



Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem
ORDO MILITARIS ET HOSPITALARIS SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI
MAGNUS L MAGISTER, CITRA ET ULTRA MARIA, PRAECEPTOR BOIGNACI, JAN COMTE DOBRZENSKY Z
DOBRZENICZ
EMINENTISSIMUS ANTONIUS CARDINALIS KAMBANDA SPIRITUALIS PROTECTOR
SUB ALTO PATROCINIO DOMUS REGIAE FRANCIAE

GRAND PRIORY OF THE U.S.A.
PETER VON JESS, K.C.L.J., O.M.
GRAND PRIOR

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**OFFICER MEETING & SPIRITUAL
RETREAT**



Our Chevaliers, Dames, Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers & Sisters of the Order of St. Lazarus, from February 10-12, 2023, gathered at Subiaco Abbey to conduct our first annual Officer staff meeting and spiritual retreat. The goals of our meeting were two-fold:

1. To discuss the functions of each Office in the Grand Priory, train new Officers, and resolve any questions arising from the discussion of functions and protocols.
2. To spend time in prayer and spiritual reflection as an Order and to beg God's grace and blessing on our charitable works.

In achieving our first objective, all attendees came prepared to fully participate in the discussion, bringing their questions and past experiences to bear. In achieving our second objective, everyone was asked to come with an open and prayerful heart. This communal experience has greatly benefited our Grand Priory.

The retreat was a success which should be repeated annually. Its conduct should be governed by an agenda that truly balances the



needs of the Grand Priory's Traditions and Spiritual needs, while attending to our Charitable works. Its' attendees should reflect the balanced requirements and be limited only by the sleeping accommodations available.

A Reflection on the Beatitudes –

Deacon John Mahon, SBLJ

“For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” The following is a from the gospel, small ‘g,’ of Matthew... McConaughy from his book *Greenlights*. While I’m quoting Mr. McConaughy’s story I’m asking you to think about what the meaning of true success is – getting ourselves, our families and friends into the Kingdom of Heaven. “What is your definition of success? A friend of mine went into a voodoo shop south of New Orleans the other day... It had vials of “magic” potions stacked in columns with labels defining what they would give you: fertility, health, family, legal help, energy, forgiveness... and money.

Guess which column was sold out? Money. Yep, money is king currency today. Money is success. The more we have, the more successful we are, right?” But are we more likely to be granted entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven as a result?

“Humility is not in vogue anymore, it’s too passive. We can get rich quick on an internet scam, be an expert at nothing but everything, if we say we are, and attain wealth, fame, rank and power, even respect, without having a shred of competence for anything of value. It happens every day.

We all want to succeed. The question we need to ask ourselves is: What is success to

us? More money? Okay. A healthy family? Yes! A happy marriage? Of course! Helping others? Absooolutely, Yes! To be famous? Meh... Spiritually sound? Please God! To leave the world a better place than we found it? NOW, we’re cooking!

“What is success to me?” Continue to ask yourself that question. How are you prosperous? What is your relevance? Our answer may change over time and that’s fine, but do yourself this favor: Whatever your answer is, we must not choose anything which will jeopardize our soul.

Prioritize who you are, who you want to be; and don’t spend time with anything which antagonizes your character. Don’t depend on drinking the Kool-Aid. It’s popular, tastes sweet today, but it will give you cavities tomorrow.

Life is not a popularity contest. Be brave, take the hill; but first, answer the question: “What is my hill?” Where is that road less travelled? Here I’ve given us something to ponder... Did God choose the rich, the famous or the popular? Let’s find out...

The Beatitudes are ‘how’ we make ourselves increasingly like Jesus – it is NOT a one and done type of thing – we must work hard to never do anything which takes us off into the weeds... WE must stay on the path God the Father has laid out for us... On those occasions where we find ourselves off in the weeds... We go to confession and get back on the path... *His path*; which is the road less travelled.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” The Kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit, who receive the



Word of God with humility – the poor and the lowly -with whom Jesus identifies. WE are the poor and lowly – none of us is worthy or full of grace. Deciding to be materially poor, at least in some areas of our lives... In order to be rich in faith and compassionate with and to others...

