Of course, their elevation to this new rank also carries greater responsibilities on behalf of the Order.

To function effectively our Grand Priory needs more officers. Today, I have nominated Knight Commander Antti Jääskeläinen as the new Commander of Auranmaa Commandery and Dame Oili Ylikleemola as Prelate. The Grand Master has approved those nominations. Unfortunately, Chevalier Antti Jääskeläinen could not take part in our festivities today.

I wish the new and newly promoted members good luck and success in their demanding and responsible tasks. Their activities and cooperation are key to the success of our operations. I wish also to thank Knight Commander Harto Roth for the great work that he has done as the first Commander of the Auranmaa Commandery. As an Honorary "emeritus" Commander his services on special projects is highly valued.

Every now and then there is news from different Orders around the world, and in Finland, which is the promised land of organizations, there are many Orders. These may either be based on a dynasty or other form of government with long histories; or the so called "business men Orders". Often, here in Finland, Orders are worn in public, either intentionally or unintentionally in an

inappropriate way. That is because there are Orders that wish to fight publicly for the name that they are using. Because of that they are either respected or not.

I believe that there is no doubt anymore about the legitimacy of our HOSJ here in Finland. This issue has been addressed in the Grand Master's letter and report that was sent to all members of Grand Priory. Later this evening, Chevalier Juhani Hujanen will give a presentation based on his studies of the history of the Order, and Chevalier Harto Roth has written a short historical review which has been given to all new members.

The current Headquarters of our Order is located in Edmonton, Canada and the highest executive, Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine is sitting beside me tonight. Our Grand Priory coordinates and leads the Order's activities in Finland and the Commanderies are its effective functioning bodies. Together, we organize for the members, and others, educational and church events, theatre visits, summer trips and travels to foreign historical places that are of interest to our Order. We have already visited Malta and Rhodes and are planning to visit Cyprus in a week's time.

Our functions have been very active and the goal is to fulfill the goals and objectives of the Order. We work to help those who are suffering and are in need, as embodied in our motto:

Pro Fide et Pro Utilitate Hominum.

As I have mentioned before, we succeed only by working together. A good example of that is the joyous event in the Holy Church and this evening's festivities. The preparations for these events required a lot of work and I wish to thank the officials, church musicians, servers and all that have had a part in making this event a good and memorable one.

I hope that we all have enjoyed ourselves and that our esteemed guests take with them our warm greetings to Canada and USA.

Rauno Mikkola K.H.

New Companions



*Kari Pitkainen, Risto Lihr, Aki Juhakorpi,
Seppo Illmanen, Jethro Rostedt*

On Behalf of the New Companions

I wish to thank you all on behalf of myself and other new members, for the confidence you have shown in us and that you accepted us as members of the Hospitaller of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Every now and then I have had to ask myself if this world is a bad place. I don't want to believe that, but we live in the world with a lot of evil, suffering and injustice. The news and the press deal with mainly unpleasant subjects like wars, terrorism, famine and economic uncertainty. On the basis of these, one could imagine that we have forgotten the necessity of helping others.

Fortunately, things are not so, and there are many people and organizations which seek to help the needy. The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem has a long tradition of helping other people and those traditions are good to maintain. I am grateful and proud that I have been accepted as a member of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. I am also convinced that all of the other new members feel the same.

I will do my best to fulfill the obligations of membership, to live and act as a Companion of the Order, to uphold its ethical and spiritual values and to help the weak and those who need help. So let us work together in good faith and for the people, in accordance with the Knight-ideal.

Aki Juhakorpi C.H.

New Knights/Dames



*Matti Sillanpaa, Oili Yikleemola,
Ralf Sundgren, Juha Hammaren*

On Behalf of the New Knights

On behalf of the new Knights. I wish to warmly thank you for raising us to the highly appreciated Knighthood of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. It is a great privilege and honor to be member of this Order which dates long back and has a glorious history. The long history of the Order is a strong base for present and future activities.

For centuries the objectives and aims of the order have been unchanged: to help the poor, the sick, children and the aged, and that means all who are at risk of marginalization and disadvantage. The third sector work we do does not give rise to striking news events in the media, but neither is it our goal to strive for publicity.

Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur in illis - Times change and we change with them. The old truths are still valid. To achieve our aims, we need modes of action adjusted to the spirit of the times. In addition, there may be a need for revision and rethinking of our organizational status to see if we might gain better results by updating the organization.

