

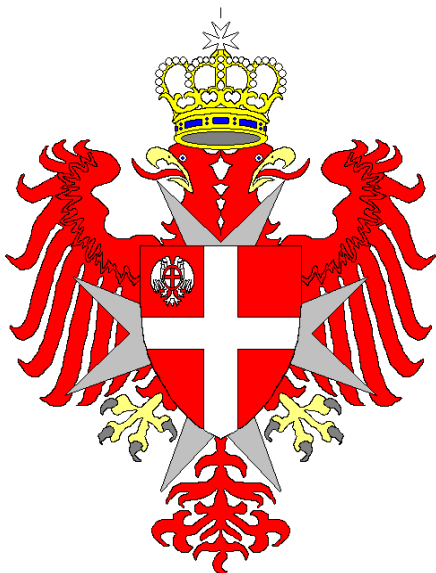
Hospitaller Order of Saint John

WHITE CROSS GAZETTE



Winter 2014-2015

Gazette of Official Appointments



General Officers of the Order

Knight Commander Petri Vuorinen P.H. appointed to the office of Grand Prelate of the Order, effective September 13, 2014.



Grand Officers of the Grand Priories

Knight Commander Jari-Pekka Mikkola K.H. appointed to the office of Funds Manager of the Grand Priory of the Baltic effective September 21, 2013.



Officers of the Commanderies

Dame Commander Patricia Jacobsen, D.H. appointed Commander, Commandery of Edmonton, Grand Priory of Canada, vice the resignation of Dame Commander Gillian Taylor D.H. effective June 21, 2014.

Knight Commander Heikki Sario, K.H. confirmed in the Rank of Knight Commander, Grand Priory of the Baltic, September 13, 2014.

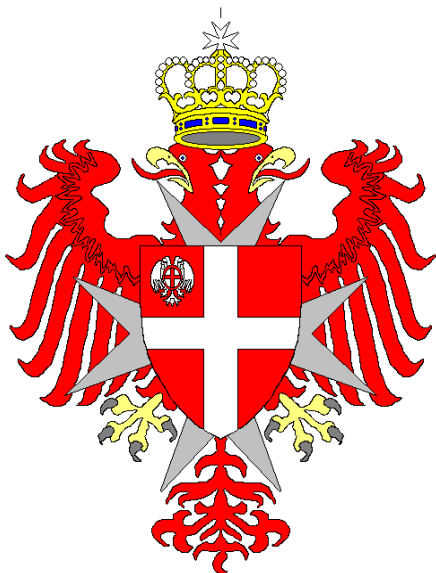
Knight Commander Ralf Sundgren, K.H. appointed Commander, Commandery of Uusimaa Grand Priory of the Baltic, September 13, 2014.

Chevalier Martti Hirvonen, P.H. appointed to the office of Prelate of the Commandery of Auranmaa on September 21, 2013.



Promotions

The Following Promotions were made At Ceremonies of Investiture conducted under the authority and in the presence of the Grand Master



June 21, 2014 - Edmonton, Alberta

Sandra Clarke C.H. promoted to be a Companion of the Order.

Richard Easton C.H., promoted to be a Companion of the Order.

Catherine Fletcher C.H. promoted to be a Companion of the Order.



September 21, 2013 - Turku, Finland

Chevalier Matti Hirvonen K.H. created a Knight of the Order.

Chevalier Juhani Hujanen, K.H. created a Knight of the Order.

Chevalier Risto Lihr K.H. created a Knight of the Order.

Chevalier Erkki Pursi K.H. created a Knight of the Order.

Chevalier Pekka Sysmäläinen K.H. created a Knight of the Order.



September 13, 2014 - Turku, Finland

Chevalier Harry Suominen K.H. created a Knight of the Order.

Dame Kirsi Swanljung von Wehrt D.H. created a Dame of the Order.

Chevalier Jethro Rostedt K.H. created a Knight of the Order.



New Members

At Ceremonies of Investiture conducted in the presence of the Grand Master, the following new members were received into the Order.

September 21, 2013 - Turku, Finland

Rune Eklund C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Ari Kesäläinen C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Hannu Martikainen C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Uusimaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.



June 21, 2014 - Edmonton, Alberta

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

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

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

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

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

September 13, 2014 - Turku, Finland

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

Iikka Garaisi C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

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

Thomas Ilander C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Uusimaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

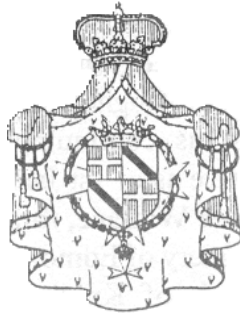
Anni Itähaarla C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Pami Karvonen C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Uusimaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Tarja Laaksonen C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

Lauri Ylikylä C.H. received into membership as a Companion in the Commandery of Auranmaa, Grand Priory of the Baltic.

The Grand Master's Message



This Order's origins in the Holy Land predated the Great Crusades. It began with the poor Knights of St Bartholomew, whose mandate was to care for pilgrims who fell sick on their way to visit the sacred land where Jesus lived and died. They maintained hospices in the coastal cities of the Levant and way stations on the road to Jerusalem. They did this with the full support of Muslim rulers who recognized and appreciated their skills as physicians. It was also understood that all pilgrims Christian or Muslim would be treated equally. All this changed when the Pope decreed a Crusade to take Jerusalem and so began the animosity between the two great monotheistic religions, which exists to this day.

Under the papal declaration "*Deus lo Volt*" (God wills it), Christians took Jerusalem in 1099 following a protracted siege at the end of which the Christian army killed everyone in the city, Muslims, Jews, even Christians, in an orgy of blood. It was at this time the Pope commanded that two new Orders be created for the defense of the conquered territories. The Order of the Knights Templar was to be a Military Order mandated to fight against the Muslim armies, which were gathering to retake the Holy Land, and the Knights Hospitaller, recruited from the poor Knights of St Bartholomew, to maintain the hospices, which they had established in the Levant. Later the Pope mandated a military arm of this Order, which then built the formidable fortresses of Crak de Chevalier and Acre. The Fortress of Crak de Chevalier, which has stood for eight centuries, has recently suffered severe damage

in the present conflict in Syria. Jerusalem was held as a Christian kingdom for nearly 100 years until it was surrendered to Saladin who unlike the Christian armies, which took Jerusalem, spared all within.

The Great Orders gradually lost control of the Holy Land and went their separate ways. The Templars created a merchant fleet and became the richest Order in Christendom until they were utterly destroyed by King Philip the Fair of France in 1314. The Hospitallers defended Acre until the last and then went to Rhodes and eventually to Malta where they maintained a presence until they were expelled by Napoleon in 1805. I like to think that our Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the present day has reverted to the simple creed of the poor knights of St Bartholomew whose dedication to aid the poor and sick we now try to emulate. This Order is now an Ecumenical, and Christian Order dedicated to serving mankind in the name of Christ and St. John the Baptist. We welcome Christians of all denominations, and we also welcome Christians who are not affiliated with any particular church but who follow the simple teachings of Christ in their daily life and aspire to the Christian and Order motto to defend the weak for the Faith and for service to mankind.

Let me relate some of my own experiences in that regard. My grandfather would never go to church but considered himself a Christian. My grandmother on the other hand went every Sunday to the Episcopalian Cathedral church of St. Paul in my hometown of Dundee, Scotland. When I was six or seven I went to church with Grandma, dressed in my Sunday best. I was initially enthralled. On high church holidays the Bishop of Brechin and the Archbishop of Dunkeld with gold croziers in hand, draped in fine robes, mitres on their heads would parade down the aisle followed by a train of acolytes to the soaring notes of the great pipe organ which had been donated by a rich parishioner. Spectacular! But the children would then be

escorted into the church annex for Sunday school where we would hear the stories of Jesus, the Son of God, dressed in simple homespun wool garment, walking the shores of the Galilee spreading his gospel of goodwill. Sharing the five loaves and fishes with the multitude, exhorting us to turn the other cheek and love our neighbor. The stories were wonderful but they didn't square with the pomp and circumstance and wealth inside the Cathedral. And there were no poor people in the Cathedral. Every family paid a yearly tithe for their pew. I often wonder if Grandad knew about that. A plaque with the family name adorned each pew, and as we left church the collection tray was filled with silver coins, pound notes and even five-pound notes - a fortune in those days.