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Those who mourn could be mourning for many, many things in this life – the loss of a loved one, the current state of things in society, loss of a job, or a friendship... When we conform our will to God’s Will then we will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.” The meek are those who seek to imitate Jesus by showing kindness and gentleness toward their neighbors. Humbling ourselves by taking the lowest places...

“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.” St. Augustine states: “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and we are restless until we rest in You.” We all are well aware of what is right and what is wrong in our lives. When we see things in our society which are unjust and not righteous we yearn to have those things corrected – this is our hunger and thirst. Because we hunger and thirst for these now, when we do reach Heaven, we will be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” I once asked a priest where my Dad would end up – he was not baptized, but was a good man who believed in God and in the Golden Rule... He told

me we have to rely on a Merciful God. In order to be merciful we have to rely on God’s Grace to help us; because on our own we, in general, are not very merciful. Think about what might have gone through our minds or worse... might have come out of our mouths as we drive to Mass if someone cuts us off... Were we merciful?

“Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.” The clean of heart refers to one who has no connection or affiliation with sin. Without our Lord Jesus’ Grace and mercy it is very, very hard to obtain this in our lives. However, we have the sacrament of Reconciliation which will allow us a much better chance of obtaining this cleanliness of heart in this life... Making the Lord the only Desire of our hearts...

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” We must be at, and have peace within ourselves, before we can work towards helping anyone else with their peace. This is putting away any enmity, arrogance or attachment to any kind of sin within ourselves – when we do this ‘we’ “will be called children of God.”

“Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” As Catholics we are about 25% of the U.S. population – we are being persecuted in this our home and across these United States on a regular basis – we are rebels with *an amazing Cause* – our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who is the Fullness of Truth. 278 of our Catholic Churches have been assaulted since 2020; not to mention all the pregnancy resource centers – all without our Federal



Government putting a stop to it – we and our values are being persecuted...

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.” The former verses are addressed to a general audience – this one is specifically addressed to the Apostles and *through them to us* – if we have ever been insulted or persecuted; or had any kind of evil uttered against us falsely because of Him – WE are blessed.

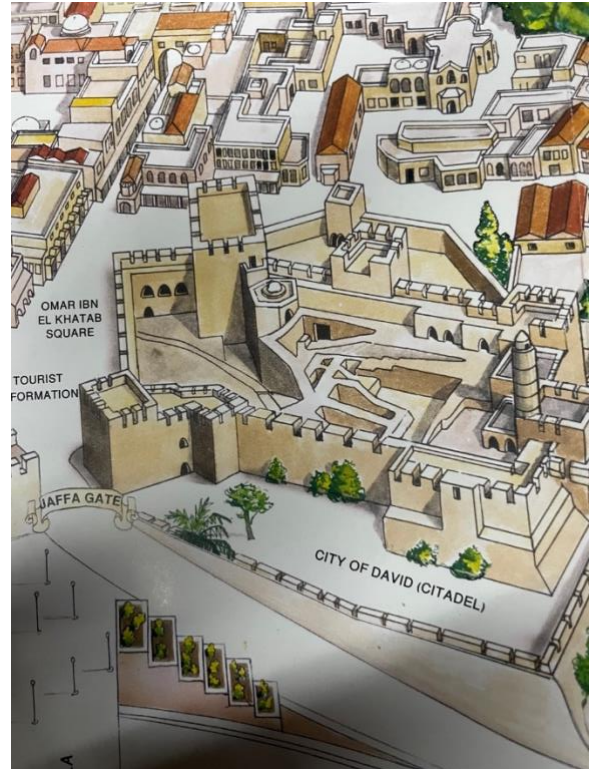
Many people, even many Christians, think Jesus’ ideas on happiness and success are absurd. However, the happiest people throughout history have been the humble and lowly remnant who have had the faith to live the Beatitudes. Will you make up your own “Beatitudes?” Only to find out later you messed up your life and Jesus knew more about life and happiness than you did? Or will you live Jesus’ Beatitudes and find out how wise and successful you were; *and then* meet Him in the Kingdom of Heaven?