Today, we newly raised Knights highly appreciate our membership and we do hope that we can contribute substantially to the goals and objectives of the Order. Once again, our thanks for the privilege and honor to act in this prestigious order.

Matti Sillanpaa K.H.

On Loving Your Neighbour

A homily address to the Grand Priory of the Baltic - September 17, 2011

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect".

The text quoted above actually has to do with the theme of next Sunday, Neighbour Sunday. I may have started a bit early in a sense, but we can talk to neighbours today because the subject is current to this society. Jesus was an example about the love of God that crosses all boundaries. His example obligates us to see a neighbour in every one of us. From Christ we will get the strength to do good deeds for our neighbours. Men aren't often even aware that when he does good deeds he works as a tool of God's love.

Today on this joyous day in the traditional Holy Church of Turku that has stood here for over 700 years, under the arches and in the vaults we are seeing the mystery of faith, that invisible connection which has given we Christians a togetherness far and wide. Who is my neighbour? Jesus said he can also be your enemy. During the time of Jesus, enemies were the Roman occupiers or, for example, the Samaritans. We are not getting it easy now. We are well aware of the harshness of the world. Wars and uprisings that are made by disputes which can grow into greater conflagrations. In difficult times it is good to remember that we all are someone's children even though we are adults. I am going to quote a small piece from the teachings and thoughts of Jesus.

Jesus considered children as other neighbours in need and revealed an inverse prestige structure: children are protected by angels, who in a sense are symbols of innocence and are the closest ones to God. During our lives we can talk about the angels of everyday life who protect us in different situations. We can try to trust in their protection and believe that angels are not the mythical beings from fairytales but true beings of Christian faith from the Bible. In other words there is another side to this thought; we can be each other's angels, deliverers of good, helping hands and messengers of God.

Nearly 1000 years ago the first Knights of St. John protected pilgrims, women and children in the Holy land. They established hospitals and took care of their friends in need there. From this began the traditions for which we are gathered in the Holy Church of Turku today. I can note that when trying to do good deeds, we are close to the goals of the Order of St. John.

The day of the neighbour reminds us that the realm of heaven is intended for the childlike. A child as a role model could take us to a lifestyle that simply is to enjoy life. When you give you get, when you seek you find and in time as reward you get the joy and peace in heaven. Today as friends and fellow travelers in this unique moment in front of the face of God, we have taken in new members of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John and nominated others to new tasks. Let us pray for the new and old members. Bless and guide us in our tasks and, in time, take us home to heaven.

Petri Vuorinen P.H



From the Grand Priory of Canada

Several changes have occurred in the Grand Priory of Canada over the past two years. In Edmonton, the Haberstock family has relocated to Okotoks, Alberta and, as a result, Dame Commander Maureen Haberstock relinquished her Command of the Commandery of Edmonton, and Dame Commander Gillian Taylor was appointed to that office. The Commandery has also lost the services of its much beloved chaplain, Rev. David Lehmann, who has recently been transferred to a parish in his home town of Fort Smith in the North West Territories. We bid Dame Commander Maureen Haberstock, Chevalier Rodney Haberstock and Rev. Lehmann God speed as they establish themselves in their new situations and the best of luck as representatives the Hospitaller Order of Saint John in their new Communities.

Following a meeting in Calgary attended by the Grand Master, the Grand Commander and the Grand Prioress, there has been little communication with the Castellany of Calgary over the last year or so. However, it does appear that this was due, in part, to the relocation of some members, including the Castellan who is currently deployed with the military overseas. This unfortunate breakdown in communications does highlight the need for maintaining good and prompt communication through the chain of command to ensure the smooth execution of the Order's business.

Notwithstanding these changes, the business of the Grand Priory continues unabated. In June 2011, the Commandery of Edmonton hosted a major Investiture at which five new members were received into the ranks and a worthy Companion, Heather Dettman was elevated to Dame of the Order. Later, that year another worthy Companion, Kevin Casper, was also elevated to Knighthood in a special investiture performed during the church

services at the Commandery's Advent celebrations. Also, substantial funds were raised in support of our charitable activities by a combination of provincially sanctioned casinos and fund raising activities organized by members.