One Sunday, out on a long walk with Grandad after church, I voiced my concerns as only a small confused boy would. "Grandad," I asked, "Grandma goes to church and believes in God. Do you not believe in God?" He lit his pipe as he was wont to do before he spoke. "Aye," he said. "I believe in God, but not their God." He went on to say that in the trenches of the Great War of 1914-1918, priests, ministers and padres would come into the trenches before any action that was about to take place and give communion to soldiers before they went over the top with the sole intention of slaughtering their fellow man. Religion, he said, excuses all manner of atrocity. The Germans had "*Gott mit uns*" on their belt badges, the British had "*For God, King and Country*" on theirs. "Hypocrisy," said Grandad, "men alone had created religions, men alone make wars and God has nothing to do with it". Grandad believed in God but not in religion. His answer left me even more confused. All the joyous hymn singing in church, the summer picnics, the Christmas parties, I wasn't about to give all that up just yet, but as the years went on I began to understand more of what he meant.

While I recognized that much good work was done by individual clerics and parishioners, the nature of religion, the rites, doctrine and dogma did not impress me

anymore. I gave up going to church but still considered myself a Christian. I, like many young people, sought spiritual solace elsewhere. I found it in the cathedral of the mountains and in the wild unspoiled places of God's Earth. However, my Grandfather's words were always with me.

Meanwhile, the world's troubles seemed to continue unabated. In Northern Ireland Protestants and Catholics murdered each other in the name of religion. In the Middle East, Jews and Muslims battled each other over territory which each claim as God given. In New York. Muslim terrorists killed three thousand when they destroyed the world trade centre in the name of Allah and, even today, Sunni Muslims are persecuting Shia Muslims in Iraq supposedly over a religious dispute about the succession of Mohamed some fourteen centuries after the event. Madness! All this turmoil and strife in the name of religion. Of course, other factors such as, social injustice, oppression of minorities and political ambition were involved. Nevertheless, throughout history evil unscrupulous men have used religion to further their ambitions of wealth and conquest; and to such ends, have twisted and corrupted the benign teachings of Christ and Mohamed into an evil agenda of hatred and distrust. In this age of mass media and instant global communication young people see this affliction every day on the national news and many turn away from religion in fear and disgust.

What has this all to do with the nature of our Ecumenical and Christian Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem today one might ask? I do not belittle the great good that many religious people do on a daily basis around the world. I applaud their efforts and this Order supports their efforts. But some young people have told me that they have reservations about becoming involved in a religious Order and cannot in all conscience join with us because they belong to no Church and have no interest in joining one. I tell them that while the origins of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem were certainly religiously inspired

when the Catholic Church held sway over all Christendom, the modern incarnation of the Order is very different. I tell them that as avowed Christians our investiture is held in a church, we pray in a Church and we invoked the Almighty in the name of Jesus Christ to bless our Order and its good works. Nevertheless ours is an ancient Christian ceremony of celebration with no affiliation to any specific religious denomination other than the basic Christian message brought to

mankind by Christ and his cousin John the Baptist. That is our Christian duty in the present day and we shall continue to follow it as God gives us the light to see that light, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, "with malice towards none and charity towards all".

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



Obituary



The Rev Heinz Hertwig Jaksch P.H., Grand Prelate of the Order, passed away in April 2013. He had been ill for some years but gallantly continued his work in the Order, attending our formal investitures and tending his Lutheran ministry in Wildwood, Alberta. Heinz was of Hungarian and Austrian extraction and as a young soldier in World War II saw the horrors of war up close and personal on the Eastern Front. He told me he heard the call to the ministry when a fellow soldier who was a close friend was seriously wounded on the battlefield. Heinz could do little to help his dying friend other than to comfort him with a prayer. These two prayed together under the Russian artillery barrage and Heinz swore he would dedicate his life to a repudiation of war

and the affirmation of Christian belief. True to his pledge to his dying friend, after the war Heinz studied for the Ministry and became a Lutheran Pastor. He and his family emigrated to Canada and he served the Lutheran community in Edmonton and in rural Alberta for many decades as Pastor, mentor and friend. He was Pastor to the Commandery of Edmonton for many years and became Prelate to the Grand Priory of Canada before being appointed to the Grand Prelacy of the HOSJ. His sermons were often fiery reminders of the consequences of sin and the need to follow the teachings of Jesus. At Christmas he would delightfully relate the story of the Nativity and then berate the crass commercialisation of this wondrous season. He presided over my investiture as Grand Master in 2006 and would often write long letters offering advice on spiritual matters within the Order and how to maintain our charitable efforts to support the homeless and poor of the inner city. Heinz was a kind and faithful Hospitaller who lived our motto, "*Pro Fide et Pro Utilitate Hominum*", to the fullest. I am eternally grateful to have had his friendship and guidance.

H.S.H. Robert D.O. Devine, K.H



From the Sovereign Council

Proceedings of the 78th Meeting

The 78th meeting of the Sovereign Council occurred on June 22nd - June 23rd, 2014. In Edmonton, Alberta. The meeting was presided over by the Prince Grand Master H.S.H. Robert D.O. Devine K.H., with H.E. Bailiff Christa Devine D.H. (Grand Commander of the Order), H.E. Bailiff Joanne Campbell, D.H. (Grand Chancellor of the Order), H.E. Bailiff Wendy Rollins D.H. (Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure), H.E. Bailiff Lea Mikkola D.H. (Grand Councilor of the Order), H.E. Bailiff Sandra Munn D.H. (Grand Prioress of the Grand Priory of Canada), and H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola K.H. (Grand Prior of the Baltic) attending in person, and with H.E. Bailiff Rudy Maich K.H. (Grand Marshall of the Order) and H.E. Bailiff Anne Maich D.H. (Grand Prioress of the Grand Priory of the United States of America) attending via videoconference. The following topics were examined.

Telecommunications

Dame Commander Patricia Jacobsen D.H., who had set up the videoconferencing for the meeting made a presentation to the Sovereign Council on the potential usefulness of long distance communication technologies to the Order. She had researched this topic as a means of addressing the issue of communicating with Commandery members many of whom live at a considerable distance from the urban Edmonton area, and as a means of facilitating greater participation in Commandery meetings. Her extensive research and review of many different types of communication programs available through the internet led her to determine that *gotomeeting* best suits the needs of the commandery and by extension, the Order. Commander Jacobsen graciously offered to act as resource person for this. Her presentation was well received.

The Sovereign Council examined other aspects of meeting the communications challenge and of the various forms of communication being used, specifically social media, telephone and email especially in the Grand Priory of the USA where the membership is widely scattered. Social media initiatives such as a Facebook presence were discussed as being potentially useful for commandery use. However, caution was recommended because of security concerns about those social media sites and because the organization may have little control over the information posted on these sites.

Gotomeeting/Skype

It was decided that the gotomeeting/skype video conferencing initiative should be made available to the entire Order and should thus be funded by Order as a whole rather than the Commandery of Edmonton.

www.hosj.org

The sovereign council stressed the need for maintaining updated information on the Order website so that members may be kept informed. This issue will be looked into further and expertise within the Order will be sought in this regard.

www.hosj.fi

Website www.hosj.fi was viewed. It was considered to be outstanding website and a superb example of what needs to happen on the main HOSJ website.

Recruitment

Various strategies for increasing and sustaining new membership in North America were discussed with emphasis on new strategies for the recruitment of a younger generation of members. General recruitment may not be as pressing an issue for the Grand Priory of the Baltic where it seems that there are people who want to join the Order and there also seems to be increasing interest in the history of the Order among younger potential members. It was noted that there is a policy that anyone under the age of thirty can join the Order as a serving brother and/or sister and can assume full membership when they are willing and/or able. However it was acknowledged that

the recruitment of a younger generation of membership continues as an ongoing problem. Strategies for raising the profile of the Order to attract new members were discussed.

Communication within the Order

The Grand Prior of the Baltic expressed the Grand Priory's wish for more frequent internal communication regarding the various events occurring in the Order in General. The Prince Grand Master spoke to this issue of communication within Sovereign Council and noted that the Officer's Handbook posted on the Order website contains a wealth of information in this regard.

Order Membership Application Form

The Sovereign Council agreed that the membership application form it needs to be changed. The Grand Chancellor undertook to review the current application form and to submit proposals for revision to the Sovereign Council. This process should be expedited such that the modernized application form would be available for use in North America as soon as possible. In the mean time the Grand Priorities may continue using the old application forms.

Officer's Handbook - Proposals for Revision

The Prince Grand Master and H.E. Bailiff Rudy Maich K.H., have first-hand knowledge of the creation of the handbook. The Sovereign Council acknowledged that although it was appropriate at the time, it is now out of date and much of its contents is no longer useful. The handbook should thus be revised so that it may reflect the reality of the Order today. Each member of Sovereign Council was tasked with reviewing the Officer's Handbook (with input from senior officers) and with making recommendations for revision. The target date for completing the updating of the Officers Handbook is Saint John's Day, June 24, 2015.

