



NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDERS OF CONSTANTINE THE GREAT AND OF SAINT HELEN

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Message from our Grand Prior General

Warmest greetings to all



During the three months since our last newsletter, the leadership of our Order worldwide have been making progress on a variety of issues and activities.

As many of you are aware, in late October a delegation of our members from the United States along with a large group of our members from Finland and other European nations will meet in Rome, Italy. We will participate in ceremonies commemorating the 1700th anniversary of Emperor Constantine's epic victory over the Roman pagans – an event that changed the world for all time.

We are also planning formal Investitures in Northern and Southern California; an inaugural event in the Virginia/Washington, D.C. area and our second annual gala in our beautiful State of Hawaii. In addition, in February we will participate in the always spectacular Investiture in Helsinki, Finland. We also have several special events being organized by the Order of Saint Helen. As plans are made firm, we shall announce them on the website and via upcoming editions of this newsletter. We encourage each of you to help us grow the Order and our ability to better serve those in need by asking friends and colleagues to join us in this "knightly renaissance."

Two weeks ago several of our members from California, Oregon and Virginia "headed for the hills" to attend a delightful weekend in the remote California mountain community of Idyllwild, which culminated in signing an "Alliance & Fraternal Agreement" with our fellow officers, knights, dames and members of the **Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem**. This 14,000 member Order is one of the most respected in the world.

Order News From Around the Globe

Byzantine New Year and Blue Moon Youth Group Field Trip

The Military Order of Constantine The Great and Saint Helen and Greek Church of Hungary (USA)

Submitted by Exarch Matyas

The Military Order of Constantine The Great and Saint Helen held a Byzantine New Year youth field trip which was also the Blue Moon Day, 31 August-1 September. Seven Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Children took part in identifying the blue moon and its reason for calling it a blue moon. After which Exarch Matyas, and Senator Strategos used a star map to show the children the Great Bear as a reference. The youngest girl there, Hailey (age 6) explained, "The Square with the tail is the big bear." It was a true moment of joy and education.



H.G. Michael Teilmann, Chevalier Max Ellul, H.E. John Quiroz



Saint Lazarus Chevalier David Clevenger & H.E. Michael Teilmann

A tribute to the late H.G. Michael Smickrath was given by H.G. Michael Teilmann. H.G. Michael Smickrath was instrumental in opening the door for the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in the USA, and initiated an Alliance Agreement between the two orders in July 2011.

H.G. Michael Teilmann and H.E. John Quiroz met with Chevalier Massimo (Max) J. Ellul, the Grand Chancellor of the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem to re-confirm and sign the new Alliance & Fraternal Agreement between the two orders.



Chivalric Code

Knights of the medieval era were asked to "Protect the weak, defenseless, helpless, and fight for the general welfare of all". These few guidelines were the main duties of a medieval knight, but they were very hard to accomplish fully. Rarely could even the best of knights achieve these goals. Knights trained, in hunting, fighting, and riding. They were also trained to practice courteous, honorable behavior, which was considered extremely important. Chivalry was the main principle guiding a knight's life style. The code of chivalry dealt with three main areas: the military, social life, and religion. The military side of life was very important to knighthood. Along with the fighting elements of war, there were many customs and rules to be followed as well. A way of demonstrating military chivalry was to own expensive, heavy weaponry. Weapons were not the only crucial instruments for a knight: horses were also extremely important, and each knight often owned several horses for distinct purposes. One of the greatest signs of chivalry was the flying of colored banners, to display power and to distinguish knights in battle and in tournaments. Warriors were not only required to own all these belongings to prove their allegiance: they were expected to act with military courtesy as well. In combat when nobles and knights were taken prisoner, their lives were spared and were often held for ransom in somewhat comfortable surroundings. This same code of conduct did not apply to non-knights (archers, peasants, foot-soldiers, etc.) who were often slaughtered after capture, and who were viewed during battle as mere impediments to knights' getting to other knights to fight them. Becoming a knight was not a widely attainable goal in the medieval era. Sons of knights were eligible for the ranks of knighthood, but while other young men could indeed become knights, the job was just nearly impossible, especially for those from the lowest class. Those who were destined to become knights were singled out: in boyhood, these future warriors were sent off to a castle as pages, later becoming squires. Commonly around the age of 20, knights would be admitted to their rank in a

ceremony called either "dubbing" or the "Accolade".