In 2011, a much deserved Grand Priory Medal was awarded to Her Excellency Grand Chancellor Joanne Campbell for her exemplary work over the many years which she has devoted to the Order. Grand Chancellor Campbell has served in numerous capacities at the Commandery level, at the Grand Prioral Level and on the Sovereign Council. In 2012, Knight Commander Ruthven Lewis was similarly honoured for his exemplary service over many years in furthering the traditions of the Order. We declare, in our chivalric oath, to do our utmost to contribute to the greater glory, prosperity, solidarity, and unity of the Order of St. John and never to act contrary to its dignity. The recipients of this honour have all exemplified the high chivalric ideals which we hope will encourage others to join our ranks. As our Grand Master has noted, our numbers are slowly dwindling with the resignation of some members through infirmity and age. It is therefore imperative that we recruit or otherwise encourage younger members to join our ranks. We must therefore look forward to a future in which the Order, by God's grace, may be strengthened by the recruitment of individuals who exemplify the Order's commitment to Christian service.

Sandi Munn D.H.



Edmonton Commandery - Commander's Comments



Dame Commander Gillain Taylor
Commander of Edmonton Commandery

The year 2011 was a year of change for the Edmonton Commandery as we saw the relocation of Dame Commander Maureen Haberstock and her husband Chevalier Rodney Haberstock to their new home in Okotoks. It was a happy move for them as they are now closer to children and grandchildren, but a sad one for the Commandery. Dame Maureen was an energetic and effective Commander whose passion for the good works done by the Commandery in Edmonton inspired the members of the Order. Both she and Rod put in much effort and enthusiasm to what they did. They are, of course, sadly missed here in Edmonton. However, they are still active members of the Order and, have on occasion travelled the 300 odd kilometers back to Edmonton to attend functions and to assist in our fund-raising activities.

I was honoured and happy to accept the appointment as Dame Commander of the Edmonton Commandery in August 2011 and received my letters patent at the Christmas Investiture and service. The Commandery is actively engaged in furthering the charitable goals already established, namely to help fund the mainly inner city, low profile organizations who assist and support the most needy and vulnerable in our city. The majority of our funds come from running casinos and as we now expect to be able to run a casino every 18

months the amount of money raised should be increased. Our efforts in raising non-casino revenue to support charities that do not accept funds raised through casinos has increased and we had two hugely successful functions in this past year – the Italian Dinner hosted and organized by Chevalier Graham Peacock and the Burns Supper hosted and organized by H.E. Bailiff Sandi Munn. Not only are these a great source of funds but tremendous fun as social functions that enable us to enjoy each others' fellowship and introduce potential members to the Order. Our thanks to both of them.

We welcomed five new Jurats into the Order at the June 2011 Investiture – Bob Bradstock, Andy Clarke, Richard Easton, Kathryn Fletcher and Sherry Maslyk and elevated Dame Heather Dettman. Unfortunately, we sadly also accepted the resignation of five of our valued members. The Commandery will also be losing the services of our Chaplain, Father David Lehmann this coming June owing to his transfer to his home town of Fort Smith in the North West Territories. This is a happy move for him as his parents are there, but we shall miss him greatly here in Edmonton. However he is not lost to the Order and we hope that he can attend as many functions as possible despite the distance.

The Investiture and dinner in June was very successful with five new Jurats and one new Dame as was the Christmas service and investiture when Chevalier Kevin Caspar was elevated to Knighthood. I look forward to the coming year with anticipation and excitement both for the Order and for me personally as I will be getting married in July and moving into the city of Edmonton. With the depth of talent, commitment and ability in the Commandery, I am confident that we have the means of furthering the honourable aims and principles of the Order here in Edmonton.

Gillian Taylor D.H.

Edmonton Commandery – Investiture Report

On June 24th and 25th, 2011, the Edmonton Commandery hosted Vigil and Investiture Ceremonies at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton. The Vigil was held on the Friday evening (June 24th), following the 'dress rehearsal' for the Investiture scheduled for the following day. Chevalier Rod Haberstock was excellent at ensuring the timing and the orderliness of the rehearsal which went smoothly, as did the church service that followed. Rev. David Lehmann was almost voiceless, due to many prior commitments in his own parish, however that did not diminish the gravitas of the event.

Following the Vigil, the Grand Master's reception was held at the home of Knight Commander Ruthven Lewis. Many thanks to Ruthven for opening up his home to us on very short notice. H.E. Bailiff Sandi Munn, Grand Prioress of Canada had planned to host the reception, but was unable to do so because she was hospitalized unexpectedly just prior to the weekend.

