



# GAZETTE



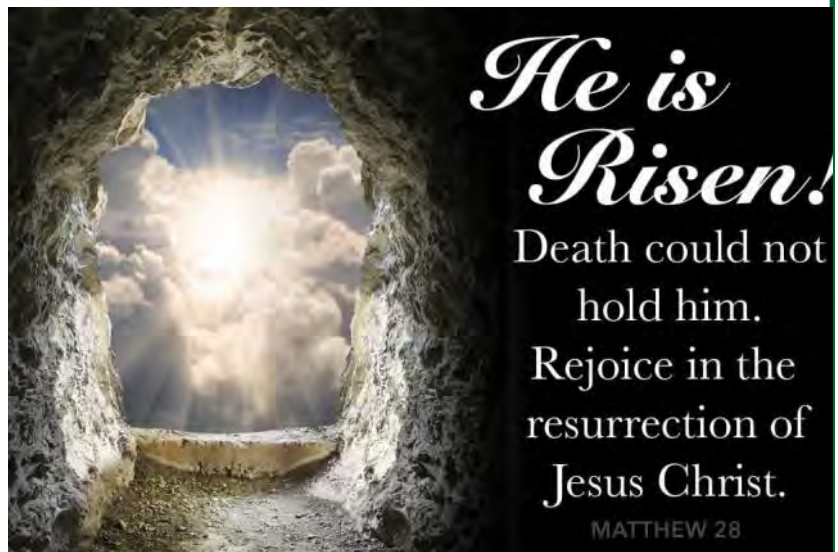
In my corner of Ontario, an optimist is someone who set up an outdoor hockey rink in December and then didn't take it down during the January and February rains, assuming that winter would somehow be 'normal'. The snow and cold were late in coming but the tundra swans, red winged blackbirds and robins all arrived earlier than usual. As it turns out, this past winter wasn't 'normal' at all.

Much like this winter, the world isn't 'normal' either. Between weather bombs, actual bombs and a marked increase in civil unrest, the world has not returned to normal or even settled into a predictable pattern. We hoped COVID would be done and that things would go back to the comfortable routines of 2019. That hasn't happened.

As with many charitable organizations, the Order in Canada is finding its way in this new environment. We find that some members are considering how many organizations they will focus on and the amount of time and treasure they are willing to invest. Our configuration as a public foundation doesn't lend itself easily to the "I did something good today scenario" that many associate with charitable work. Our model is different and sometimes the good takes time to achieve. That isn't the immediate feel good some people are looking for.

We do good through our Caregiver's Guide, Home Care Giver's Support Program, Comfort Bears and funding for individual hospices. We do good through the work being done in the ecumenical field, our bursaries and our continued support of leprosy treatment. We do good by recognizing those Small Acts of Kindness that make a difference in so many lives. We do good by adapting to the world around us, and so we've begun the Emerald Fund with the aim of being able to respond to disaster situations in Canada with blankets and funding. Our compassion for our fellow Canadians is demonstrated in many ways. As it has for the last 60 years the Order in Canada continues to serve.

We've adapted as an organization to a virtual chancery and we've adapted to the increased difficulty and cost in travel by focusing on regional investitures for 2023. We've adapted



*He is Risen!*  
Death could not hold him.  
Rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 28



our regulations and we've adapted jobs to meet the needs of the Order in Canada in this new environment. We've focused on the reality of now, and while we may not play on the rink so optimistically set up in the past, there will be another way to show our compassion for all Canadians.

The early knights adapted to the changing conditions with their numbers waxing and waning. Their mission of mercy had not ended and neither has ours. We will adapt and continue to serve.

In Service,  
Jane

### Getting to Know our Leaders



This issue's **Leader** is the Grand Priory's **Quartermaster**.

Meet **Chevalier Ron Davidson**, Ottawa Commandery.

As Quartermaster, I'm responsible for acquiring, maintaining, inventorying and caring for the Order's medals, decorations and accessories and ensuring the safe delivery of these items for investitures, promotions, and awards ceremonies. Over the last few months, I have been inventorying our assets and refurbishing any returned items that are received in good condition. Since some of the insignia cost more than \$300 each, (FYI, one particular insignia costs

close to \$990), it makes sound economic sense that we attempt to refurbish and reissue the insignia whenever possible. Before being reissued, the insignia are graded, cleaned, and a new ribbon is attached.