Office of the Grand Prelate of the Order

The Sovereign Council noted that with the passing of the previous Grand Prelate of the Order, Pastor Heinz Hertwig-Jaksch P.H., a new Grand Prelate of the Order should be

appointed. Concern was expressed that there may be mixed ideas regarding the role of a Grand Prelate within an ecumenical body as the Order, and the issue of whether the Office of Grand Prelate is necessary was examined. It was agreed that the Grand Prelate of the Order is the symbolic religious head of the Order whose role is that of providing spiritual guidance within the Order. It was also agreed that a new ecumenical Grand Prelate of the Order should be appointed and that the role of Grand Prelate of the Order should be more accurately defined within the revised version of the Officers Handbook. Knight Commander Petri Vuorinen P.H., the Grand Prelate of the Grand Priory of the Baltic, was nominated for the office of Grand Prelate of the Order.

Use of the Order Logo

The Sovereign Council was notified that some organizations have sought permission to use the Order logo as an indication of Order support and it was agreed that the use of the Order logo under such circumstances may help to increase Order's profile. However, it was noted that the focus of some organizations may change over time as may the Order's willingness to support such organizations. Consequently, permission for any organization to use the Order logo should be limited. It was decided that, at the discretion of the local Commander, such permission should only be given, for a period of twelve months from the time when support is presented to the Organization.

The White Cross Gazette

The Sovereign Council considered some of the copyright issues related to the publication of the White Cross Cross Gazette. The Grand Marshall undertook to look into legal issues concerned. It was also noted that although yearly publication of the White Cross Gazette is desirable, sufficient material is not always available to the Editor General to support yearly publication.

From the Office of the Grand Chancellor

Forms of Address - A Quick Reference

Within the Order the proper forms of address are used in meeting minutes and in all communications by officers and members of the Order, and between officers of the Order. Such communications are destined eventually for an Order archival repository as official Order documents, and they should always be dignified in tone, using formal names and titles (never just Christian names, and especially not nicknames), and always eschewing unnecessary abbreviations (e.g. "Bail." For "Bailiff", "Kt." For "Knight", "Cmdr" for "Commander", etc). The forms of formal address used within the Order are as follows:

To The Prince Grand Master.

In verbal communications, the Prince Grand Master, is addressed initially as "*Your Serene Highness*", thereafter as "*Sir*".

In written correspondence, the Prince Grand Master's official address should be preceded by:

*H.S.H. The Prince Grand Master,
Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem,*

The formal salutation within a letter is "*May it please Your Serene Highness*" or, less formally, "*Your Serene Highness*". The formal closing in a letter is "*I have the honor to remain, Your Serene Highness, ever yours in Saint John*" followed by the signature.

To Bailiffs Grand Cross.

In verbal communications, a Bailiff Grand Cross, is addressed initially as "*Your Excellency*", thereafter as "*Bailiff*", "*Sir*", or "*Madam(e)*" as appropriate.

In written correspondence with a Bailiff, the form of the addressing on the envelope is for example

*"H.E. Bailiff John Smith K.H.", or
"H.E. Bailiff Ethel Smith D.H."*

This is followed by the Bailiff's Office, if there is one, for example:

*"Grand Receiver of the Common Treasure", or
"Grand Prior The Baltic"*

Then followed by the official address of the Bailiff concerned.

The salutation in a letter is "*Your Excellency*", and the formal closing is "*I remain, Your Excellency, ever yours in Saint John*". followed by the signature.

To Knight and Dame Commanders

In verbal communications, a Knight Commander or a Dame Commander, are both addressed as "*Commander*", or as "*Commander Smith*"

Letters to a Knight Commander or a Dame Commander, are addressed, for example.

*"Knight Commander John Smith K.H.,
Commander of" or
Or "Dame Commander Ethel Smith D.H.,
Commander of"*

followed by the Commander's official address.

The salutation in a letter is for example "*Dear Commander Smith*", or "*Dear Commander*" and the closing in a letter is "*I remain, Commander, yours in Saint John*," followed by the signature.

To Knights and Dames.

In verbal communications, a Knight is addressed as "*Chevalier*", or "*Chevalier Smith*", or, within the context of the Order only, as "*Sir John*". The equivalent form of addressing a Dame is "*Dame Ethel*", or "*Madam(e)*".

In written correspondence with a Knight or Dame, the address on the envelope should take the form: "*Chevalier John Smith K.H.*" or "*Dame Ethel Smith D.H.*", followed by the rest of the Knight's or Dame's address.

Within the letter the form of the salutation used is "*Dear Chevalier Smith*" or "*Dear Chevalier*", for a Knight and "*Dear Dame*"

Ethel” for a Dame. The form of the closing salutation in a letter to a Knight is “*I remain, Chevalier, yours in Saint John*” followed by the signature, and the form of the equivalent salutation in a letter to a Dame is “*I remain, Dame Ethel (or Madam(e)), yours in Saint John*”, followed by the signature.

To Members of the Clergy.

In addressing a member of the Clergy within the Order who holds the rank of Member, Jurat, Companion, Sub Chaplain, Chaplain, Sub Prelate, or Prelate, the titles and honorifics appropriate to his or her ecclesiastical rank are always employed. In all written forms, however, the proper Order post nominals are always used.

To Other Ranks.

For all other members of the Order who hold the ranks of Page, Damoiselles, Member, Jurat, or Companion, the same forms of formal address used in society are used for both verbal and written communications. However, Order post nominals are always included in written communications.

To Holders of Titles of Nobility.

The foregoing are used when addressing members of the Order who do not possess a higher nobiliary title. In cases where there is a title of nobility recognized by the Order, then that title takes precedence of Order rank in both verbal and written correspondence. In writing, however, the proper Order post nominals are always used: e.g.

“*Count John Smith, K.H.*”, or “*Princess Ethel Smith, D.H.*”

Other Titles and Post Nominals.

With the exception of ecclesiastical titles and titles of nobility, the Order takes no official cognizance of any titles of a professional nature (e.g. “General”, “Doctor”, “Professor”, etc.), or

any titles deriving from membership in any other organization. Therefore such titles are not used within the context of the Order and should not appear on any official document or in any publication of the Order.

Similarly, the Order takes no official cognizance of any post nominals other than its own as it pertains to its ranks of membership. The only exception to this is the recognition of post nominals which pertain to particular religious orders to which clerical members of the Order may belong. This recognition is allowed solely for identification inasmuch as their ecclesiastical rank within the Order is based upon this religious affiliation.

The following are the only post nominals which the Order allows in its official documents and publications.

P.G.M. for the Prince Grand Master;

K.H. for all Knights of the Order, including Commanders and Bailiffs;

D.H. for all Dames of the Order, including Commanders and Bailiffs;

P.H. for all Prelates of the Order;

S.P.H. for all Sub Prelates of the Order;

Ch.H. for all Chaplains of the Order;

A.Ch.H. for all Assistant Chaplains of the Order;

C.H. for all Companions of the Order;

J.H. for all Jurats of the Order;

Deac.H. for all Deacons of the Order;

M.H. for all Members of the Order;

S.B.H. for all Serving Brothers of the Order;

and

S.S.H. for all Serving Sisters of the Order.



From the Grand Priory of the Baltic

The Investiture - September 21, 2013 - Turku, Finland

The Grand Prioral Address to the Grand Priory of the Baltic

H.S.H Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, H.E. Grand Commander Christa Devine and your lovely daughter Diane, esteemed members and guests, Welcome to these festivities.

We are gathered here tonight to have the biggest event of our Orders activities, the Investiture. We are privileged to have the highest Officers in our Order as our guests tonight: Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine and Grand Commander Christa Devine with their youngest daughter Diane. Your presence with us makes these festivities.

The formal part of our Investiture has traditionally been held in the Holy Church of Turku. This year it was held in the beautiful and well lit Mikael's church named after the archangel Michael. That church was built 1899-1905 and was designed by the then 24 year old student architect, Lars Sonck. Representing gothic and jugend styles it received a lot of criticism back then. (It should be mentioned that the great sounding organ that has 52 organ stops has the longest metallic pipe in Finland, 9.6 meters). After the clerical event we continue these festivities in the historic hall of the Hamburger Börs.

