



# LAZARUS LETTER

THE JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALIER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM  
GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALIA

May 2009

## FROM THE GRAND PRIOR

The National Chapter held in Brisbane at the beginning of May was a great occasion, with excellent attendance from all around Australia. A total of 91 of our Members registered and with accompanying persons the number attending in Brisbane exceeded 130.

The reports presented to the Chapter were detailed and informative. Discussion was spirited and all-in-all the Chapter was a great success. Congratulations are due to Dame Regina McGuire, President of the Queensland Commandery and to her Commandery for the great work that they did in organising such a successful National Chapter.

A special welcome is due to the new Members who were invested at St John's Cathedral on Saturday 2 May 2009. They are Richard Franklin, David Heidtman, Helen Lalas and Reverend John Stewart from New South Wales; Ron Phillips from Queensland; Richard Jacobs, Ann Magasdi and Ross Sweet from South Australia; Roderick Scurrah from Tasmania and Davina Johnson and Anthony Kennedy from Victoria. Those who were advanced in rank in the Order were Peter Wilkins of the ACT to Knight, Regina McGuire of Queensland, Pamela Yule and Elizabeth Jamieson of South Australia and Margaret Bevan from Victoria to Dame with James Hughes and Margaret Pell of Victoria and Gavin Fielding of Western Australia being advanced to Commander. Orders of Merit were awarded to our Chancellor Chev Will Bailey (CMLJ), Pamela Casagrande, Lindsay Kidd, Bill Killinger, Glenise Masters and Elizabeth Summerhayes (OMLJ), Michael White (CMLJ)

and Bishop Phillip Newell (CMLJ). The Australian Meritorious Medal was awarded to Rosalind Lawrence of Victoria and Santo Severino of New South Wales. Congratulations.

The advancements and the awards are appropriate recognitions of the work done by the recipients for the Order over the course of a number of years. May they continue their efforts for St Lazarus.

As a result of the Chapter a recommendation was made that Gavin Fielding CLJ be appointed to the Office of Referendary. I understand that this recommendation has been accepted by the Grand Master and that Gavin will now take his place as Referendary of the Order for the ensuing three years in place of Chev David Crossin whose term of office expired. Well done David; welcome Gavin.

I would like to express my gratitude the National Council and to the National Chapter for their unanimous decisions to recommend to the Grand Master that I should be re-appointed as Grand Prior for the ensuing three years. It is a great honour for me and I am very conscious of the responsibilities that such an honour carries with it. I shall certainly endeavour to fulfil my duties with the same degree of enthusiasm and energy as I have done over the last three years.

A National Chapter is a time for renewal of dedication and enthusiasm. I am sure that the influx of new Members and the meeting together of Members of long standing will help to ensure that each one of us will approach

## FROM THE GRAND PRIOR

the work of the Order in the coming year with renewed fervour. I pray that this will be so. Unfortunately the immediate past Grand Prior Dame Lady Potter AC was not able to be with us at the National Chapter due to illness nor was her immediate predecessor Chev Tony Sallmann AO, LVO due to injury. Our Marshall Kerry Bowerman OAM was also unable to be present due to illness.

Our National Chaplain, Bishop Ian George, composed a special prayer for these Members and led the National Chapter in that prayer at the outset of the Chapter. I would ask all Members to remember in their prayers those of our number who are ill.

The year ahead will be one of considerable challenge due to the economic and social upheaval in Australia that is a consequence of the global crisis. I have no doubt that there will be many calls on the Order for assistance and I hope that each of us will respond to these calls to the best of our abilities both financially and personally. Hard times bring out the best in Australians and even more so in the Members of an Order that is committed to assisting those in greatest need.

One final thing. Don't forget the National Chapter in Sydney in April next year. I am hopeful that the Grand Master and the Governor General will both be present.

Yours confraternally

The Hon Mr Justice Barry O'Keefe  
AM KCHS GCLJ (Ret)  
Grand Prior of Australia

## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

I am writing this contribution immediately following the very successful National Chapter meeting in Brisbane. The meeting was a splendid occasion with the arrangements, spiritual, business and social being both moving and enjoyable. Congratulations to President, Regina and her Commandery members for their terrific arrangements. Special thanks to the Slaters for their delightful home hosting of the Thursday evening dinner and to the Martins for the equally pleasant Sunday Lunch. We are indeed pleased to have our numbers increased by the entry to the Order of the Postulants and congratulate those members Advanced or recipients of Merit awards.

My report to the National Chapter meeting follows. However I have to sadly report the passing away of two of our members which occurred as this copy of the letter is going to press. Chev. Joffre Cowle KLJ of NSW and Dr William Wilson OLJ of Victoria both will be remembered with affection by their family, close associates and members generally. Tributes will be included in the next Lazarus Letter.

It has been a very constructive period for the Order since the last National Chapter meeting in Canberra. The reunification process at the International level is progressing very well with the necessary changes to the International Constitution being handled by a representative group of the former Malta obedience and the Norwich (the continuing part of the Paris) obedience. Much goodwill exists which bodes well for the resolution of this quite important issue. The Grand Prior has fleshed this out in his report.

The Chancellor's Committee has dealt with the various items which were referred to it by the meeting in Canberra. A report on the outcome was sent to Commandery Presidents and some items will be subject to a further comment on at the National Chapter meeting.

In essence there was very little support for the introduction of a new rank of Esquire / Damselle; consequently this suggestion will lapse.

## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Likewise there was insufficient support for a change in the title of Commandery President to Commander. Consequently this matter not be given further consideration.

It has been agreed that there should be a Loyal Toast at the Formal Dinner on Saturday night. Also it was agreed that we will sing the National Anthem immediately following the closure of the Conclave at the Investiture Service.