My prayer for all of us this day is for us to remember – ALWAYS to “Rejoice and be glad, for our reward will be great in heaven.”

HOSPITALLER IN JERUSALEM
BG (ret) David Grange, KCLJ, MM

On March 10th, the first meeting of the Hospitaller committee was conducted. Sir David Grange, our Hospitaller, had just returned from Israel, Poland and Ukraine. He had meetings in Jerusalem and submitted the following map. Sir David advised: “One of our meetings was outside the wall of the original location of the St. Lazarus Hospitaller Knights, whose guard post is at the Tower

near the Jaffa Gate in old Jerusalem (bottom left of map below.)



Additionally, Michael Chaney, KCLJ, MM, sent the following picture of the same area...



A SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORNS WELCOMES THE 370th NEWBORN INTO THE WORLD.

Nick Silverio, KLCJ



saving lives. Learn more at www.asafehavenfornewborns.com



Gloria M. Silverio Foundation 501(c)3

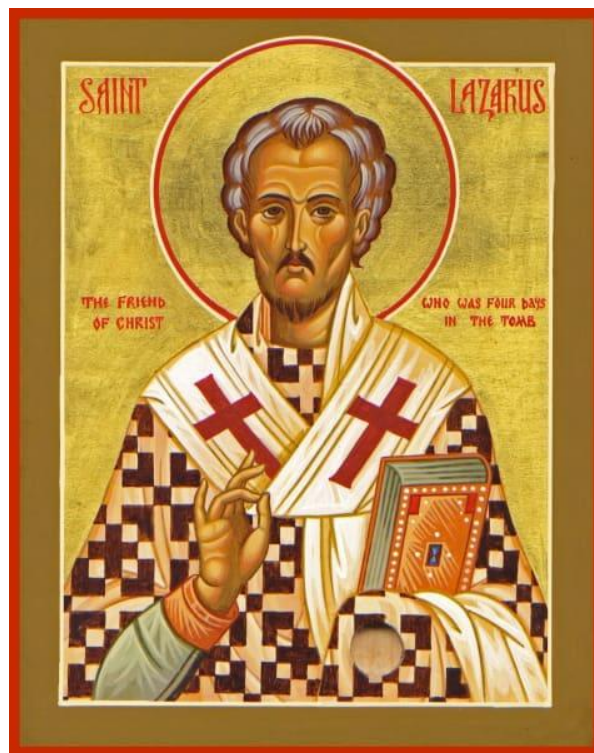
"A Safe Haven for Newborns"

6955 NW 77th Avenue Suite # 302, Miami Florida 33166

A Safe Haven for Newborns, the organization which has been supporting Florida's surrendered infant statute for 22 years welcomes the 370th baby into the world. A healthy, precious newborn was lawfully left in the arms of caring firefighters at a Florida Fire Station. Firefighters ensured both mother and the baby were healthy, and the mother was offered additional support and resources. Her identity is protected as the law allows. The baby was taken to a local hospital and will be placed for adoption with a loving, caring, forever family.

A Safe Haven for Newborns program has rescued 370 precious babies in Florida, as well as other states and countries, assisted more than 6,000 mothers in distress/need, and trained thousands of 1st responders, healthcare, and front-line workers on how to interact when a Safe Haven event occurs; all at no cost or obligation to anyone involved.

The A Safe Haven for Newborns, Fire/Ems and Hospitals partnership since 2000, is



Lazarus Saturday

Robert Klesko, KCLJ-Prof. OMLJ

This year, on April 1st (the day before Palm Sunday), the Eastern Churches celebrate "Lazarus Saturday". This celebration serves to demonstrate how the event of the raising of Lazarus provides foreshadowing for Jesus' own Resurrection. The connection of



these Biblical events helps us to transition from the penitential tone of the Lenten season toward the hope-filled and resurrectional tone of Holy Week and Easter. The story of the raising of Lazarus is found in John's Gospel (11:1-44) and is worth reading as we continue in our Lenten journey.