One of the most important parts of the Investiture is the receiving of new members. Today three new members Rune Eklund, Ari Kesäläinen and Hannu Martikainen were received into membership as Companions. Welcome to the Order! I have told in my previous Investiture speeches about the early events of our Order. Today I am going to skip that part. You have received booklets in the church that tell you about the thousand years of history and further information can be obtained from other members like your Commander and from the websites www.hosj.org and www.hosj.fi

I hope that you are going to be active members in your Commanderies. In the church when you were received into membership you

promised to follow the rules and regulations of the Order and to always work for its and our homelands goals. Remember this oath always.

Active functioning as a Companion gives everyone a chance to be promoted in rank. Today we promoted five new Knights. Matti Hirvonen, Juhani Hujanen, Risto Lihr, Erkki Pursi and Pekka Sysmäläinen. Your Commander has recommended your promotion, those recommendations were approved and today you have been invested with your new rank by the Grand Master. Also, with my recommendation and with the approval of the Grand Master, Funds manager Jari-Pekka Mikkola K.H. has been promoted to the rank of Knight Commander.

To these esteemed new Companions, Knights and Knight Commander, please receive our congratulations on your new rank. Remember always that your new rank demands more work and effort for our Order.

We need capable and qualified people for different tasks. Partly because of the generation change, I have appointed Martti Hirvonen K.H. of Auranmaa Commandery as Prelate and Erkki Pursi K.H. as Sword bearer. I congratulate you both and wish you success in your new tasks.

The years are rolling on. Hopefully functioning in our Order will give us the spiritual happiness that we are searching for. Although we would like to give even more to our Order, sometimes it is time to step aside and give the position to a younger person and begin to enjoy the benefits of a fully served member. We are grateful that we have had the opportunity to serve.

The Grand Priory Council has thought of forming a group of wise men consisting of emeritus and honorary members. So far there has been only one nominated member, Grand Prelate emeritus Aaro Hurskainen K.H. Today he is going to be joined by Sword bearer

Knight Commander Reino Pispänen K.H. and the former Commander of Auranmaa Knight Commander Harto Roth K.H. They both have been part of HOSJ since we restarted at the turn of the millennium. Reino, you were one of three of us who along, with Seppo Ristilehto K.H., and the then Grand Prior H.E. Jukka Suotmaa K.H., went on to build a new future for the HOSJ in Finland, after the schism of 1998. After Jukka Suotmaa retired, I promised to continue his work as Grand Prior. Our trio was ready to take charge trusting in the future.

After Ristilehto had more and more work with Mannerheim child welfare union he stepped aside from the Order and then there were just two of us. Luckily we had gotten good new members to join us and a new start. That was a good base and here we are now. Although now I am last of the three of us I am not alone in the Order! Thank you Reino!

Harto you are not lesser at all. Those many long evenings that we spent building the new organization and writing about our operation are forever in my memory. I was speaking and you wrote. That is how it went. The ritual guide that we followed today in the church is mostly what we made back then. You were nominated the Commander of Auranmaa on the 25th of November 2006. That is when the development of the Commandery began and we are grateful for that. Today your work is continued by a capable and active Commander Antti Jääskeläinen K.H.

You, Harto and Reino have always worked according to your oaths. You are true Knights! Knights from whom we know that we are going to get help when needed considering your health. Please accept our congratulations and our gratitude.

From time to time there are different chivalric orders from different parts of the earth in the media. Those are trying to ease the distress of the population. Spiritual and mostly material help is needed more and more everywhere, even in our homeland. In Finland there are many orders working. Some are based on a real dynasty or other form of government, very many have long histories and there are so

called “break-away groups or business orders”. Often here in Finland media deliberately or unintentionally gives the wrong view of different orders. The cause of this is those orders that fight for their name and their right to use it and question others. Our Order’s history has long been known and has proven to be right and researched by our member Juhani Hujanen K.H. Partly because of that our Grand Priory has been approved by the Finnish patent and registry. Also our Coat of arms has been trademarked.

Just a little about the operations of HOSJ. The Headquarters is located in Edmonton Canada and the highest officer, Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, is sitting beside me. The Grand Priory leads and coordinates operations in Finland. Commanderies are subsections. Alone or together they organize events for their members and possibly others. Those events could be spiritual growth, educational or church events, theatre evenings, summer trips and other trips that have to do with our Order’s history in foreign countries. We have visited Malta, Rhodes and Cyprus. The goal of these events is to fulfill the goals and objectives of the Order. We work for the spiritual wellbeing of our members and for those people in need.

Pro Fide et Pro Utilitate Hominum

In all of our endeavours cooperation is the key to success, as the success of this day’s events illustrate. We have enjoyed the joyous church event and now this evening here in Hamburger Börs. The preparations required a lot of work. I wish to say thanks to all of the officers, church musicians, photographers, servers and everyone who has helped to make this happen.

I hope that we all have enjoyed being together and that our esteemed guests will convey our warm greetings back to Canada and the U.S.A.

H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola KH



The Prelate's Homily - Mikael's Church, Turku - September 21 2013



*Petri Vuorinen K.H.
Appointed Grand Prelate of the Order
June, 2014*

Dear Friends!

This week we have celebrated according to the clerical calendar, the time after Whitsunday and our theme today is Jesus gives life. This past summer is an example of life. Nature has blossomed, it has been warm and light. We could see the joy of new life all around us. Maybe someone has seen the midnight sun of northern Finland in his travels.

Life speaks always with new and arisen life. Our Savior Jesus Christ reminds us with his lifework that life continues after death. He died to guarantee us and his followers everlasting life. He died but defeated death.

I can only imagine what kind of a sensation would happen if Jesus would come amongst us today as he did 2000 years ago. How would the media and paparazzi conduct themselves to report their stories for papers and television?

A while ago I heard a text from the Evangelium in which Jesus travelled to the town of Nain and performed one of his miracles. It was no wonder he was followed by thousands of people. He brought hope for deliverance from misery and inhumanity. But I will return to our time and this decade like a movie director and zoom in the camera on our Savior, if one can say it like that. The meaning of Jesus as the bringer of hope and life is current and fresh in our time also. This time also needs hope for the better. We need humanity, love and hope. This is the good message that Christ delivers. This message is

still current and true. Our job is only to receive the gift of this good message again.

I will get back to the time about one thousand years ago. Then, amongst the human suffering and misery there were small spots of light. Those were travelers and people of good will who wanted to help. They protected others, women and children and those who were sick. They began their operations in the Holy land by building hospices where those in poor health could get help. They were called the Knights of the St. John. They also wanted to guard the routes of the Pilgrims. I have a good reason to mention this historical fact. We are gathered here today in the Mikael's Church in Turku as Christians and in the spirit of St. John. As a community and as individuals we thrive for that same goal: to help others as Christ did. Our Order's goals and ideals join seamlessly to serve our neighbors in our communities.

Today on this festive day of the Order we can say that: Jesus gives life. We rejoice and are thankful for that life. When we give we get, when we search we find and as a reward, in time, we get to enjoy the peace and joys of the kingdom of heaven.

Together, we as friends and compatriots, today here and now in this unique moment and in the presence of the God, are investing new members of the Hospitaller Order of St. John, and appointing officers to their new duties. We pray for God's blessing on all members, new and old, and that God would Bless and guide us in the tasks given.

Let us pray:

Dear heavenly father, Thank you for life and thank you for belief. Thank you for Jesus and for making death the beginning of new life. God, thank you for being, because without you we wouldn't be. Thank you for gratitude which banishes the darkness in our minds and turns us towards your light. Amen.



On Behalf of the New Knights – September 21 2013

Honorable Prince Grand Master, Grand Commander, Grand Prior, Dame Hospitallers, Dear Knights, Companions and guests.

I would like to warmly thank you for myself and on behalf of the newly promoted Knights for this honor. In the Investiture two years ago we wondered what kind of a place this world is to live in. The situation has hardly gotten better given the view that the media gives us of the world and the quite gloomy economy of Europe. However, there is no need to be cynical. We now have a great chance to work according the principles of the HOSJ by giving special care to those who have unwillingly lost their self management skills.

Fortunately, many of our members have already given a hand to those in need. For the most part this help is economic, but it is good to remember that help can be offered in many ways e.g. by listening and helping in daily chores. Then the power of our presence is our most important tool, as we have seen in the events that have been arranged. The gratitude for this goes to the leadership of our Order and to the members who have continued to embrace its great history and centuries old values.

Thank you again on behalf of the Knights for that trust, we will strive to be worthy in our hearts.

Risto Lihr K.H.