The opportunity to expand the Order through regional sub-commanderies was considered worthwhile provided a critical mass of members existed so as to add value to the State Commandery. Members of a sub-commandery would need to attend State Commandery meetings at least twice a year so as to maintain necessary personal links. It is felt that this proposal would only work in large decentralised States. A detailed submission to the Chancellor's Committee will be required before formal approval is given.

It will be left up to the host Commandery to decide if an oral presentation on its charitable works is made at the National Chapter meeting.

Likewise a speaker of stature who can talk on a subject relative to the Order could be included in the programme for the Informal Friday night dinner. However in both cases the Chancellor would like to be informed when the programme is being finalised.

The only speaker at the formal dinner will be the Grand Prior if this is his wish.

The other matter which was delegated was how the surplus funds held by the National Treasurer could be disbursed. The suggestion that it be paid to the Nungalinya Centre in Darwin received a solid majority of support. This matter has been referred to the meeting of the Hospitallers and their recommendation backed by the majority of Commandery support will be recommended to the National Chapter meeting.

In the context of the good works of the Priors, I must mention the support for the Spafford Centre in Jerusalem. It is very important that we continue to provide some assistance

to the Order's work in our spiritual home of Jerusalem. Our Spiritual Protector, His Beatitude Gregorios 111, drew our attention to this at the International Chapter meeting in Manchester. When I was the National Hospitaller I commenced the initiative to support Spafford and this has been continued by the current National Hospitaller. I look forward to his report on the support received to date in this financial year.

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal has raised a very satisfying level of support since the Grand Prior's launch of our effort. Perhaps it was a little late to attract the maximum support as many members had already made contribution. However as this report is being written just over \$20,000 has been promised.

As reported in the Lazarus Letter I was able to be present at a delightful Vigil service held in Sydney at St. James Church in July. It was my pleasure too to join the Tasmanian Commandery at their fund raising function in Hobart on November 8<sup>th</sup>. It was back to Hobart on February 11<sup>th</sup> to attend a special Conclave held by the Grand Prior to advance Mrs Bronwyn Wood who is unable to travel. After the service in St Mary's Cathedral the Grand Prior and I were invited to attend the Tasmanian Commandery AGM and ordinary meeting.

To me it was a rather special to enjoy such a pleasant afternoon and evening and emphasised the significance of being a member of the Order.

Unfortunately I was unable to undertake a planned visit to Perth on 16<sup>th</sup> November to attend a fundraising function. A minor ailment which I suffered meant the visit which had been arranged had to be cancelled at the last moment. It was very disappointing for me.

### PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS:

During the past month my time has been involved in the annual meeting of the Membership and Promotions Committee. It is a challenging task but one which requires the committee to be very impartial. Under our constitution there are requirements which must be taken into account.

## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Regarding promotions there is a minimum time which a member should spend at a certain level before advancement. This time is a minimum and does not mean that once the period is passed an automatic promotion occurs. A period of 3 years for advancement from Officer to Commander and 5 years from Commander to Knight is specified before advancement.

Then the promotion must be earned. This can mean that advancement to a higher rank may take much longer than the minimum period. This is as it has been since the Order was established in Australia.

In regards to an Award being recommended it is necessary for it to be established that a continued outstanding contribution over a number of years is evident. The recommendation for an Award, as the submission document records, simply requires the word Award to be recommended. The level will be assessed by the Committee and their recommendation to the Grand Prior will influence his decision on his recommendation to the Grand Master.

Those members who will attend the meeting as Postulants, those who will be advanced by Promotions and the recipients of Awards are listed in the Investiture Service booklet. I will not repeat the members' names here. I do, however, extend a very warm welcome to the Postulants and sincere congratulations to the members who either have been Promoted or received an Award.

### OFFICE BEARERS:

At this time I am not aware of nominations for National positions but understand that all holders of positions subject to election wish to continue. However I wish to extend my congratulations and sincere thanks to Chev. David Crossin OBE KCLJ for the splendid service he has given to the Order during his term as Referendary. The Grand Prior will appoint his

successor.

I have asked the Chaplains' Committee to consider my suggestion that a Commandery's membership committee include a Chaplain as well as the President, Secretary and Herald. This desire on my part is to ensure that the committed Christian requirement, which is paramount in assessing the background of a potential new member, is well recognised. It was very obvious to me when attending the International Chapter in Manchester that a strong Christian commitment is essential if a person is to join the Order. If this is lacking we become no more than another organisation which does good and has a strong military based structure.

### FINANCE:

The annual accounts continue to be prepared on a cash basis. The accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008 have been signed and audited and copies have been sent to members. The Grand Priory is in a sound financial position and our International obligations are paid up to date.

### BEREAVEMENTS:

Sadly I have to record the passing away of the following members since the last National Chapter meeting in Canberra.

His Hon. Judge Brian Donovan  
QC KLJ OMLJ (NSW).

Chev. Denis Galligan KLJ (Qld).

Mrs Nancy Hummerston OAM OLJ (Tas).

Mr Basil Taliangis AM CLJ (SA).

Mr Kenneth Williams AO CLJ (SA).

“rest eternal grant them O Lord and may  
light perpetual shine upon them”

Chev. Will J Bailey  
AO KLJ OMLJ  
Chancellor.



*At St. Stephens*



*Bishop Newell receives the CMLG*



*Rev. John Stewart becomes an Officer*



*General Hughes becomes a Commander*



*Richard Jacobs becomes an Officer*



*Archbishop George and Jan & Barry O'Keefe*



*Regina McQuire and Will Bailey*



*Ellis Wayland, Pamela Casagrande, Margaret Wayland & Beverly Charlton*



*Bishop John Bayton and Roz Lawrence*



*Margaret Bevan becomes a Dame*



*Santo Saverino receives the Australian Meritous Medal*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMMANDERIES

### Australian Capital Territory

The Commandery's patronal day service was held on Friday 19 December at the historic church of St John in Reid. Thereafter, members and partners enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Commonwealth Club.