Of particular note in this narrative is the shortest verse in all the Gospels. Verse 35 simply reads "*Jesus wept.*" This verse is recited by the Professed Knights in their prayer of the "Memorial of St. Lazarus" as part of their "Office and Rule of Life." When you meditate on this verse, it is quite profound. The fact that the Son of God, Who possesses all glory and honor, was so wounded by the death of his friend that He wept, should give us pause. In such a human moment, we see the depth of Our Lord's heart. He grieves that His friend fell prey to the abomination of death. Death, remember, had no part in God's original plan for creation. Death only became a reality to contend with the loss of friendship with God in the Original Sin. So, Jesus weeps not only for his friend Lazarus but also because we all have to contend with the enemy of death. Jesus is about to enter into Holy Week and fight head-on with the dual enemies of sin and death. Sin He conquers on the Cross. Death He conquers on Holy Saturday when He descends into Sheol and breaks down the gates of death to lead the righteous to paradise. The story of the raising of Lazarus then serves as a gateway into these awesome events of our salvation! As Knights of St. Lazarus, this is so very important for us!

Beyond the Gospel of the raising of Lazarus, there are numerous other liturgical texts for Lazarus Saturday that are worth encountering. One such text reads:

By Your word, O Word of God, Lazarus now leaps out of death, having returned to this life. Therefore the peoples honor You with their branches, O Mighty One; for You shall destroy Hades utterly by Your own death.

By means of Lazarus has Christ already plundered you, O death. Where is your victory, O Hades? For the lament of Bethany is handed over now to you. Let us all wave against it our branches of victory.

We see here the theme of victory over death! Lazarus marks the beginning of that victory! Again, as his Knights, this is important for us!

In our modern world, we are confronted with death all around us. Wars, famine, refugees, etc. are all around. As a Hospitaller Order, in our charitable work, we confront the realities of death head-on. It is fitting that we have St. Lazarus as our patron. His raising from the tomb marked the beginning of God putting the world right again. This process of putting the world right is accomplished mystically by Christ totally and completely through His death and Resurrection. However, the work of applying this saving grace to the world in every generation is left to us. That is why our work as an Order is so vitally important. We take our prayerful encounter with the Lord and use it to bring about tangible change through our charitable works. In this season, but especially on Lazarus Saturday, let all of us Knights reflect on this important mission and beg God for a renewed vigor in our mission!





An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great. So just focus, and keep aiming.

Member Spotlight

Dame Holly Grange was born into a military family that knows service. She graduated high school near Fort Bragg, North Carolina then attended and graduated from the same prestigious U.S. Military Academy as her father, at West Point in 1982, in the earliest instance of female cadets. She was a trend setter then, and always has been blazing new trails. After enjoying her own successful military career in the Corps of Engineers, Dame Holly earned an M.S. degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in 1988. After leaving active duty, she continued to serve in the United States Army Reserve where she was assigned to Fort Bragg. Her family settled in Illinois where she attended law school at the Northern Illinois University College of Law from 2003 to 2006. After earning her Juris Doctor, she practiced law in Illinois until 2009, when her family moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. Dame Holly was appointed to the board of directors for the North Carolina Ports Authority in 2014. She married Brigadier General David Grange, who is one of our Knight Commanders and our Hospitaller.



She and Dave have two adult sons, one of whom followed Dame Holly's footsteps at West Point. Dame Holly is a two term North Carolina Senator who won her seat handily, the second time unopposed. She is a federally registered firearms instructor and sportswoman. Dame Holly is the consummate wife and mother, who gives tirelessly to her family, community, Church, and our Order of Saint Lazarus. Honors go to Dame Holly!