On Behalf of the New Companions – September 21 2013

HSJ Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, H.E. Grand Commander Christa Devine, Sisters and Brothers, We have today been accepted as members of one of the oldest still working organizations in the world – The Hospitaller Order Of Saint John of Jerusalem. This Order of Chivalry has its origins in a time, when the community did not take care of its less fortunate members in a way which today is taken for granted. During the 12th century, at the time of the Crusades, so called spiritual Knighthoods emerged. Most well-known are the Knights Templar, the Knights Hospitaller and the German Order. These tried to combine Monastic and Chivalric ideals when fighting against unbelievers and pagans while protecting pilgrims. The Hospitallers are still working as a Christian charitable organization. Through different evolutionary steps, where also military characteristics were present, our Order has evolved into what it is today. Our mission

is to relieve all sorts of distress and anguish through active service. By giving our time, experience, means, and prayers we support the work of our Order. Weapons no longer play any role in this work.

Even though the community today takes part in fighting distress supported by laws and organizations, there is a still growing number of people, locally and abroad, who are being left outside this help. Half of my life I have taken part in the work of organizations swearing the same values that we today have promised to follow. Accordingly, I did not have any problems to swear the oath today and promise to take action whenever my help is needed. We, the new Companions, want to be worthy of the confidence shown in us and are thankful for the opportunity given to us.

Rune Eklund C.H.



The Investiture - September 13, 2014 – Turku, Finland

The Grand Prioral Address to the Grand Priory of the Baltic



H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola K.H

Your Serene Highness Prince Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, Your Excellency Grand Commander Christa Devine, Honorable HOSJ members and guests.

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Pyhän Johanneksen Ritarikunta in Finnish, has once again gathered together to celebrate its biggest annual occasion, the Investiture. We have celebrated throughout the years in Helsinki, Jyväskylä, Tampere and here in Turku in three places: Katariina and Mikael's churches and the Holy church. It has become a tradition to have this event in the esteemed Holy church and the evening festivities in the old historic Hamburger Börs.

The Investiture is arranged to take in new invited members, promoting esteemed members and nominating members to different tasks. In the church event we took in seven new members as Companions viz., Ilkka Garaisi, Kari Haapasaari, Tuomas Ilander, Anni Itähaarla, Pami Karvonen, Tarja Tuulikki Laaksonen, Risto Sjöholm. I warmly welcome all of you into the Order. I believe, knowing most of you well, that we are going to have active Companions in the Commanderies. Remember always the oaths that you gave in the church.

To you honorable Knights Jethro Rostedt, Harry Suominen, Vesa Viitaniemi and Dame Kirsi Svanljung von Wehrt, I wish to give my thanks and gratitude for your new rank. You have deserved it. You have as Companions had a significant part in helping to give humanitarian aid to those in need. Please accept my congratulations on your promotion.

Remember that your new rank requires that you act according to your oath and that you try to help the Order as best you can.

To function properly our Grand Priory also needs officers. In the church you heard the following nominations that were approved by the Grand Master. To Knight Commander in the Uusimaa Commandery, Heikki Sario K.H. Knight Commander Heikki Sario became a member in 2004 and was promoted to a Knight in 2009 and has been the Commander of Uusimaa Commandery since 2009. Today he resigns because he wishes to be more efficient in the structural change of his company. Knight Commander Heikki Sario has promised to be available for tasks assigned by the Grand Prior and the Grand Priory Council. I thank you Heikki on behalf of all of the members for the valuable work you have done for the Uusimaa Commandery and the Order in general.

Knight Commander Ralf Sundgren K.H. has been nominated to the responsible post of the Commander of Uusimaa on this day. Commander Ralf Sundgren is an example like his predecessor how one can advance in the Order. He became a member in 2009 and was promoted to a Knight in 2011 as his Commander had proposed. Now, three years later, he has been seen worthy to fill the "big boots" of Uusimaa Commandery unanimously as the members have proposed. Taking this post demands from you Ralf total commitment to your tasks. There are going to be helpers if you need them.

Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine K.H. and the HOSJ under his leadership values and trusts its Finnish members. The following nomination is a proof of that. After the death of

Heinz Hertwig-Jaksch P.H., the Grand Prelate of the Order, in April 2013 the Grand Master had to find a new member for this office. In his letter dated May 29th, 2013 the Grand Master asked me for my opinion and proposals for this office. I took this job with pleasure because there are five esteemed Theologians in the Grand Priory. Last June 23rd in Edmonton, Canada in the Sovereign Council meeting the Grand Master asked me to present my proposals. Today, Petri Vuorinen P.H. was appointed as the Grand Prelate of the Order by letters patent from the Grand Master. Petri became a member in 2005, was promoted to Knight in 2007 and nominated to Grand Prelate of the Grand Priory in 2009. He is going to remain in that task also.

I wish luck and success to all of the newly appointed officers and God's blessings and guidance in the performance of their responsible and demanding tasks. Remember that your personal activity and co-operation strengthens our base.

From time to time there are stories of different orders in the media that function around the world. In Finland, the promised land of organizations, there are many Orders. Some are true ones that are based in a dynasty and some aren't and are the so called "business orders". Often here in Finland the media gives a wrong picture of the different Orders. The cause of that is that there are Orders which fight for their right to use a name, which is either approved or not.

A little bit about our own HOSJ Order and how it operates. I have always in my speeches talked about the early days of our Order. Today I'm not going to do that because the Grand Master will handle that subject in his address. The Headquarters is located in Edmonton Canada and it is led by Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine K.H. with his competent officers. Perhaps the most important and capable one of those is his wife Grand Commander Christa Devine D.H. We thank them for the hospitality they displayed during the Sovereign Council Meeting.

In Finland, the Grand Priory is led by The Grand Prior with the assistance of the eleven Officers on the Grand Priory Council. The Commanderies are within the jurisdiction of the Grand Priory and these are the bodies which organize the various spiritual, social, fund raising and other events which are at the core of the operations. In fact a number of these events, have proven to be very intriguing. Last August, for example, the Commandery of Auranmaa arranged an Angelus in the church of Parainen after which we visited Qvidja (Kuitia) an ancient estate castle. The history of this, the oldest estate in Finland was told to us in great detail by its owner Anders af Heurlin. This trip ended with a lunch in Sattmark's coffee house. One week later the Commandery of Uusimaa arranged together with the heraldic Society a trip to Pernaja church, Malmgård estate and to Povoo church that had an exhibit of Heraldic coats of arms. Malmgård estate has an important part in Finnish history. Almost all of its owners have had an important part to play in Finnish history.

We work as best we can to help those in need, as we strive to achieve the goals and objectives of the Order as embodied in Our motto

"Pro Fide Pro et Pro Utilitate Hominum".

It has been said on many occasions, that with cooperation we get results. This event is a great example of that in the Holy Church and now here in this evening's event. The preparations have demanded a lot of work. I wish to thank the officials, church musicians, photographer, servers and everyone who has had a part in making this event possible. I Hope we have all had a good time and our honored guests will take warm greetings back with them to Canada and the USA.

H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola K.H.



On Behalf of the New Knights and Dame – September 13 2014

Prince Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, Grand Commander Christa Devine, Grand Prior Rauno Mikkola, Grand Councillor Lea Passoja-Mikkola, Knight Commander Antti Jääskeläinen, Knights, Dames, Companions and guests, I have the great honor to speak behalf of the newly promoted Knights and Dame of the HOSJ. The special honor is that, once again, we have the presence of Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine and his wife Grand Commander Christa Devine at our special event.

While taking my oath in the Holy Church I felt deep humility and gratitude and I wish to live the rest of my life according to this oath.

We are here celebrating, but in the world at large, in the Ukraine and in the Middle East, there are occurring many atrocities which cause pain and suffering. We see it our duty to help with the resources that we have.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the leadership of the Order and to the members who have embraced and preserved its ancient traditions.

Once again my gratitude on behalf of the newly promoted Knights and I wish luck and success to the Order in its humanitarian and other work.

Harry Suominen, KH



On Behalf of the New Companions – September 13 2014

Grand Master Robert Devine, Grand Commander Christa Devine, Grand Prior Rauno Mikkola, Grand Councillor Lea Passoja-Mikkola, Esteemed Knights, Dames, Companions, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been granted this honor today to speak on the behalf of the new Companions.

Nowadays membership in our Order is a challenge because there are many people in our homeland and elsewhere who are in need of support and safety. Unfortunately, hustle, envy, bullying seems to have become part of everyday life. However, with our own life experiences we can support the ways towards better spiritual health, an improved quality of life and contentment.

Knowledge about our own roots and history of ordinary life is fading away. Personally, I

would want to invest in gaining spiritual health and in honoring the work of our ancestors in our homeland which will soon be celebrating its 100th year of independence. Now at the time of harvesting we see the work of the past generations.