The new year brought an innovation in our long-standing practices: a mini retreat was well attended at the Carmel on 14 February, led by Fr David Rankin SJ. Later that evening, Commandery members met at President Jim Leedman's home for an enjoyable self-catered shared meal, admiring the outlook from his balconies.

The Lent Service and dinner were held on Friday 27 March, at St John's and at University House, based on the precept that an occasional change is as good as a holiday. Attendance was a near-record.

Our annual barbecue with L'Arche residents took place on Sunday 5 April, with all present enjoying the provender and splendid autumnal weather. The following cricket match was so enjoyable that Heather Leedman has volunteered to donate a perpetual trophy for competition in 2010 and beyond.

The Commandery's AGM saw a considerable changing of the guard, with long-time Herald Pat Brazil standing down and Bryan Cutter assuming the position. Frank Long

has returned to the Commandery's executive committee as Hospitaller and Almoner. Sadly, our two chaplains (Bishop Max Davis and Canon Geoff Sibly) have resigned their offices due to extensive other commitments. The Commandery is actively pursuing replacements for them.

The ACT was well represented at the Brisbane National Chapter, with several delegates arriving early and /or leaving late so as to make the most of some non-Canberra May weather.

Our next planned function will be a yum cha luncheon at Dickson on Sunday 26 July. Thereafter, we will round out the year with our usual services, dinners and fund-raising activities. Throughout the year, our members provide additional support for L'Arche Genesaret, our principal charity, by attendance at monthly desert mornings and evening prayer meetings. Although our numbers are small, we continue to seek new members and to contribute to our community.

Members from other Commanderies who visit the ACT are most welcome to join in any of our activities.

Contact me through [gawaine@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gawaine@bigpond.net.au)

Peter Wilkins KLJ  
Secretary ACT Commandery

### NATIONAL CHAPTER - BRISBANE

The National Chapter in Brisbane has just successfully concluded and the NSW Commandery was represented by 26 members and 10 accompanying partners. This is about 25% of the total attendance in Brisbane so, while there were a lot of NSW members who could not get there, it was still a good proportional representation.

The whole event consisted of an enjoyable succession of church and social events with once again, satisfactory resolution of business at the various meetings and the National Chapter meeting itself. We thank the Queensland Commandery for their efforts.

We are very fortunate to enjoy the Chairmanship of the National Chapter by our own NSW member and Grand Prior, Barry O'Keefe who conducted the meeting with his normal fairness, competence and eloquence.

We congratulate Barry on his willingness to continue as our Grand Prior, having just completed three years as our leader.

### TALENT TO BE ON SHOW AT THE NATIONAL CHAPTER 2010 - SYDNEY

Brisbane over, it is our turn to run the National Chapter next year, and I can report excellent progress already thanks mainly to the efforts of our assistant Almoner Enza Messina.

All Commanderies will be receiving a letter from Enza who wants to draw out the performance talents within our members so that we can enjoy some home grown entertainment during the social events of next year's Chapter. So, please everyone, do not be shy - maybe a group could be formed or an individual coaxed to act, sing or recite!! We had a taste of it in Brisbane!!

The Sheraton on the Park Hotel has been booked and also the churches within easy walking distance - thus avoiding a lot of hassles with buses in Sydney downtown traffic.

Also, instead of a bag of Queensland nuts for each attendee, there will be a free umbrella (with appropriate branding) to improve the comfort of walking to church. Of course there

will be a mini-bus for those who do not walk it and indeed still, the free umbrella!

If we are successful in having the Grand Master himself and possibly our Patron, the Governor General in attendance, look out for a big, vibrant and busy National Chapter in Sydney on 16,17,18 April 2010.

### NEW MEMBERS

NSW Commandery welcomes new members:

- 1 Richard Franklin OLJ - son of members William (Ben) Franklin CLJ and Antoinette Franklin CLJ
- 2 David Heidtman OLJ along with his lovely wife Leslie and daughter Danielle
- 2 Helen Lalas OLJ - welcome Helen
- 3 Rev Fr John Stewart ChLJ has also joined and we look forward to his input and welcome his wife Jan.

Jonathon Stambolis was to be invested in Brisbane but he transferred to Paris where he is studying at the Sorbonne for a year - so we hope to confirm his membership in Sydney next year.

These new members and other prospective postulants were introduced to members at a Cocktail Party at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron's beautiful harbourside facility in February this year.

### PATRONAL FEAST – 2008

Our Patronal Feast Service was held in St Mary's Cathedral Crypt in November last year. His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell, our NSW Catholic Chaplain, officiated while other NSW Commandery clergy participated, including Bishop Richard Hurford who stepped up to play the organ in the absence of the arranged organist. However he was only able to do so after many eyes and hands had passed over the organ in attempts to find the "on" switch!

The service was followed by a formal dinner at the Australian Club where we were guests of Commandery member Professor Charles George. The Cardinal was the guest speaker and he presented an audio/visual account of the very successful 2008 Catholic World Youth Day in Sydney attended by the Pope.



*Aidre Sinclair and Santa ( you can tell by the eyes) with a family at Westmead.*



*Aidre Sinclair, Enza Messina and Santo as Santa at Westmead.*



*His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell, Lady Potter and Chev Bill Killinger at the Australian Club dinner in November 08 in Sydney.*

## HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Cr Ivan Petch, Chev Santo Severino, Dame Aidre Sinclair and Enza Messina once again organised the presentation of toys as Christmas gifts to the children in Westmead Children's hospital

## HANDS ON HELP FOR CHARITY

The Commandery is planning this year to initiate some active participation by members in assistance to a charity. To this end Almoner Kerry Jones along with Michael Jones and Hospitaller Dame Aidre Sinclair assisted in serving meals on Easter Day to the poor and homeless of Surry Hills in Sydney through the Missionaries of Charity otherwise known as the Mother Theresa Nuns.