The Investiture Ceremony and church service was held on the Saturday afternoon (June 25th) in the Chapel, and it was a beautiful

and moving occasion. Five new members viz. Robert Bradstock, Sandi Clarke, Richard Easton, Catherine Fletcher and Sherry Maslyk were admitted as Jurats, and Companion Heather Dettman recieved the accolade of Dame. Following the Investiture a very pleasant reception and dinner and was held in the outer dining area of St. Joseph's, during which members were informed that Dame Sandi Munn was recuperating comfortably and would return home within a very short time. That news, and the fact that the weekend's events were the last to be held under the command of Dame Commander Maureen Haberstock, made that weekend's activities all the more special.

It was an honour for me to chair the Investiture Committee and the success of the weekend's activities is a fitting testimony to the cooperation, support and hard work of the many members who stepped up to the mark, and took on extra tasks and responsibilities. My sincerest thanks to every one for their devotion to ensuring that the weekend's activities were a great success.

Bonnie Felker D.H.



Edmonton Commandery – Hospitaller Report

The Commandery has continued to support many charitable organizations that are directly involved in ministering to the needs of the poor and homeless in Edmonton's inner city. This support is financed predominantly through funds raised through provincially sanctioned casinos. However, the Commandery has also vigorously engaged in other fund raising efforts to enable support for organizations which do not accept funds derived from casino operations, and to support charitable initiatives by Commandery members living outside the Edmonton area or the Province of Alberta. By law, funds raised by casino operations are restricted to distribution within the province.

Supported Charitable Organizations (2011-2012)

Hope Mission	\$5000
House of Refuge	\$5000
Inner City Pastoral Ministry	\$5000
Operation Friendship	\$5000
Rock Lutheran Center	\$5000
The Mustard Seed	\$5000
Clean Scene	\$5000
Bissell Centre	\$5000
Crystal Kids	\$5000
The George Spady Center	\$5000
The Marian Center	\$5000
Love in Action (Mexico)	\$1000

From the Grand Priory of the United States of America

Considerable geographic dispersal of the membership of the Grand Priory has occurred because of the combined obligations of work and education. In point, these changes have resulted in the relocation of the Babich family and as a result, Knight Commander Glen Batich has relinquished command of the Commandery of Jefferson City and Knight Commander Alfred Garcia has been appointed to that office. Undoubtedly, the dispersal of the membership has undermined the capacity for group activity in furtherance of the Order's mission. Nevertheless, undaunted by these challenges, members have redoubled their

individual efforts to serve their communities by volunteering for and otherwise supporting various community service initiatives, activities which seem to be more urgently required in these troubled economic times. The services activities undertaken took many forms as dictated by the skills and other abilities of the individual members.

With God's help, we strive to take every opportunity with which we are presented at home or in our communities to work "For the Faith and for the Good of Mankind."



Volunteering For Tornado Disaster Relief

On May 22, 2011, a powerful Tornado tore a mile wide path through the town of Joplin, Missouri U.S.A. It killed over 160 people and destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, including St John's Mercy Hospital in Joplin. The HOSJ Commandery of Jefferson City, Missouri responded with help on two separate trips, one by Knight Commander Fred Garcia with Dame Patricia Garcia and another by Chevalier Bruce Sikes, K.H. and his wife Pamela Sikes, R.N.

Relief teams were faced with miles of devastation and their primary activities involved painstaking house by house cleanup, i.e. hard physical labor. The work for just one salvageable home involved sorting debris into separate 6 foot high piles of metal, wood, electrical, trees, household items and trash. HOSJ members joined in with larger clean-up teams working long hot days. Some workers suffered injuries from nails and other debris

and many others very quickly became dehydrated and exhausted. Commander Garcia reported seeing over 20 relief workers suffering from heat exhaustion on his trip. Rebuilding still continues today and will for a long time. It was a massive and at times seemingly overwhelming undertaking, however witnessing the selfless volunteer spirit in action and being able to help others in such great need was a very spiritually fulfilling experience - worth every ounce of sweat and pain.

When such unplanned opportunities requiring service arise, whether they be major disasters or the individual needs of the elderly, the poor and the sick, being among the first to help, lies at the heart of what we are called to do as Hospitallers of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Bruce Sikes K.H.



