

Volume 9, - Summer 2013



Message from our Grand Prior General

My warmest greetings to each and every Knight, Dame and Member of our Order.

I am happy to announce that our ancient Order continues to grow worldwide, with the corresponding increased ability to support our local-area charities.

At present, our contributions – which have been generated through the annual dues and Investitures – have helped support church projects, medical missions, homeless military and volunteer fire departments. To date we have donated more than \$110,000 to worthy causes worldwide.

I am pleased to announce the launch of our new Commandery of the Southwest. We have appointed long-time Order member H. E. Count Paladin Kent Farquhar, KGC. Sir Kent resides near San Antonio, Texas, and is well underway with planning for an elegant Investiture to be held the beginning of November adjacent to San Antonio's fabled "River Walk". Details will be made available soon.

I am also delighted to announce that H.E. Pertti Jalasverta, Count De Pierrefont, who has led our Grand Priory of Finland and the Baltic States for the past decade, has been promoted. His new title is Grand Prior of Northern Europe, and he is now responsible for Order activities in Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia and Latvia.

Taking the reins for the Grand Priory of Finland is another longtime Order official from the Baltic States, Sir Erkki Lempiainen. Sir Erkki, who served as the Count's deputy in Finland, is a businessman in the hospitality arena in the Baltic and is an active competitive sailboat sportsman.

All members of our chivalric family are invited to two upcoming events taking place in Southern California this Fall. On the 18th of August, we will be commemorating the annual Feast Day for Saint Helen in San Juan Capistrano, and on the 21st of September we will again join our friends with the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, this time for a joint investiture to be held at the Benedict Castle in Riverside. Details will appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

As always, I thank each of you for your support and participation as we take this continuing journey into the mysteries and enchantment of our shared "Knighly Renaissance".

Michael

Duke of Aswan

Grand Prior General

News From the Pacific Northwest Priory

The Pacific Northwest Priory has had a very busy quarter and this summer looks like things will be "busier!!!"

I had the opportunity to visit Sir Brian Baity, member in West Valley, Utah. Sir Brian is keeping very busy! Sir Brian has partnered with Cystic Fibrosis in Salt Lake City, Utah and has participated in a recent Walkathon as a Member of The Imperial Order of Constantine the Great.

Sir Brian has also been recognized by the state of Utah for:

*Utah Best of State Award Carving 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

*Utah Best of State Award Individual Humanitarian 2013.

The Portland area members of the PNW Priory once again partnered with the Oregon Food Bank, "**Their mission: To eliminate hunger and its root causes ... because no one should be hungry.**"

PNW Priory members Sir Robert Keller, Dame Patty Murphy, Dame Stacey Jubitz, H.E. Lee Ann Quiroz GD, H.E. John Quiroz KGC, Postulant Derek Jubitz, Squire DJ Wadman, and myself assisted other volunteers in packaging 22,643 pounds of food which equals 18,719 meals prepared. Meals prepared per volunteer came to 288 meals each! Great Job!!!!

The PNW Priory sponsored a booth promoting the Imperial and Charitable Order of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen while supporting Autism Speaks in Oregon. We had quite a few very supportive comments, and the kids loved H.E. John's chain mail!

The Order of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen is dedicated to serving the poor in their geographical region as exemplified by Byzantine Culture and the laws of Constantine the Great. The Chaplain General challenges 'ALL Knights, Dames and Nobles of the Order to heed the words and donate to the order or the church now. Please practice nobility in true form by your actions, not only talk. *Exarch Matyas, Chaplain-General, Military Exarch of the Greek Church of Hungary (Worldwide)*

Upcoming Events

August 18, 2013

Worldwide Feast of St Helen Activities

September 21, 2013

Joint Investiture & Banquet – Benedict Castle,
Riverside, CA

November 1 & 2 2013

Investiture & Southwest Commandery Event

Winter – 2013

Annual Holiday Party

Joint Individualism

As knights we all have goals to be “in service” to others. In the oath we all swore:

I do solemnly swear by Almighty God and His Name, and in free and voluntary desire, to serve as a knight. I do swear by the Eternal Power of the Trinity, to be both a true and chivalric knight, to obey my Commanders and to aid my brethren. I also swear by all that is holy and dear unto me, to aid those less fortunate than I, to relieve the distress of the world and to fulfill my knightly obligations. This oath do I give of my own free and independent will, so help me God. Amen.

We promised to aid our brethren and give aid to the less fortunate. For most of us, this comes as naturally as breathing. That’s one of the reasons we were asked to become knights. This is what we have in common. Differences become apparent as to how we approach our goals.