We are planning now for this to be developed as a significant part of our hospitaller agenda.

## EXECUTIVE

For the information of other Grand Priory members, the Executive of the NSW Comandery with effect from 1 Jan 2009 is

**President:** Bill Killinger AM KLJ OMLJ

**Secretary:** James Winter CLJ

**Treasurer:** John Pegg OLJ

**Herald:** Phillip Clarkson OLJ

**Almoner:** Kerry Jones OLJ

**Hospitaller:** Aidre Sinclair DLJ

**Chaplains:** Rev James Pettigrew ChLJ OMLJ

His Eminence George Cardinal Pell

AC KGCHS GCLJ GCMLJ DD

**Archivist:** *Vacant*

**Assistant Almoners:** Edith Kidd OLJ

Enza Messina OLJ

Bill Killinger  
President

## Victoria

The Victorian Commandery is pleased to report continued activities:

Our bi-monthly business meetings continue to be preceded by short devotional services conducted by our Chaplains in the Chapel of Our Lord and Saint Lazarus at St Peter's, East Melbourne, giving an opportunity for reflection before our meetings.

In May 2009 the Commandery Annual General Meeting elected the following office bearers:

<b>President</b>	Mons Tony Toms JChLJ CMLJ
<b>Secretary</b>	John Molnar CLJ
<b>Treasurer</b>	Beverley Charlton CLJ
<b>Herald</b>	Major Gen James Hughes CLJ
<b>Almoner</b>	Margaret Pell CLJ
<b>Hospitaller</b>	Barbara Hamer CLJ
<b>Social Convenor</b>	Margaret Bevan DLJ OMLJ
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Davina Johnson OLJ

Appreciation was expressed to those who had held office and were not continuing.

We were delighted to welcome new member, Mr Anthony Kennedy.

Unfortunately Mr Barry Minster, approved for membership last year, advised that he wished to withdraw his application for membership due to personal reasons.

We have been saddened to learn of the death of member and Chaplain of the Commandery, the Very Rev. Henry Dabbous ChLJ OMLJ. Until his more recent ill health, Father Dabbous was an active member and served the Commandery graciously as one of our valued Chaplains.

The Herald, Major Gen James Hughes CLJ, and the Membership Committee, continue to be active in addressing future membership opportunities.

We were pleased to receive advice from the Chancellor in March that the following promotions and merit awards had been approved by the National Membership and Promotion Committee.

Congratulations to these worthy recipients:

- Margaret Beven promoted to Dame,
- Major Gen James Hughes promoted to Commander,
- Margaret Pell promoted to Commander,
- Dame Glenise Masters an Award as an

Officer in the Order of Merit,

- Dame Rosalind Lawrence an Award of the Australian Meritorious Medallion,
- Chev Willoughby J Bailey an Award as a Commander in the Order of Merit.

In recognition of his work in assisting in the creation of insignia now made in Australia at significant cost effectiveness, Mr John Hiatt, a 'Friend of the Order', was presented, by the Grand Prior at a bi-monthly meeting, with a Merit Award.

Following the approval of the concept of Friends of the Order at 2007 National Chapter, some 12 persons have been presented with certificate and badge and welcomed as Friends of the Order. We look forward to the continuation of their support which, in most cases, has already been considerable.

Two former active members, no longer able to offer active participation, have accepted our invitation to become Members Emeritus. Some others are being considered for this invitation also.

Our Chaplains continue to provide spiritual oversight.

Monsignor Anthony Toms ChLJ GOMLJ, Rev Dr John Davis ChLJ OMLJ, and Bishop John Bayton AM ED GCSJ GCTJ ChLJ OMLJ attend to our spiritual oversight in the Commandery. Particular focus has included the annual Lazarus Day Parade and church service, short devotional services preceding each Commandery business meeting and the annual Quiet Day.



*Quiet Day, Seymour*

## Victoria

The annual Quiet Day of Reflection and fellowship was again held at St Mary's Catholic Church, Seymour in March, when 25 members enjoyed the day of spiritual reflection, and a splendid lunch hosted by Chaplain Monsignor Tony Toms. Bishop Bayton presented two very inspiring and challenging messages.

Since last report the following activities have also been enjoyed by members and friends:

- The Saint Lazarus Day Service and Dinner, festivities associated with the Patronal feast of the Order, when over 70 members and guests, including members of other Orders, enjoyed the evening, continues to provide a contribution (\$2,500) to funding for our charitable work. We were delighted to have the Grand Prior with us on the occasion and he inspired the gathering with his message.
- A Wine Tasting and Buffet Dinner at the home of member Barbara Hamer in February, when many members and guests gained interesting advice about the excellent wines, enjoyed a delicious meal and excellent hospitality, and contributed some \$2,300 to the Commandery's charitable funds.

The Commandery has continues to concentrate its outreach by focussing support on causes as follows:

- The Lazarus Centre,
- The Wellington Community Centre,
- Green Cross Project Inc,
- Spafford Centre
- The Order's Victorian Bushfire Appeal

A number of members enjoyed the 2009 National Chapter in Brisbane and the excellent hosting by our Queensland members.

As I have served as Victorian President for six years, I congratulate Mons Tony Toms as incoming President of the Victorian Commandery.

Max Carr KLJ OMLJ

## Queensland

The Queensland Commandery was delighted to host the National Chapter of the Order in Brisbane from April 30 to May 3. It was well attended with members from all over Australia and all appeared to benefit from the exchange of ideas from the different Commanderies.

Our Grand Prior, Justice Barry O'Keefe, chaired a most informative meeting on the Saturday morning and enlightened those attending with the latest information on the international scene.