Essays, Thoughts and Reflections

HOSJ - A Thousand Years of Medical and Social Care

A Presentation to the Preitilä Sanatorium, Paimio, 2010



At the time of the Crusades at the beginning of the second millennium the medical and social world was so different to modern western communities that it would be hard to recognize the efficacy of their care taking organizations and the basis of their working methods. Nowadays we see same kind of situations only in the poorest and most underdeveloped countries.

What were the background factors influencing morbidity and mortality in the population, and among the fighting troops at that time? The wars are listed in our history books, but real fighting consisted only a minor part of the conflict. There were long periods without full scale war, but the wars had secondary effects of reducing resources and destroying infrastructure thereby causing

extreme poverty. Bad hygiene and the degeneration of medical knowledge in western countries since the fall of the Roman Empire made the crusaders more prone to health hazards than those in the Muslim world which had inherited and further developed the medical knowledge already known in previous centuries.

What were the great killers in those wars? Epidemics of plague, cholera, tuberculosis, dysentery, intestinal infections, and malaria were the most prominent killers. These were spread by bad hygiene, but the means of prevention were elementary. At the time of the crusades there were already attempts at isolation of contagious patients, but isolation was insufficient.

Injuries from fighting were generally not the primary cause of death. The greatest number of wounded warriors succumbed to infections and circulatory insufficiency caused by the loss of blood. Hunger and deficiency diseases were often connected to these situations, especially in siege warfare.

The need for the health and social care of the troops in Jerusalem was thus apparent. The Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem was founded in first century of the Second millennium and established as a sanatorium for warriors which was situated across the street from the Cathedral of the Holy Grave.

While the primary task of the hospital was to treat crusaders, the hospital was also open to civilians and Muslims. This can be seen as an example of the Samaritan principle, which led, a thousand years later to the founding of the international Red Cross organization.

The hospital collected the wounded and sick, gave them rest and primary care, food and pure water, changed and bandaged wounds and provided better hygiene than in the camps. The knights emphasized the importance of prayer, which provides the peace of mind necessary in order to recover from serious illness. This has perhaps been forgotten today but was always a part of HOSJ philosophy.

The first hospital housed approximately two thousand patients, both male and female. A comparable number were treated outside the hospital. Each day approximately 50-100 corpses from the sanatorium were buried, which perhaps describes the effectiveness of medical aid at that time.

What were the medical techniques in the hospital? The handling of the wounded was based on the old Roman tradition. This consisted of the cleaning and suturing of wounds and by the amputation of severely injured limbs. The basic treatment was rest, nourishment and supplying clean drinking water. Herbal preparations according to the teachings of Galenos (who lived in the second century AD) were given to the sick. We also

know that a considerable proportion of these drugs were indeed effective and that British pharmacy texts included Galenic preparations in the officially approved list of pharmaceuticals well into the later years of the 19th century. The importance of prayer was also emphasized.

Reliable statistics are naturally missing but according to historical documents the most important cause of death among the crusaders was infectious diseases of various kinds. Hunger and malnutrition played an important role also. Injuries caused approximately one third of the casualties.

How effective was the activity of the HOSJ with the establishment of its hospitals? It can be assumed, that mortality was halved, although no statistical evidence can be found. This assumption may be verified by comparing mortality rates in other contemporary fighting armies in the Holy Land at that time which were very much higher.

The most important effect was that the Order's care-giving reputation enabled it to establish functioning hospitals in each domicile of the Order, as it did later in Rhodes and Malta. These Hospitals represented the highest medical standard of their time and thus established a long tradition of medical care. They also enhanced the Caritas-principle or Samaritan philosophy in a cruel and heartless world. An empirical knowledge of how to treat wounded and sick patients served also to promote better health care in the medical world outside the crusades by training medical workers for further activities in the health care system.

We can therefore conclude, that the HOSJ has been an important component in the long history of medicine leading to the modern hospital - and health care system.

Antti Jääskeläinen K.H.



HOSJ – A Historical Perspective

A Presentation to the Grand Priory of the Baltic – September 17, 2011

Honorable Grand Master, esteemed members - Now that we meet at our annual Investiture I have been given the task of reminding us of the basics of our Order and to say a few words as a member. I shall begin with a small recap of our history and then get back to the present day.