We who are here know that we are in many ways, very fortunate. We can find joy together today. We are joining a fellowship and sincerely wish to help in the coming years as members. It is nice to know that when needed the warmth, support and encouragement of the Mikkola's is always available. Thank you for that.

Once again thank you on behalf of the new Companions. We wish to be worthy of the trust of the Order.

Tarja Tuulikki Laaksonen, CH

From the Grand Priory of Canada

The Grand Priory of Canada is the overall administrative office for all HOSJ activities in Canada. It oversees the activities of the Edmonton Commandery and its fundraising activities. With the relocation of the former commander Dame Commander Gillian Taylor D.H. to Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Dame Patricia Jacobsen D.H. is now the new commander of Edmonton.

The commandery of Edmonton continues to be very active. Dame Commander Jacobsen has implemented a system for computer assisted long distance meetings so as to enable those members who are unable to attend meetings in person to participate in Commandery meetings. The Commandery continues to hold provincially-sanctioned casinos as its prime source of fundraising and it also conducts other fund-raising activities. Over the past year or so these have included a very successful specialty dinner and silent auction, and a music night. The publication of *The Crusader*, the Commandery newsletter, has also been reactivated, so that members can be kept up to date on matters of interest between meetings.

On June 20th-21st 2014, the Commandery of Edmonton was host to an investiture in which five new Jurats were received into membership and three Jurats were promoted to be companions of the Order. The activities were in effect an expanded version of the Commandery's annual St John day celebrations. A pre-investiture rehearsal and prayer service was held on June 20th followed by a reception hosted by Dame Barbara Köenig D.H. and Chevalier Fritz Köenig K.H. The investiture was held in St. George's Anglican Church under the eye of the Prince Grand Master and was followed by a reception and dinner at the University of Alberta Faculty Club. The Commandery was honored to have participating guests from the Grand Priory of the Baltic, viz., H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola K.H., the Grand Prior of the Baltic, and H.E.

Bailiff Lea Mikkola, the Grand Councillor of the Order.

At the reception following the investiture, a Certificate of Commendation was presented to Dame Bonnie Felker D.H. The certificate was presented in recognition of Dame Felker's dedication to the fulfillment of her oath of membership in the Order, and for her many years of tireless service. She, has served on the Commandery executive for many years, has never refused to perform additional tasks, and indeed has volunteered for many other responsibilities within the Commandery some of which often involves many hours skillfully devoted to working on a computer. She has always been very supportive of the Commandery's fund raising events and in particular music nights where she is often in the role of both organizer and performer. The certificate was presented by the Grand Prioress of Canada, H.E. Bailiff Sandra Munn D.H.



H.E. Bailiff Sandra Munn D.H. (left) presenting a Certificate of Commendation to Dame Bonnie Felker, D.H.



The New Commander of the Commandery of Edmonton.

The Annual General Meeting of the Commandery of Edmonton was held at the residence of H. E. Bailiff Sandi Munn, on April 5th, 2014. Members of the Grand Priory of Canada and the Sovereign Council were also present. This meeting was chaired by Dame Commander Patricia Jacobsen D.H., the new Commander of the Commandery.



Dame Commander Patricia Jacobsen D.H.

Dame Commander Patricia Jacobsen grew up in Edmonton, attending Jasper Place Composite High and studied Pharmacy in the University of Alberta. In her post-university career, she taught many emergency medical services courses and eventually paramedic pharmacology at Portage College, Lac La Biche, Alberta. She was received into the membership of the Order in 1999 as a Jurat of the Commandery of Edmonton at an investiture held in Calgary Alberta. She was promoted to Companion a year later and subsequently invested as a Dame of the Order in 2001. She has been a very active member of the Commandery and was awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the Grand Priory of Canada for work done in the Red Deer area in 2006. She has been instrumental in attaining financial support from the Commandery for the Wild Rose Women's Shelter in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta and has been active on several Investiture committees. In 2014, she

was appointed to the Command of the Commandery of Edmonton and took her Official Oath of Office at the Investiture held on June 21st 2004.

One of her first initiatives as Commander was the implementation of a cost-effective telecommunication system that will allow members to participate in meetings if they are unable to attend physically. This will be very helpful on occasions when a meeting is scheduled and the weather is bad, and, more importantly, it will also provide a means whereby long distance members can participate in Commandery meetings. She sees this as part of a process of facilitating greater membership participation in Commandery operations such that the knowledge, experience and judgement of all members could be harnessed more effectively.

Commander Jacobsen also views the Commandery's work in supporting organizations that minister to the poor and indigent in Edmonton's inner city neighborhoods as paramount. She hopes to foster closer ties to those organizations so that the commandery may have a better understanding of their needs. She also hopes that it may soon be feasible for the Commandery to support a broader spectrum of such charitable organizations.

Dame Commander Jacobsen has great respect for the long history of the Order. She believes greater promotion of the Order – especially to the younger generation, is key to extending and rejuvenating Order membership, and that greater education with regard to Order history and traditions as an important part of that process. To this end she hopes to draw on the experience and guidance of local members of the Sovereign Council. Since joining the ranks, she has been a great asset to the Order and, no doubt, her leadership, energy and dedication to the Order's ideals will further of the Order's mission of service.



At the Investiture in Edmonton - June 21, 2014



*Dame Commander Maureen Haberstock D.H.; H.E Bailff Rauno Mikkola K.H., Grand Prior of The Baltic;
 Dame Commander Patricia Jacobsen, D.H., Commander, Commandery of Edmonton;
 HE Bailiff Lea Mikkola D.H., Grand Councilor; Knight Commander Clayton McAdam K.H., Editor General.*

An Address to the Commandery of Edmonton June 21, 2014

H.S.H. Grand Master Robert D.O. Devine, H.E. Grand Commander Christa Devine, Honorable Officers of The Order, Knights, Dames, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure and honor for Lea and I to join you in this joyous event and to bring to you all personal greetings from every member in Finland. It has been eight years since we last visited Edmonton and we have many fond memories of our last visit here and of the events in which we were privileged to participate.

Many events have occurred over the past eight years. Globalization has made the nations of the world closer than ever before. Life in the information age has in part become easier and also unfortunately harder. Throughout all of human history there have been good times and bad. But we humans all have the capacity for making things better and great acts demand sacrifices from many who may not benefit directly from their actions. Some men and women do great things, others do not. However, there is still grief, duress, sickness, and poverty in this world, the needs of which seem to be unending. Our Order was established, to address such needs. We Finnish

members of the HOSJ have our own ways of helping. Over the years annual donations to our charitable causes have ranged from 2000 € to last year's 26000 €, funds donated by our members, all contributing according to their situation. For this recipients of the aid which these funds provide are always very thankful.

Although the membership of our Grand Priory has been relatively small, we still opt for moderate growth. Quality before quantity. In the upcoming Investiture on September 13, 2014 in Turku, to which you will all be welcome, we will welcome eight new members some of whom have been "possible members" for years. However, time "silvers" old aging Knights and we do need to recruit younger members to replace those of us who may soon be joining the emeriti.

In my mind, the HOSJ has certainly taken its place in the field of Finnish charitable organizations. Our members are very motivated, and try to live always according to our chivalric oaths. Such is the situation in Finland today and our vision of the future. Thank you!

***H.E. Bailiff Rauno Mikkola
 Grand Prior of the Baltic***



Commandery of Edmonton – Charitable Activities

The Commandery of Edmonton supports a number of charitable organizations in their efforts to help the poor and the indigent in Edmonton's Inner City. In the calendar year 2014, disbursements of \$5000.00 were made to each of the following organizations: The Bissel Centre, The Clean Scene Network for Youth Society, The Gordon Russell Crystal Kids Youth Center, The Friends of George Spady, The House of Refuge, The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society and the Youth Empowerment Services Society. Over the past few years, financial support and other support were also provided to, The Marion Center, The Inner City Pastoral Mission, Operation Friendship Seniors Society, The Hope Mission and the Mountain Rose Women's Shelter. To illustrate the nature of the organizations normally supported, by the Commandery, the charitable mission of two of these groups are summarized briefly below.

The Rock Lutheran Inner City Society (The ROCK) is an outreach program dedicated to meeting the needs of people in Edmonton's inner city neighborhoods. The ROCK attempts to raise the living standard and the hopes and expectations of those who are caught in the downward spiral of poverty through sustained programs of material and spiritual support. To these ends The ROCK has been running a breakfast club which, on average, provides breakfast meals to some 250-300 guests and snacks for children to take to school.