The Vigil Service at All Saints' Anglican Church and the Investiture Service at St John's Cathedral were beautifully organised by our Chaplains the very Reverend James Spence and Arthur Grimshaw. The Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen on the Sunday morning had a great impact on those attending because we felt part of a special community as it is part of the normal Sunday activities at the Cathedral with hundreds attending .

Our member Maureen Freer launched her book of poetry at Parliament House on May 3 and some members of the Queensland Commandery managed to attend after the Chapter meeting. Maureen has been a loyal member of the Queensland Commandery for many years and we wish her well with her book.

Because of the National Chapter the Queensland Commandery has not had any fundraising activities so far this year. A Garden Party is to be held on August 30 and members at present are selling tickets in an Art Union - the prize being a dinner catered in your own home.

'Hands on' activity continues by members at the Mission to Seafarers and the Trinity Pantry and contact continues with the young man in care and with the Sri Lankan refugees.

My thanks go to all who worked very hard in making the National Chapter a great success - especially those who opened their homes and welcomed all members.

Regina McGuire CLJ  
President, QLD Commandery

## South Australia

The South Australian contingent who attended the National Chapter in Brisbane thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Queensland Commandery and returned home with a great feeling of renewal, inspired by the comfort of knowing that our historic Order is at last on the way to reuniting internationally in its chivalric mission for the sick, the poor, and the marginalised.

It was heartening to witness the admission of so many new postulants in Brisbane and to share in the celebration of those of our members who were promoted or received Awards for their commitment to the Order's ideals.

We also reflect on our good fortune in having such strong and committed leadership of our Order and we congratulate our Grand Prior, Chancellor, Referendary, and Chev. John Bishop in steering us with such certainty and wisdom into taking our proper place in the Order's International forum.

Our Commandery's next meeting is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> May which will give us the opportunity to review the Chapter and formulate plans for the implementation of the resolutions which evolved from its deliberations.

Our Almoner's committee is well into the planning stages for our upcoming fundraisers – principally our film night and a pizza luncheon. Both are now well recognised by our supporters and we hope to emulate last year's successful

film night which attracted 400 supporters.

Our Hospitaller's committee has prepared written submissions to our Commandery membership recommending support for the Adelaide Day Centre for the Homeless, a wonderful organisation, run by two Catholic nuns and a host of volunteers, which provides food, clothing and furniture for the homeless.

Significantly, they have also developed a large fruit and vegetable garden which is tended by the homeless providing them with the dignity of work and the companionship of their peers. The produce from this garden provides fresh fruit and vegetables for hundreds of families in need. We see this project as a real manifestation of our mission for the marginalised in our community.

This committee will also recommend financial support for the many families who are experiencing extreme privation in the Riverland as a result of economic adversity caused by the drought and the accompanying irrigation restrictions which are literally destroying their livelihood.

And – never far from our deliberations, we will be recognising the need to seek out potential new members to provide our Commandery with a cohort of new members to maintain and sustain our chivalric mission into the future.

Ellis Wayland  
President

## Western Australia

The Commandery held its Annual General Meeting in April. At that meeting the following Office-Bearers were elected:

President: Tony Gardner CLJ  
Secretary: Gavin Fielding CLJ  
Treasurer: John Cunningham OLJ  
Almoner: Terry Jackson AM KLJ  
Hospitaller: Julie Gardner CLJ  
Herald: Adam Kestrel OLJ

Active membership of the Commandery stands at 27. In the past few months we have welcomed

two new members, David Coffey and Robert O'Connor QC.

### NATIONAL CHAPTER MEETING 2008

Six members of the Commandery attended the recent National Chapter meeting in Brisbane. All of them thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We were especially pleased that Elizabeth Summerhayes was made an Officer of the Companionate of Merit [OMLJ] for her long and distinguished service to the Commandery, particularly as Secretary and then as President.

## Western Australia

### ANNUAL FUNDRAISING

Planning has begun for the annual fund raising Garden Party to be held in November next. As in past years we are budgeting to raise in the order of \$20,000.00

### CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Commandery has reviewed the criteria it uses for donating money raised by it for charitable purposes. In brief the Commandery has decided that preference will be given to those charities which receive little or no support from Government and which will benefit materially from any donation from the Commandery. As in the past the Commandery's preference is that any donation be for a specific purpose rather than be added to the general funds.

### NEW NORCIA

The Commandery maintains a keen interest in the work of the monks at New Norcia. Arrangements to visit the monastery for a retreat at the monastery over the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July next have been completed.

### GENERAL

The Commandery continues to hold meetings bi-monthly which have been well attended. These meetings are followed by dinner which enables members to enjoy the benefits of regular social contact with each other

Tony Garner CLJ  
President,  
Western Australian Commandery.

## Tasmania

It was a special honour and joy to have a visit from both the Grand Prior and the Chancellor. The occasion was the advancement of our Almoner, Bronwyn Wood to the rank of Commander of the Order. Interstate travel has become problematical for Bronwyn, so our national office-bearers agreed to hold the ceremony here in Hobart.

The setting was the splendid St Mary's Cathedral, with a beautiful service led by our Chaplains, which included the customary prayers, a reading from scripture and a homily. The Gospel was read by the Chancellor, with the Grand Prior officiating, declaring the opening of a Conclave and conducting the ceremony of advancement.

We were further privileged to have Barry O'Keefe and Will Bailey attend and contribute to our Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting which followed afternoon refreshments.

### FEAST OF PATRON

No doubt all Commanderies observe the Feast of Patron. As there is some debate as to the correct date, there will certainly be some variety in the ways that various Commanderies celebrate the occasion.