Although these strong young men had proved their eligibility, their social status would be permanently controlled. They were expected to obey the code of chivalry at all times, and no failure was accepted.

The early Crusades helped to clarify the moral code of chivalry as it related to religion. As a result, Christian armies began to devote their efforts to sacred purposes. As time passed, clergy instituted religious vows which required knights to use their weapons chiefly for the protection of the weak and defenseless, especially women and orphans, and of churches.

How does this translate to today's society?

Excerpt from H.G. Michael Schmickrath's 'A Modern Knight'

Today, Knights and Ladies are selected from all professions into Orders which have evolved into bodies dedicated to the old values, such as charity, education, military service and the arts – all the while maintaining a sense of the traditional noble values.

The modern Knights and Ladies of the 21st Century are expected and by sworn oath, required to uphold certain traditional and historic values. During their ceremonies of investiture, the members pledge themselves to a Grand Master and to the Constitution of the Order and agree to follow its ideals of personal honor, courage and service to others.

So the tradition continues, men are conferred with the title of "Chevalier", or Knight and "Dame" for our Ladies which is an Honorary Title. Our Order is worldwide in nature, with functioning Priors and Commandries in 13 countries.

H.E. William V. Wenger - Grand Prefect

Submitted by H.E. Wenger



H.E. William V. Wenger, Earl of Mortimer, KGCOG, Grand Prefect of our Order, was recently honored to be invested in Order of the *Tadzrelebi* in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Wenger was invested as a Knight of Justice of the Georgian order. Simultaneously, Wenger was also invested in the international order of the Knights Templars, the Grand Priory of Austria of The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem.

H.E. Wenger, after returning from his second voluntary combat tour in Afghanistan in December 2011 (he also served two voluntary tours in Iraq), was hired as a U.S Department of Defense contractor as a Senior Defense Advisor to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Georgia. In this capacity, he lives and works in Tbilisi as a developer of curriculum and instructor of mid-level Georgian Armed Forces officers at their Command and General Staff College.

Wenger was recently appointed at the Chancellor for the Republic of Georgia for the Imperial and Charitable Order of Constantine the Great and Saint Helen. Wenger hopes to form an alliance between our order and the *Tadzrelebi*, as well as develop a Commandery and then a Priory in the Republic of Georgia.

Chivalric Code for the 21st Century

TRUTH--to speak the truth, to seek the truth in every situation before making judgments, to value the truth over personal agendas or the immediate benefits which falsehoods may offer.

HONOR--to keep your word, to know yourself, to uphold your beliefs, to act with keen moral judgment, to maintain high standards of conduct.

JUSTICE--to defend the helpless, to challenge evil wherever you encounter it, and to come to the aid of those who are so doing.

VALOR--to have not the lack of fear but the ability to set aside self-interest when faced with evil, to be willing to fight for what is right, regardless of what other people may say or do to you.

PROWESS--to have the discipline to train body, mind and spirit for the work of a knight and to eschew the self-destructive behaviors which tear down physical and spiritual health.

LOYALTY--to choose for yourself the Worthy One or Ones, whether they be your God, your loved ones, your country, your leader or your cause and to dedicate yourself to the protection and fulfillment of those Ones.

LARGESSE--to give freely of what you have without impoverishing yourself, to show generosity to friend and stranger alike, to be merciful and fair in all your dealings.

COURTESY--to be polite and mannerly in dress, speech and carriage, to treat all people as equals, to be kind to animals, and in war or competition to follow the rules, lose with grace and win with humbleness.

NOBLESSE--to be diligent in study, enhance your knowledge of the world, practice your skills, use your natural gifts to generate goodness, thereby enriching your life and the lives of those around you.

HUMILITY--to have all the above qualities without ever proclaiming them, to bear the heavy burden of Chivalry without so much as a breath of exertion, to be a silent strength of support to sustain us all.