Spiritual support is provided through weekly prayer services, home and hospital visits, after school support to Norwood Elementary School and summer camp. The

services are all provided by volunteers, the majority of whom are seniors.

The Gordon Russell's Crystal Kids Youth Center (Crystal Kids) has been supporting and nurturing at-risk and vulnerable children and youth for the last twenty-two years. It is a non-denominational organization which welcomes children of any or no faith. It strives to protect children from hunger, abuse and neglect, to divert them away from addictions and criminal activity. By means of harm reduction and strength based mentoring, Crystal Kids strives to strengthen the resilience of these children and youth and to encourage and otherwise empower them to make positive life choices that would lead to a productive future away from life on the street.

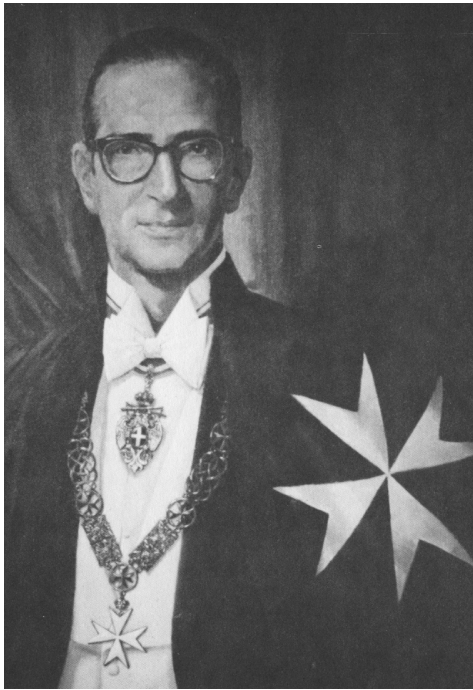
Crystal Kids operates a drop in center for inner city youth ages 6-17. It provides recreational opportunities including athletic and artistic programs, nutritional support, as well as literacy, numeracy and life skills coaching. All programs are free of charge to families. They also reach out to those who suffer from isolation, including seniors and recent immigrant families providing them with healthy communications and positive social interaction. Youth are always well supervised by staff and volunteers and bullying is not tolerated. Crystal Kids offers year-round afternoon snack and supper, plus lunch in summer, weekly lunches for seniors parents and tots, a community garden for family-grown produce and is depot for the Edmonton Food Bank.

***Kathryn Millar D.H.
Commandery Hospitaller.***



Essays - Reflections – Events

KING PETER II OF YUGOSLAVIA A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



King Peter II of Yugoslavia, Grand Master Hospitaller Order of Saint John (1965-1970)

In 1965, His late Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia consented to accept election as Grand Master of The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller. Three years later, as High Protector of the Order he promulgated the Constitution under which the Order continues to function. What do we really know of King Peter II of Yugoslavia? A brief historical summary is presented below.

The Karadjordjevic dynasty is two centuries old. In 1804 a wealthy Serbian clan chief and leader Djordje Petrovic, known to his followers as Karadjordje (Black George after his dark looks) led the Serbs in an uprising against the Ottoman Empire that controlled the Balkans. The revolution was successful for a time. Karadjordje established a government in Belgrade and in 1811 was confirmed as lawful ruler and the right of succession was vested in the family.

In 1813 the Turks returned to Belgrade and Karadjordje fled to Austria. His son Prince

Alexander returned to rule Serbia in 1842 but was deposed in 1858. In 1903 Parliament requested that Prince Peter Karadjordjevic - grandson of Black George - come to the throne. While the Balkan Wars in 1912 and 1913 resulted in the expansion of Serbia, the annexation by Austria of Bosnia-Herzegovina enraged both neighboring Serbia and the people of Croatia. Nationalist aspirations for independence from Austria finally led to the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 and within days the First World War had begun.

Before the end of the War in 1918, representatives of the three peoples proclaimed by mutual consent a new "Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" under the Crown of King Peter I. He died three years later, and his son, Alexander, became King. King Alexander I who had acted as Regent for his ailing father since 1914 had earned national fame as a soldier in the Balkan Wars and the First World War. In 1922 he married Princess Maria of Romania. They had three sons: Crown Prince Peter, Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej.

The new kingdom faced many threats. Internal rivalries between the Serbs and Croats increased tensions. By 1929 it was clear the King had no option but to impose a Royal dictatorship. However, King Alexander I did so reluctantly and promised to restore democracy to the newly renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia once unity had been achieved and bureaucratic corruption expunged.

In 1934 King Alexander was assassinated on a state visit in Marseilles. The French Foreign Minister Monsieur Louis Barthou also died in the attack. At the time of his death, King Alexander's son, Crown Prince Peter was only 11 years old when he became King Peter II. On 27th of March 1941, the young King Peter II was declared of age. Within a week Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Italy invaded

Yugoslavia and the government was forced to surrender. King Peter II, with the Yugoslav Government, made his way via Athens, Jerusalem and Cairo to London where he joined numerous other governments in exile from Nazi occupied Europe.

King Peter completed his education at Cambridge University then joined the Royal Air Force. He married Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark in London on 20 March 1944. In November 1945 the monarchy was illegally abolished without a referendum and Yugoslavia remained a totalitarian single party state under the League of Communists for more than four decades. King Peter II never abdicated.

In 1965 he went to live in the United States of America and he died on November 3, 1970, in Denver Colorado. His remains were interred in the Serbian Orthodox Monastery of Saint Sava, Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois, USA.

On 17 July 2001, the son of King Peter II, Crown Prince Alexander II, his wife Crown Princess Katherine, and his three sons Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander went back home to The Royal Palace in Belgrade. The Royal Palace was the residence of King Alexander I and King Peter II. The Royal Family finally returned home after nearly 60 years of exile. On March 4, 2007 Crown Prince Alexander announced plans to return the remains of his father to Serbia and for it to be placed in The Mausoleum of the Serbian Royal Family.

The remains of Petar Karadjordjevic II, the last King of Yugoslavia were repatriated to Serbia in 2013, some four decades after he died in exile, having previously fled to the West during World War II. His remains were reinterred after a state funeral along with those of other members of the royal family whose remains had also been repatriated.



ON THE BEAUTITUDES

A homily to the Commandery of Edmonton



*Reverend David H. Lehmann K.H.
Chaplain, Commandery of Edmonton*

A few months ago I heard a throw out line - the Beatitudes are to Christians as the Ten Commandments are to Jews. That got me thinking - thinking especially about the vows we have taken as Knights and Dames in this Order. It also got me thinking about what Jesus was trying to say to us from that mountainside so many years ago. Recently, I had the honour

of teaching a class in world religion at my old high school. The teacher was frustrated as none of the students knew the basics of the Christian faith. My presentation spanned all of the Bible, but held the Beatitudes as the central teaching of Jesus. Today, I would like us to reflect on the Beatitudes.

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

The Gospel of Luke simply refers to the poor, whereas the Gospel of Matthew seems to exhort us to understand poverty not in terms of finances but in truer terms - spiritual. The gift of salvation does not come from anything we have accomplished on our own, but rather is yet another generous gift from a generous God. We live in a world that speaks only of austerity but the truth is that our God is a generous God. Yes we come to him poor, but through the incredible actions of Jesus we are spiritually

rich. This is an amazing truth, as we are not the architects of our eternal life, but the recipients of it.

***“Blessed are they that mourn,
for they shall be comforted.”***

Do we feel blessed when we mourn? I don't at first. Then I remind myself that one has to love to mourn. We mourn many things and people. The older we get, the more we have to mourn. I am reminded today, that as an Order we grieve the death of Pastor Heinz. We mourn, the lost of youth – I attended high school graduation recently where I gathered with two former classmates and marked the 26th anniversary of our graduation (The joys of ministering in my hometown). When we consider that the Christian story of Life, Death and Life, there is indeed great comfort. We just need to remind ourselves of that comfort.

***“Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.”***

This is not what our culture teaches us. My friend Martha tells me "it a good thing" when it is the very best. A message the flies in opposition to the austerity the government speaks of and is not terribly meek. One thing I appreciate about our Order is the meekness in which we do things. Yes we get dressed up, but there are no lavish events plastered in the media. We volunteer our time, work quietly and assist those who are most desperate for help. Most of the agencies we support are getting on with the ministry Christ has called them to. Which is so humble and loving. We mirror the same attitude, and as such I am humbled by our simplicity and humility. To be meek is to leave the focus on the Order, St John and Christ.