In Tasmania, we have settled for the 17<sup>th</sup> December, and over the years have arrived at a programme of events which attracts a good attendance and serves several purposes. Others may be interested in a brief outline of what occurred on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

In the late afternoon, the members of the Commandery came together for the last business meeting for the year. That concluded, the members don their regalia as they, spouses and invited guests proceed to a nearby Chapel for a special service devised and led by the three Chaplains.



## Tasmania

A special feature of the Service is the lighting of a candle by the President, who then invites the members to stand and to reaffirm their commitment to the ideals and mission of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. The service included the customary elements of prayer, Scripture, homily and hymns and is usually completed in the space of just over half an hour.

Finally, the whole company partook of a three course celebratory dinner. Last December this took place at Parliament House Hobart. It was truly a splendid climax to the year's life and service.

The inclusion of guests gives us an opportunity to "tell our story" to others who may be attracted to the Order. Indeed this has become our principal means of recruiting other people. Display boards of photographs can be used to show something of our charitable work, and leaflets, outlining the history and purpose of the Order can be available to take away.

The recruitment of both Members and Friends has resulted.

It would be interesting to hear how other Commanderies observe the Feast of Patron, and also to know how they go about attracting new members. There is much that we can learn from one another.

(Bishop) Phillip K. Newell  
Tasmanian President.

## Father HENRY DABBOUS ChLJ OMLJ

### JOHN HERBIG REMEMBERS FR DABBOUS

Henry joined B F Goodrich Chemical in the early or mid 1960's as an industrial chemist in our laboratory. Henry came to us from GM Holden.

He had a degree in chemistry from Egypt and when that was recognized he was moved to their lab. We engaged him as a Senior Technician.

In due course, Henry acquired a master's degree and he was promoted. When I returned from overseas assignments in 1981, he was Chief Chemist and in charge of our process control and research laboratories. Apart from being a good scientist, he had great people skills. The labs just ran beautifully. Because of his skills, he was in great demand at other Goodrich international locations. Henry traveled a lot. Henry was made Director of Quality Control. He also had major responsibilities for environmental and safety programmes and issues.

Somewhere in the mid 80's he informed me that

was planning to resign. I was told that he had studied theology and was hoping to be ordained in the Melkite Church. (I did not know of it then) He was waiting for special permission from Rome as he was married. It came and Henry was ordained on the 18th January 1988.

It was wonderful to see him again as a Chaplain in our Order.

### BARRY STRONG RECOLLECTS

At a meeting of the Victorian Commandery, at which Fr Dabbous was present, membership records were being updated and the name of each member's spouse confirmed. Some members were unaware that Catholic Melkite priests could be married and were surprised when Fr Dabbous confirmed that his wife's name was Rita.

As he did, he turned to Monsignor Toms and with a familiar grin said to him

"Eat your heart out Tony Toms!"

Words of Rememberance for the very  
Reverend Father HENRY DABBOUS ChLJ OMLJ  
St Joseph's Melkite Catholic Church Fairfield



Father Henry Paul Dabbous was introduced to the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem by a friend of long standing, John Herbig in 1997 and became a chaplain of the Order on the 22 July 1997.

My lasting recollection of Father Henry is as a priest who was always extraordinarily kind and considerate, always ready to give wise counsel to those who requested his wisdom.

When Father Henry became a chaplain of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, he continued the long association of the Catholic Melkite Rite with the Order of Saint Lazarus. For three centuries the Patriarchs have been the Spiritual protectors of the Order of Saint Lazarus. In living memory, His Beatitude Patriarch Maximos V and today His Beatitude Patriarch Gregorius III Laham who has guided the Order through an intense period of reunification.

Members of the Order have reminded me of the lasting memories of Henry's homilies and spiritual talks, lessons that have made a deep impression and have been of considerable spiritual benefit. We found Henry to be a most unassuming person but at the same time a person with a deep intellect offering a clear and logical solution.

Our Very Reverend Father Henry Paul Dabbous is going to greatly missed by members of the Order in Australia, however his memory and the way in which he touched the hearts and minds of people of all walks of life will be his lasting legacy.

At the end of his pilgrimage of faith and life, to the eternal rewards promised by his Master, Henry could truly have echoed the words of the Apostle Paul: I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish, I have kept the faith: all then is to come to me now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me. (2Tim4:6-8) Well done good and faithful servant.

The order of saint Lazarus offers its sympathy and prayers to Rita and to all the members of Henry's and Rita's' families. May Henry's soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Monsignor Anthony K. Toms  
29 April 2009

TRIBUTE FROM THE PARISHES OF VICTORIA  
read by Mr, SALEM HADDAD JP  
DIRECTOR - MELKITE CATHOLIC EPARCHY CORPORATION

Your Excellencies, Most Reverend Bishops, Reverend Sheiks, Reverend Clergy, Honorable Guests, Sisters from the various Churches, brothers and sisters in Christ.

On behalf of St Joseph's parish council; St Peter & Paul's parish Council; St Elias's parish council; and all the committees of the Victorian parishes; Fr. Samir Haddad; Fr. Elias Matta and Fr. Tony Yacoub, I am honored to say a few words in celebrating the life of a man of faith Fr. Henry Dabbous.

It is true that we are all born equal. It is true that when we die our bodies turn equally into dust. But it is also true that each one of us leaves different impact on people when he leaves this earthly life.

Fr. Henry Dabbous is leaving a strong impact with a vacuum in our Church community towards which he was so dedicated. Yes, his body left us, but his spirit, his ideas, his inspirations and his dreams to see our Eparchy in Australia and New Zealand strong and prosperous remain with us.

Born in Cairo Egypt, he graduated from Ein Shams University in (Physics & Chemistry), worked in teaching profession before migrating to Australia 1967. While working as Chemist at GMH, he studied at Melbourne University and obtained a diploma in Administrations and masters in Applied Science,

He held the position of a director of chemical laboratories at Goodrich Company, and as a Scientist participated in many conferences in Egypt, USA, Canada, NZ and the Philippines.