The Hospitaller Order of John of Jerusalem began as a Benedictine healthcare organization that was established in the early 12th century in the Holy Land. Later it changed into a military Christian Order tasked to care for and protect pilgrims.

Ancient history

In the seventh century Abbott Bradus was sent by Pope Gregorius the Great to build a hostel in Jerusalem and to take care of pilgrims in the Holy Land. In the ninth century the Holy Roman Emperor Charles the Great built the hostel of Probus and added a library to it. Unfortunately 200 years later in 1005 Khaliph El Hakim who was a fanatic demanded that his people worship him as a god and destroyed the hostel and 3000 other buildings. He forced the Christians to wear wooden crosses on their necks that were half a meter by half a meter in size and imposed rules to humiliate Christians. The ironic thing was that his own mother was Christian.

In the 1020's permission was given to the people of Amalfi and Salerno by Khalif Haroun el Rashid of Egypt to rebuild Abbott Brodus's hostel. It was built on the site of John the Baptist's monastery and it began to accept pilgrims who visited the birthplace of Jesus. This hostel was kept by the Benedictine brothers.

Monasteries Hospitaller Order

The Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem was established after the first crusade by the Blessed Gerard. His role as founder was strengthened by the Papal Bull of Pope Paschal II in 1113. Gerard could freely

obtain land and make a profit for his Order everywhere in the kingdom of Jerusalem and in Europe.

His successor Raymond De Puy from Provence founded the first significant hospital of the Hospitallers near the church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem. Mainly they took care of pilgrims who had made it to Jerusalem and later they also provided armed security services for travelers.

The Order remained a religious one and received many privileges from the Popes. Among others they were responsible for their actions only to the Popes. They didn't pay any taxes and they owned churches and other buildings and built many castles and bases in the Holy Land. During the best times of the Kingdom of Jerusalem the Order had over 140 farms around the Holy Land. Their fortune was given to the Priors and after them to Bailiwicks and lastly to Commanderies. The story of the Kingdom of Jerusalem ended in 1187 when Jerusalem surrendered and the Hospitallers moved to Tripoli. During the siege of Acre in 1291 the Hospitallers looked for refuge in the Kingdom of Cyprus. There they made a deal in 1310 with the Venetians to buy the island of Rhodes on the condition that they could conquer it for their use. The Hospitallers formed a navy and conquered the island and it remained as a base for them until 1522.

The Ottomans tried their luck many times over the years and attacked Rhodes. The end only came for the Hospitallers in Rhodes when in 1522 Suleiman the Great attacked with a navy of 400 ships and 200,000 men. That battle was ruthless and it took a siege of six months for the Ottomans to prevail. A story says that there was a traitor called Knight D' Amaral who was in charge of the food and equipment. He notified Suleiman that they were out of everything and soon it would be impossible to continue the battle so Suleiman accelerated his

efforts. After the fall of Rhodes, the remaining 7000 Knights were allowed to leave the island in peace because of their bravery. That was a decision that Suleiman later regretted.

A new beginning in Malta and dispersion

Hospitallers travelled for seven years across Europe looking for a new base. In 1530 they obtained Malta as a base because of orders given by Pope Clement VIII and Emperor Carl V of Austria. The island was rented for an annual fee of one Maltese falcon. That falcon had to be taken on the day of souls to the viceroy of Sicily.

The Ottomans were not happy at all to see Hospitallers in nearby waters destroying ships and harassing routes so they attacked the island in 1565. They destroyed most of the towns and half of the Knights were killed. The battle ended in a Hospitaller victory because Spanish reinforcements came in time. The battle was lead by Grand Master De La Valette. The capital of Malta, Valetta, is named for him. Hospitallers functioned in Malta until 1798. Napoleon then conquered the island because Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch wouldn't help Napoleon in his preparations for his trip to Egypt. He expelled Hospitallers from the island and they dispersed losing their sovereignty. The Catholic Order remained in small scale and negotiated for a new home.

Dispersion continues

The rise of Protestantism dispersed the Order and its English properties were seized in 1540. Then in 1544 the German Bailiwick of Brandenburg turned to Lutheranism but still paid their fees to a Catholic Order until it was changed by the King of Prussia to an Order of merit in 1812. The Johanniter Order was seen as a Prussian Order of Saint John since 1852.