***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”***

What is righteousness? What does holiness look like? A life based in Christ. A life based in service through self giving and praise. We have been blessed with much, and this is the point of our Order. Yes, some have more than us, but our generous God is teaching us to see life in a new way. A way of generosity and abundance

in spiritual terms. So that we can reach out to those who have even less. Give a voice to the voiceless. Use our abundance to help others. When we stand in the presence of a generous God, we cannot help but be generous ourselves.

***“Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.”***

In the Karate Kid, Mr Miagi said that mercy is for the weak. But the truth is that the strong are the only ones who can show mercy. Some philosophies and religions preach the concept of “what goes around comes around”, and there's a measure of truth to that, Our faith teaches us that we are made in the image of God and that God has shown us much mercy. We have opportunity every day to show mercy. In our conversations in the stores, talking with colleagues, especially in moments with family, we are called to be merciful.

***“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.”***

We may not always feel pure in heart. The heart is a tricky thing. Ever since Adam and Eve, we humans have had a habit of putting others second. But that's something we can unlearn and by the grace of God and something this Order has helped us all with. Purity is not something we can accomplish on our own, but is a gift from God. The crooked paths of the heart are made straight by the work of the Spirit and our self-giving to His work. As the old hymn says, “Take time to be holy.”

***“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.”***

There are many severe conflicts across the globe, North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan to cite but a few. However conflict also occurs in places closer to home and, indeed, within our communities. Jesus tells us that the peacemakers are blessed. Let us each remember a time when we were blessed to be a peacemaker - give thanks to God for the grace of that moment. Let us each remember a time when we were offended and give God thanks that we could use that experience to be peacemaker. We may not be able to address the big issues in the world, but we can make peace

with those around us. And speak of the peace that passes all understanding.

***"Blessed are they who are persecuted
for righteousness sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."***

John Wesley noted that when one is engaged in the work of the kingdom there will always be resistance. It is not a comfortable thought, that there will be rough waters when doing good. But it is reassuring that you are on the right path. The humble path calls us at these times to praise God and give Him the glory for the resistance and our blessing to be in His service ~ as we are inheritors of the Kingdom!

May we pray.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Keep us from being preoccupied with money and worldly goods, and with trying to increase them at the expense of justice.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth." Help us not to be ruthless with one another, and to eliminate the discord and violence that exists in the world around us.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Let us not be impatient under our own burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be filled." Make us thirst for you, the fountain of all holiness, and actively spread your influence in our private lives and in society.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Grant that we may be quick to forgive and slow to condemn.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God." Free us from our senses and our evil desires, and help us to fix our eyes on you.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called children of God." Aid us to make peace in our families, in our country, and in the world.

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs." Make us willing to suffer for the sake of right rather than to practice injustice; and let us not oppress, persecute nor discriminate against our neighbours. - Amen



A SPIRITUAL WEEKEND IN THE COMMANDERY OF AURANMAA

The secular world takes us easily away with its accelerating speed and increasing demands. Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem has luckily preserved the religious tradition of the original order in Jerusalem. It gives us an opportunity to slow down our lives and concentrate us in the essence of being humans. It is also a prerequisite in order to have the strength in helping the weak and poor.

The commandery of Auranmaa of the Grand Priory of Baltic had its traditional Knights Vesper on the 18th of May in the Arts Chapel in Turku. The series of Spiritual moments had already begun on the 17th of May in the old village of Kuralan Kylämäki, which

is one of the oldest habitats of Turku, the former capital of Finland. It dates back in the times of stone age and has an uninterrupted culture of 1600 years, which has been shown by the archaeological excavations.

The spring was sprouting in the rural landscape with the first blooming herbs below old linden and oak trees when the prelates of the Orthodox, Catholic and Lutheran Churches silenced our busy minds with a prayer for the unification of nature and for the preservation of the works of Lord for our children and upcoming generations Father Wieslaw Swiech of the parish of the Saint Birgitta and the Blessed Hemminki, parish priest of the parish

of Saint Alexandra and reverend Martti Hirvonen of the parish of Saint Katarina guided our thoughts to the wonders of the renewal of the nature, which obligates us to respect the works of Lord. After the prayer the participants in the ecumenical short service had a cup of tea or coffee with our Prelates and discussed the theme of the day. Our warm thanks were directed to Rev. Martti Hirvonen, who had arranged this service. The ecumenical service was also a part of local community week, which was arranged by organizations supported by the town of Turku . The aim of the week was to get people together in the suburbs. HOSJ had thus lively contact to the local community by creating a new tradition of spring time prayer service.

On the next day our members assembled in the unique Chapel of Arts, which is a very popular visiting site. The form of the Chapel is an upside down boat, constructed totally of wood. The chapel has been used for arts exhibitions, and on this day there was a collection of the works by artist, former military priest Hannu Konola. His presentation was itself as a sermon and led our thoughts to the profound question of our being and experiencing. Our grand prelate Petri Vuorinen

performed the vespers supported by organist Atte Tenkanen.



Petri Vuorinen KH

Grand Prelate, Grand Priory of the Baltic

After the vespers the secretary of the commandery Kirsi Svanljung von Wehrt had invited us to her home with an outstanding serving of coffee. Especially noteworthy was a cake with artistically made decoration, the arms of HOSJ, which could be approved even by our heraldic expert Reijo Helläkoski K.H. from the commandery of Uusimaa. Our very pleasant afternoon tea-coffee party ended with Atte Tenkanen playing the Pilgrims song of Lohengrin on the piano.

The experience of these social occasions gave trust in the future. We are much obliged to our active members of the commandery, who participated in the preparations.



A CONCERT IN LOHJA MEDIAVAL CHURCH

St. Lawrence's Church was completed in the Gothic style in around the 1480s. It replaced an earlier wooden church. The interior is decorated with plentiful murals painted al secco from the 1510s, and the Neo-Gothic-style pulpit is from 1845. The lower part of the belfry dates from medieval times, and the upper wooden part is from the 1740s. Lohja Church is the third biggest medieval stone church in Finland. These were the beautiful surroundings of our fund raising concert with Eino Grön. Singer Eino Grön has been a beloved Finnish icon for over 50 years. He recorded his first record in 1958 and never since has he faded from the music scene. Eino Grön is especially well known for his renditions of evergreen

tangos such as 'The Walls Have Ears'. On the 14th of September we had a beautiful sunny weekend in Lohja when Eino Grön with Mihai and Marian Petrescu held the concert for us. There were some 40 listeners and the concert was unforgettable.



A RAINY DAY IN SUOMENLINA

Every year we have a summer gathering and this year was our turn in Uusimaa to arrange one. On the 17th of August 2013, we met in Suomenlinna, which is situated on a group of islands off Helsinki. Suomenlinna was built during the Swedish era as a maritime fortress and a base for the Archipelago Fleet. Work on the fortress was begun in the mid-18th century. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Finland's most popular tourist attractions. Suomenlinna is also a district of the city of Helsinki, with a permanent population of more than 800. When we first arrived at Suomenlinna we had a short Angelus in Suomenlinna church which is by the way also lighthouse. Up to the main tower is situated lighthouse beacon.

Suomenlinna has played a key role in many turning points in Finland's history. It has been the property of three sovereign states. The majority of its buildings date from the late 18th century, the end of the Swedish era. From the early 19th century to the early 20th century, Suomenlinna – then known as Viapori – was part of Russia along with the rest of Finland.

Russian-era Viapori was a lively garrison town. Built on a cluster of rocky skerries, the fortress consists of an irregular network of bastions. At that period, the fortress was extended both towards the sea and on the mainland. The rain started after Angelus and we had a long walk



across the island to our next stop, the restaurant, Walhalla where we enjoyed a delicious dinner. Afterwards, we attended a very interesting lecture about the history and significance of Suomenlinna given by one of the leading history professors in Finland from Helsinki University.

Juhani Hujanen C.H.



QVIDJA

On Saturday August 16.2014 HOSJ Baltic Auranmaa Commandery had arranged a traditional summer trip to Parainen. The trip began with visit to the old stone church where Grand Prelate Petri Vuorinen PH held a short Angelus. This was followed by a visit to Qvidja which is a 15th century mansion with its stone castle. Qvidja is the oldest mansion that has survived in Finland. The master of the house took us on tour and told about its history.



SNAPSHOTS



*Inside St Georges Anglican Church, Edmonton
June 20th 2014*



*At the pre-investiture reception hosted by
Dame Barbara Köenig D.H. and
Chevalier Fritz Köenig K.H.
June 20th 2014*

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 Chapala-Jocotepec #519, Los Sabinos #29, Ajijic, Jalisco, 45920 Mexico.