Fr. Henry, a devoted religious man before being ordained, was a pioneering member of the Melkite community in Victoria; he worked tirelessly with other Melkite to bring Fr. Yousef Awad to Melbourne, establishing St Joseph's church in Fairfield 1975.

He was ordained Deacon in 1981 then after Archdeacon, studied theology at Melbourne Uni, and ordained as a priest of the Melkite Catholic Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 1988.

Fr. Henry was truly an advocate of the Melkite church in Victoria, networking closely to get the Melkite faith recognized at every level, with the Catholic Archdiocese, government bodies and educational institutions.

A service driven priest, his main objective was to service the Melkite faithful and establish their presence in the communities they lived in. He was the driving force with the blessing of our bishop Issam, for the establishment of the parishes of New Zealand, Perth, Hampton Park and Sunshine in Victoria. His urge to get all parishioners young and old to participate in the liturgy, was the driving force behind the introduction of English into Sunday service.

Fr. Henry was a man of vision, always ready to help and assist the needy, always looked at the bigger picture. One of his many dreams was to establish church based Child care centers to ensure that the church of the future was nurtured with strong foundation in the Byzantine heritage and the Melkite faith.

He was blessed with his love for music and beautiful vocal chords, there wasn't a time he was invited to a gathering when he wasn't asked to entertain us, and he was always in favor of establishing a young Melkite choir as he believed music was a window to the soul.

Fr. Henry planted many other seeds, thoughts, ideas and had big dreams for a strong foundation and presence for the Melkite faithful in Victoria. Unfortunately his ill health did not allow him to see some of his ideas and dreams to be completed. I am confident that Fr. Henry will always be watching over us and smile at every opportunity when one of his seeds he planted start growing and developing the fruits of his labor.

Fr. Henry we pray for you today and everyday but we also ask you to pray for us. You are a teacher, a friend and an inspiration to all of us. I know that your soul is just resting. Thank you for your hard work and rest in peace with the Saint's and be assured that we will continue in your footsteps.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to Khouria Rita and the Louise families, Fr. Henry brother's George, Nagui and Ihab Dabbous and families.

*"May he rest with the Saints & may  
his memory be eternal"*

# Archbishop George's Sermon

## INVESTITURE SERVICE St John's Cathedral, Brisbane Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

It is a joy to be worshipping in this splendid cathedral this evening. Thank you, Mr Dean, for your kind welcome and participation in this important annual Service of Investiture for this ancient order of chivalry. What a thrill it was for me to be here earlier this year for the completion of the exterior of this building. I understand that, when the last stained-glass windows (already designed and paid for!) are installed shortly, this building will be complete. Congratulations to you and to all who have worked so hard to make this possible, including one of our own members, former Archbishop of Brisbane and Governor-General, Dr Peter Hollingworth. It is our privilege to worship here this evening in the presence of Almighty God and to rejoice in the God-given creativity of so many people expressed here.

So this brings us to the present and the challenges to the creative gifts God has placed within each one of us – to be used for God's service. At an Investiture, when we welcome the commitment of new members and recommit our selves to the purposes of our Order, it is appropriate for us to think about some first principles. This evening I would like think with you about three of them. They come under the headings of cultivation, communication and cooperation. By these I mean our primary obligations as Christians:

- to worship God both publicly and privately on a regular basis;
- to share our experience of God with others – what we sometimes call evangelism;
- to work with God in changing the world.

### CULTIVATION

The word "cultivation" comes to us from Latin and has two closely-connected meanings. The first is about respect, reverence and worship, especially of God and, of course, of other people.

The second is about cultivation, physical or mental or spiritual.

We cannot expect to do anything worthwhile or lasting in the Christian life unless we cultivate our relationship with our maker. As the Psalmist says:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" (Ps 127:1).

The first principle of living for any Christian (and one might add, in fairness, any believer in any of the world's great faiths) is the maintenance and development of that relationship with God which is the mainspring of all our activities as individuals and as members of this Order.

We are both public and private people, so this needs to be expressed in both corporate worship (as we are doing here this evening) and in private prayer. In the old days before people were admitted to an order such as this, or advanced to a higher rank, they would have spent the whole night in private prayer, contemplating their relationship with God and the nature of the commitment they were about to make. That is what the vigil truly was. We have made it just another service in preparation for the investiture. Perhaps we need to reconsider this.

There is not time for me to say more here about this sine qua non of our Christian lives, but I do urge you to talk with your chaplains (or parish priests) about these matters; not only that you may better informed but also more effective in Christian living. In this season of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we might well think seriously about these words from the Jesuit scholar, Dr Gerald O'Collins, Professor of Fundamental Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome:

... it is in the Church and its life of prayer that the presence of the risen Jesus is most vividly

## Archbishop George's Sermon

experienced and acknowledged ... With his death and resurrection Jesus himself is no longer directly seen. His community comes fully into being as the visible, living sign of his saving intentions for all men and women of all times and places. For all their sinful failures, Christians are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be the special sign for the whole world of the risen Lord's presence and powerful love. (Jesus is Risen, pp. 157 - 8)

One might point out in passing, that this Order, at least in the Australian Grand Priory, so far as I know, has never attempted to use the power of intercessory prayer in any organized way...

### COMMUNICATION:

The word "communication" also comes to us from the Latin. The root meaning, as I understand it, is "to share". It is about mutual participation. Cicero used it in the sense of "to confer with". A crucial obligation for all those who call themselves Christians is the sharing of their experience of God in Jesus Christ with others. The great nineteenth century preacher, Spurgeon, described evangelism as "one beggar helping another beggar find bread"

According to the Gospels, Jesus left us with very few specific commands. One of them, according to St Matthew, is the obligation to pass the "good news" (which is what the word "gospel" means) on to others. In Matthew 28:19-20 we read:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age,

Just as he is with us this evening.