The revised *Guidelines for the Return, Refurbishment and Reissue of Insignia* have provided additional flexibility to the return process. When a member is invested, promoted or awarded an honour, the Order of Saint Lazarus will absorb the total cost for the full-size insignia. However, the member must pay for the companion miniature if requested. When the member is promoted or awarded to a higher dignity, they have two options; (1) they can return the former insignia in good condition to the Quartermaster within 30 days of the honour and receive a tax receipt for the current value of the surrendered insignia, or (2) they can return the former full-size insignia and receive the companion miniature of the new distinction without charge. The member will not receive a tax receipt if this option is selected. Surrendering of former insignia is at the expense of the member. NOTE: In deference to section (d) (iii) of the regulations, and for a limited period, we won't charge for insignia that is not returned. Instead, we will rely on our members' sense of fair play and desire to maintain solvency for the Order.

In time, I intend to increase the offerings available through the Quartermaster's store, items such as polo shirts, sweatshirts, ladies' headscarves, an additional assortment of men's ties, etc. By mid-summer, I hope to produce a detailed list of the items available, including the cost of each item. The purchaser will receive an invoice for any item(s) plus tax and shipping which should be paid prior to delivery.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at [quartermaster@saintlazarus.ca](mailto:quartermaster@saintlazarus.ca)

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# SAINT LAZARUS CANADA

*Courtesy of the Chancellor—Chevalier Fred Tufnell*



On Sunday March 12, 2023, the third Sunday of Lent, members of Saint Lazarus Canada attended at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto for the Commonwealth Day Worship Service. The Service, hosted by The Royal Commonwealth Society of Toronto included the singing of the Royal Anthem and the National Anthem in the presence of The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell

OC, OOnt, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The Lieutenant Governor made a stirring speech emphasizing several points made by our late Queen Elizabeth, to seek unity, harmony and caring for all in our daily lives. This was followed by a Prayer of support for King Charles III as he fulfills his calling as a devout and faithful ruler and Head of the Commonwealth.

*Members present included Chev Blair Allen, Chev Rick Firth, Chev Edward Badovinac, Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lt. (ret) Fred Tufnell and Dame Jocelyn Badovinac.*

*Courtesy of Chev Norman Hunter Rose—  
Grand Priory of America*

I attach initial information about the International Pilgrimage to be held in Malta in February 2024. Further information will be available later in the year.



## PASSINGS

HE Chev John Arena  
GCLJ, GOMLJ  
1924 – 11 February, 2023

The Hon. David C. Onley  
CM, OOnt, KStJ, KLJ  
12 June 1950 – 14 January, 2023

HE Chev Mark MacPherson  
CD, GCLJ(J), GOMLJ, MBA  
1 April, 1932 – 13 January, 2023

Christopher Bunting  
OLJ, BA  
23 May, 1951 – 9 January, 2023

HE Dame Marguerite (Grete) Hale  
CM, GCLJ(J) GOMLJ  
11 May, 1929—28 October, 2022

*May they rest in peace*



## 20 Year Meritorious Service Decoration

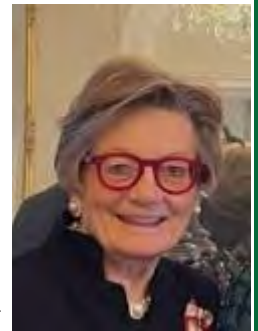


*Criterion: The 20-year Meritorious Service Decoration recognizes extraordinary effort and devotion to the Grand Priory and/or the International Order. The award is given infrequently. To be eligible for this award, a member must have completed twenty (20) years of **continuous** service as an elected and/or appointed office holder, including any Emeriti appointments at international and/or national levels. Commandery level appointments also qualify.*

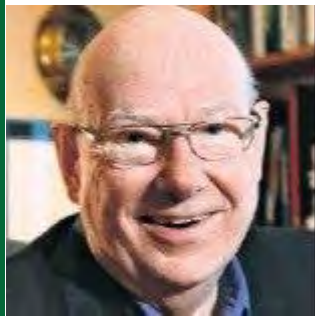
**Recent Recipients of the award are:**

**Dame Dennice Leahey**

**Dame Leahey** was invited to join the Order in 1995 and has served as a Vice-Commander in two Commanderies (Manitoba and Toronto), chairing major fundraising events in each. Prior to becoming Commander in Acadia in 2007, she held the appointment as Director of Public Relations at the National level. Since stepping down as Commander in 2019, she has been appointed to the Senate, served on the Admissions, Promotions and Awards committee, and for the last two years has been a member of the Nominating Committee.