The Order of St. John had a strong presence also in the Russian navy and the pre-revolutionary French navy. French Governor De Poincy had an Order in the Caribbean, which continued to his death in 1660. The Emperor of Russia gave asylum to a large number of Knights which gave them footing in Royal Russian Orders. Those Knights receiving

asylum declared Hompesch to be an invalid leader and nominated Emperor Paul I as the Grand Master. The Emperor was murdered in 1801 after which another Catholic Grand Master was chosen.

The Order was dispersed from 1805 - 1879 and it was ruled by Lieutenants. Pope Leo XIII finally nominated another Grand Master to the Catholic Order. Then the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) was formed and the headquarters were in Rome. The Grand Master would be chosen for his lifetime.

SMOM today

Of the present Orders of St. John, SMOM has the longest history. It is carrying the legacy of the medieval Catholic Order. They have approved an alliance that has also protestant parts. Those parts are the Bailiwick of Brandenburg in Germany, the Venerable Order of Saint John in England and the Johanniterorden in Sweden. There is still some discussion as to whether the SMOM really is the direct continuation of the medieval Order since after Napoleons conquest of Malta, they ceased their functioning for a time and were only started again by the Pope. Our own Order should not be confused with this mainly Catholic Order because there are only the ideals of the medieval Order of St. John and the charge to help those in need which connect us.

Our own Order HOSJ

Our Order has no direct historical continuation down to the medieval times. Our Orders Insignias and goals have however been used as long as the old Order of St. John was in turmoil. However, it was believed that charitable work should continue on an ecumenical and more inclusive basis.

It is of no relevance to our present history to relate events before the year 1965 when King Peter II gave the present Order a Charter and was chosen to be its first Grand Master. Three years later in 1968 he confirmed the rules of the Order that we still live by today.

Heads of the Order:

Peter II King of Yugoslavia 1965- 1970 Grand Master/Royal head

Lieutenant Grand Master Prince Serge Bellosselsky-Belozersky Sept-Dec 1968

Lieutenant Grand Master Prince Serge Trubetskoy 1969-1971

Grand Master Robert Sanguszko-Formhals 1972-1992, HSH

Grand Master Richard Flach de Flachslanden, 1992-2004, HSH

Grand Master Robert Drimnie Ogilvie Devine, 2004-, HSH

There have been many changes after King Peter. One of the biggest ones was the schism in 1998 when part of the leadership of the Order resigned and tried to shift the functioning of the Order to their branch by attempting to illegally remove PGM Flachslanden from his own Order. Regardless, the original HOSJ Order continued its aid work according to its traditions under Flachslanden's continued leadership. Under the Constitution of the HOSJ the Grand Master cannot be removed from his position as he is chosen by the Chapter General of the Order to serve for his lifetime or until self-abdication. He can be investigated and reprimanded, which has happened in history but he cannot be removed.

The Grand Priory of the Baltic was established on June 24th 2004 when the organization was renewed and Commanderies of Aurarunaa, Tampere, and Yui-Lohja were formed.

Spiritual Order

The development of our Order in Finland has everything to do with the fact that members must work according to Order principles and

that they believe in the community and the power of faith. The cross of St. John that we carry is of great value to us as it was to all previous carriers. The ancient interpretation of the cross is as follows;

The four main points or virtues symbolize:

Wisdom

Strength of character

Moderation

Righteousness

The eight smaller points that lead to bliss mean;

1. Enjoy your faith

2. Live without ill will

3. Show remorse for your sins

4. Forgive your enemies

5. Love justice

6. Show mercy

7. Be sincere and have a clean heart

8. Tolerate persecution

When we wear the cross we must remember the oath that we have sworn, and it must be clear to each of us that we must not allow our lesser selves to stray from the true path. The most important thing for us is to be true examples of Christian Hospitallers doing good things, and taking our religious traditions to future generations. Then we prove our worth to our closest ones and all society.

Juhani Hujanen C.H.