It is all so logical. If you and I hear a good story we want to tell it to others immediately. Surely the same thing should apply to the good news of the Gospel. I know there are many reasons why we do not do it. Sometimes it is because we are shy. We may, quite naturally, be afraid of ridicule. After all, who likes to be mocked? Or

we may have fallen for the current casuistry of our society which counsels against the intrusion of faith matters in normal discussion - even, tragically, in families! Or it may be because we are not sure what we really believe and are rather like people coming through customs with "nothing to declare". Whatever the reasons, this is again a good thing to discuss with your chaplain or parish priest.

By the way it does not have to be in words. St Francis sent his followers out to take the good news to the whole world and said: "use words if you have to. , ." As St James says, in the passage we heard read this evening ( James 1:22-7):

...be doers of the word, not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

This brings us to our final word - "cooperation".

### COOPERATION:

We all want to change the world. If we do not there must be something wrong with us. Certainly we do not belong in any order like that of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. But it is God's world and we forget, at our peril, that God is at work in the world God created at all times, trying to clean up the mess we have made of it. But God hopes to work through us in that job of recreation. As St Francis de Sales said:

"Great works do not always lie in our way, but every moment we may do little ones excellently, that is, with great love." (On the Love of God)

There is no more powerful parable in the history of the world's religious literature than the passage we heard read from St Matthew's Gospel this evening. It conjures up a rather frightening vision of a kind of final judgement when the secrets of all hearts will be disclosed and our lives on earth evaluated by one key criterion - the way in which we have responded to the obvious needs of those around us. It is

## Archbishop George's Sermon

often called the Grand Assize. I know of no biblical scholar who doubts that this amazing vision comes straight from the teaching of Our Lord. It really puts the wood on us. Bishop Frank Weston, once Anglican Bishop of Zanzibar wrote:

You cannot claim to worship Jesus in the tabernacle if you do not pity Jesus in the slum. It is folly, it is madness, to suppose that you can worship Jesus in the Sacrament and Jesus on the throne of glory, when you are sweating him in the bodies and souls of his children... look for Jesus in the ragged and the naked, in the oppressed and the sweated, in those who have lost hope, and in those who are struggling to make good. Look for Jesus in them; and when you have found him, gird yourself with his towel of fellowship and wash his feet in the person of his brethren.

(Frank Weston by H. Maynard Smith)

We live very fortunate lives in this very blessed (not just lucky) country. But underneath the surface of our comfortable existence lie some dreadful realities which some of us do our best to ignore.

We are about to be awash again with thousands of unemployed people - from highly-trained professionals to unskilled labourers. In a group of northern suburbs of Adelaide there are families in which no member has been gainfully employed for three generations. We are well on the way to developing an underclass in our so-called egalitarian society. You and I know that the gap between rich and poor in our nation grows wider every day.

As Christians we are about to be confronted once again with moral decisions about the way we treat asylum-seekers and refugees. Perhaps some of you have visited refugee camps in various parts of the world as I have. Perhaps you have seen the scars of torture and rape, heard the stories of murder and maiming, betrayal and brutality - things you could not believe human beings would do to each other. Experts say that 85% of all refugees are suffering from serious trauma for what they have experienced or witnessed. How will they ever recover? And we expect them just to slot gratefully into our complacent society and live happily ever after!

It may be that members of this Order could find a significant God-given role with refugees assisting them to find new life and hope and healing - and help other Australians resist the temptation to close our hearts and minds to their distress and so refuse to share our fantastic good fortune.

But these are but two areas where we could be concerned and involved. There are many others. The other day The Australian newspaper quoted President Barack Obama:

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the one we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Give that a bit of theological content (as Obama might have done, being a devout Christian) and one might apply it to us.

John Milton was wrong you know - they do not serve who only stand and wait!

Amen.

# TONY'S VEGETABLE SOUP



This is a nutritious veggie soup for all seasons and can be kept in your refrigerator for a week or stored frozen. My soup also has a beneficial effect, along with some physical exercise in a balanced diet, in assisting you to shed those extra “avoirdupois problems” that have out stayed their welcome!

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 diced red capsicum
- 1 diced carrot
- 1 diced brown onion
- 4 sticks diced celery
- 1 diced turnip
- 1 diced Swede
- 2 diced potatoes
- 1 diced sweet potato
- 4 quartered Brussels sprouts
- 5 diced raw asparagus spears
- 1 large cup of diced English, Italian parsley and mint leaves
- 1 can 4 mixed beans incl. syrup
- 1 packet of peas frozen or freeze-dried
- 1 cup of cooked pearl barley including the cooking liquid *do not discard the water.*
- 1 800 gm can peeled Italian tomatoes
- 1 packet French onion soup
- 2 litres unsalted vegetable stock
- 2 vegetable / beef or chicken stock cubes.
- 1 lemon squeezed
- ground pepper for seasoning

## UTENSILS:

- 1 soup stockpot

## PREPARATION:

1. boil and simmer one cup of pearl barley till “almost” ready and set aside.
2. clean and dice the vegetables and add to the stockpot.
3. add the barley and barley water, and stock of your choice.
4. when simmering add the French onion soup powder and the crushed stock cubes of your choice. Season with fresh cracked pepper and the juice of a squeezed lemon.
5. simmer on low heat for two hours then gentle mash any chunky remaining vegetables. The remaining vegetable fibre is both nutritious and beneficial for good health.

## NB.

There is no need to add any salt, as there is sufficient “*saltiness*” in the French onion soup.

Add any extra vegetables of you choice e.g. leeks, garlic, bean varieties, lentils etc.

## Grand Priory of Australia

*browse and surf*  
the newly launched  
web site at:

[www.st-lazarus.org.au](http://www.st-lazarus.org.au)