Some people easily see “The Big Picture”, the final project, the helped people, the goals met. Others have difficulty seeing goals this way but know how to achieve the results. One person sees the Pie in the Sky and the other sees the cookbook. It is only through the teamwork of both these types that results happen.

Interaction between the Knights of our Order is essential to both the success of the Priory as well as the success of each Knights goal in giving aid to the less fortunate. With Area Commanders in place, we can match Knights and goals geographically so the dreamer and the chef can work together for the betterment of both. It is through the exchange of ideas, the playing of devil’s advocate, the give and take that can make great things happen. The bible tells us that all things are possible through God, but I think in His infinite wisdom, he wants us to turn to earthly brethren as well.

We are unique individuals with exceptional ideas. Working together we can achieve anything, but we need to share our dreams.

Chivalry It Is!

Chivalry in today’s world is practically a non-existent term. When you think of this word, it conjures images of the past—European elegance, uniformed soldiers, and, the obvious, gallant knights on horseback. Where has it gone? Fear not! Chivalry is not dead, but would we recognize it? Morals, values, and ethics each have slight differences but combined they define chivalry.

In order to understand what chivalry entails, we need to break it down. Let’s begin with morals. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, morals are defined as “standards of behavior; principles of right and wrong.” Principles are described as essential truths or proposals that function as the grounds for a structure of belief or behavior; standards are defined as “principles of conduct informed by notions of honor and decency” (Oxford). So who decides what morality is? Many will say that society dictates morality and that morals change with the social times. There are different ideas for what makes up a society—a community, a religion, a group with similar beliefs, etc. Others will say that any rational individual will accept morality based on their need to circumvent harm being done to another. They believe that rational people know the types of actions dictated by morality—what is verboten, mandatory, discouraged, encouraged, and permissible (Gert).

Ethics helps us understand how our principles and values relate to one another, and gives us direction for how we live our lives (Pojman and Fieser). In his article, “Ethics vs. Morals,” Mark Nichol states, “Morals are the tools by which one lives and ethics constitute the manual that codifies them.” Ethics help us to see that certain laws and behaviors can be immoral while realizing that they are still legally upheld (Pojman and Fieser).

Why be a Knight?

By Rev. Sir Father Richard Barnard

What is a knight, and why should anyone want to be one? Isn't knighthood an anachronism? Isn't it an irrelevant relic of a bygone era?



Those are all good and important questions and they defy easy explanations. To answer them, we must understand where knighthood comes from and what knighthood is.

The first knights were military officers. Some were mercenaries who offered their military services to local or national governments. Knightly orders – or organized bodies of knights – were established to promote order and to give knights the authority to do their jobs. The Church for the protection of Christian pilgrims authorized some, civil governments authorized others.

Today, knighthood is open to both men and women, though a woman in chivalric orders is styled a dame and not a knight. However, in contemporary usage, knights and dames are equal in rank and responsibilities.

A knight is one whose life reflects the age-old principles of chivalry. A knight is someone who has dedicated himself to the lifelong service of others. The formal knight or dame is a public recognition that the person being dubbed already possesses the qualities of knighthood. But knighthood also connects each knight with a network of likeminded people who have dedicated themselves to serving others. This network encourages the knight in service, enables the knight to combine his energies with the energies of others and provides the knight with opportunities to learn and grow.

The medal, the sword, and the mantle are all visible voices that tell the knight, "You are a special person, with special obligations."



One of my friends used to remind his teenage children each time they headed out for an evening of fun with their friends, "Remember your name." He wasn't cautioning them against a momentary loss of memory. He was reminding them that whatever they did would reflect upon the whole family. In much the same way, receiving the mantle of knighthood is a continuing reminder that whatever we do is a reflection on the other brothers and sisters of our knightly band. As knights, we should act like knights.

I am indebted to Max L. O'Starr for this summary of the duties of a knight in the days of old:



It behooves a knight to fear God, and with all his power to maintain the Christian faith; To be charitable, and to comfort those who are afflicted;

To serve faithfully and to defend his prince and country courageously; To forgive the follies and offenses of other men, and to sincerely embrace the love of friends; To esteem truth, and without respect, to maintain it; To avoid sloth and superfluous ease; To spend his time in honest and virtuous actions; To reverence magistrates and converse with persons of honor; To eschew riot and detest intemperance; To accommodate himself to the humor of honest company and to be no wrangler; To shun the conversation of perverse persons, and to behave himself modestly;