The Joys and Adventure of Pilgrimage



Castle Flor Da Rosa, Portugal

Recently, my wife and I were driving on the A23 Highway across central Portugal toward the town of Crato. As we traversed the countryside filled with mile after mile of cork trees, we exited on a side trip to the village of Belver near the Tagus river. After a few turns we were presented a view of the imposing 13th century Belver castle. Belver was the first and most important castle to be constructed by the Hospitallers in Portugal during the Middle Ages. It is situated, as most castles are, on a hill surrounded by the village. Since it was a Sunday afternoon during siesta time, the village was virtually deserted with the exception of one elderly lady keeping an eye on the strangers in town. We parked in the town square and proceeded to walk up the hill toward the castle entrance. The path was randomly lined with gnarled olive trees whose olives littered the steps of the long ancient stone staircase to the top. There was a local man standing, leaning on the imposing castle entrance doors. He

welcomed us and bade us to follow him to his office to purchase tour tickets, all in Portuguese of course! One of the first things you learn when traveling to various countries is that language is only one part of communication between people. If you don't speak Portuguese for example, and I don't, observe the facial expressions, gestures, demeanor, the task the person is doing and of course what it is you have asked him to do for you. You'll find that learning "please" and "thank you" in the local language will go a long way.

The guide took us to a small chapel building within the castle walls that served as his office, which was a simple desk. He sold us tickets for a couple of Euros apiece and once again he began speaking to us in Portuguese, undoubtedly telling us to take our time and enjoy the castle grounds. This was a castle ruins, albeit very much intact, undoubtedly due to its off the beaten path location. King Sancho I hoped to stabilize the Christian-Muslim

frontier along the Tagus River in Portugal, so he donated the land to Afonso Paes, Prior of the Order of the Hospitallers in 1194 A.D. So successful was the Hospitaller's administration that the castle became one of the six repositories of the nation's wealth.

For next hour or two we strolled the castle ramparts with its commanding views of the village and river below. We walked up the tower of the castle's keep and inspected the various areas where the Knights would have lived and worked. It was an amazing experience to have the castle to ourselves and to wonder at the quality of character and strength those Knights of St John possessed to defend this frontier outpost against very powerful Muslim forces. As I prepared to leave, I reflected on it all for a moment and found it quite humbling. I realized that if only for a few all too brief moments, the castle had once again been occupied by a Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Such realizations help us bridge the gap of centuries and connect us with our Orders' long Chivalric heritage.

Once we arrived in Crato, we were met with the sounds of the many bells worn around the necks of the sheep and goats in the fields surrounding the small country town. There, quite prominently, stood the Castle of Flor Da Rosa, built by Álvaro Gonçalves Pereira, Prior of Crato, Portugal, in the 14th century. It served as a fortified convent and palace through the

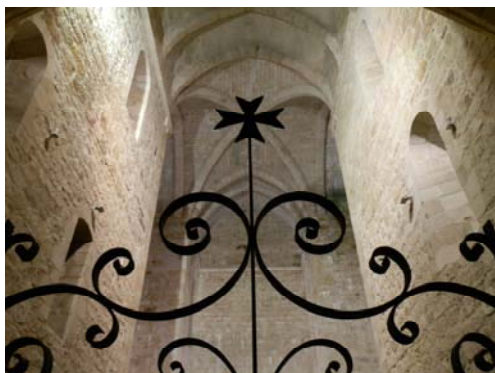
centuries. It is now also a Pousada, a quality state run historic lodge. We spent two nights there, soaking in the medieval atmosphere and our modern, reasonably priced hotel room. We wandered the castle corridors in the evening and found ourselves all alone in the castle's four story tall vaulted church, where my wife sang an echoing solo for just the two of us! With holy statues and storks nesting on the roof with Maltese crosses abound, the Flor Da Rosa definitely captures the romantic side of pilgrimage.

These are just two of more than a dozen such Hospitaller experiences we enjoyed in our 14 day visit to Spain and Portugal. From the inspiring 13th century Hospitaller castle of windmills at Consuegra, Spain, to the islands of Malta and Rhodes, to the rest of Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East, there are literally hundreds of historic places including castles, monasteries and other sites to visit and discover the rich history and legacy left behind by the Knights of St John. With a little research on-line and in various books, one will be able to plan an enjoyable itinerary combining relaxation and pilgrimage to clear one's head and refresh the soul.

God's blessing and travel mercies to you all.

Ever yours in Christ and St. John,

Robert Bruce Sikes, K.H.





Christ in the Margins

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Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The White Cross Gazette contains all of the official appointments and news of the Order. It is the journal of record and is published under the authority of the Sovereign Council of the Order. All correspondence and other communications should be addressed to: Kt. Cmdr. Clayton McAdam, K.H., Editor General, Carretera Poniente #519, Los Sabinos #29, Ajijic, Jalisco, 45920 Mexico.