**HE Chev. Robert Vandewater**



**Chev. Vandewater** was invited to join the Order in 1987. Since his admission, he has worked tirelessly to further the aims of the Order at the provincial, national and international levels. He was appointed Commander of the Manitoba Commandery, National Almoner, Chancellor and Grand Prior. He was instrumental in the reunification efforts and served as the Grand Chancellor. He holds the appointment of Grand Chancellor Emeritus. Chev. Vandewater remains active at the local level, is the chair of the Senate, and is the driving force behind the Investment and Endowment Committee.

**HE Dame Jane Anema**

**Dame Jane Anema** joined the Order as an Officer in 1997 and rose rapidly through the ranks eventually to be elected Grand Prior in 2019. Jane has served the Order at the Commandery, National and International levels. Over the course of years, she has held the positions of Vice-Commander and Commander of the Manitoba Commandery. At the National level, Jane has been the Editor of the Gazette, Director of Public Relations, Chancellor/Corporate Secretary and finally Grand Prior. Through her relations with the Grand Prior of America, relations are mutually collaborative with the Grand Priory of America.





## 20 Year Meritorious Service Decoration-*continued*

### HE Chev. Vaughan Langille



**Colonel Langille** was invited to join the Order in 1993 and served the Ottawa Commandery as a Vice-Commander, Armorist and Standard Bearer for a number of years. He chaired several Emerald Balls and was appointed Chair of the 2001 Chapter General held in Ottawa. He was appointed Custodian of Insignia in 2005 and held that role until 2017. He had significant input into the Uniform and Insignia committees at the international level during that tenure. He was appointed to the Senate in 2018 and serves as a member of the Investment and Endowment Committee.



### HE Chev Edward White

**HE Chev White** was invited to join the Order in 1989 and served in a number of roles at the Commandery level before being appointed Vice Chancellor/Secretary General in 2002. He moved into the role of Chancellor in 2007, became Prior in 2010 and moved to become the Grand Chancellor in 2011. He currently holds the appointment of Grand Commander of the Order.



### HE Chev Georges Parent



**HE Chev. Georges Parent** was invited to join the Order in 1981. Since his admission, he has worked continuously to further the aims of the Order at the Commandery, National and International levels. Initially appointed Commandery Secretary in 1982, he became Commander of the Quebec Commandery in 1989. While in this function, he was the instigator of the first Emerald Ball open to the public & which has raised more than one million dollars for medical foundations over 25 years.

He served nationally as the Deputy Chancellor in 1994 until appointed Vice Chancellor-Commanderies in 1996. He served in that role until being appointed Chancellor in 2004 and then becoming Grand Prior in 2007. He also served as Vice Chancellor-Administration for the International body during the reunification efforts. Georges served as Chair of the Nominating Committee once he stepped down as Grand Prior and also holds a Senate appointment for the Grand Priory.



## 20 Year Meritorious Service Decoration-*continued*

HE Chev. George Trusler



**HE Chev. Trusler** was invited to join the Order in 1980. Since his admission, he has worked tirelessly to further the aims of the Order at the Commandery and National levels. He was appointed Hospitaller of the Toronto Commandery soon after his admission. He became National Hospitaller in 1983, serving in that role for 10 years. He was appointed Prior in 1994 and became Grand Prior in 1997. He has served on the Senate for the Order since 2008 and chaired the Nominating Committee for a period of 3 years. He has been a true champion of leprosy research and funding and his wise counsel is much valued.



*Courtesy of Chev Robbie Sprules*

### EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, THE EARTH MOVES BENEATH YOUR FEET

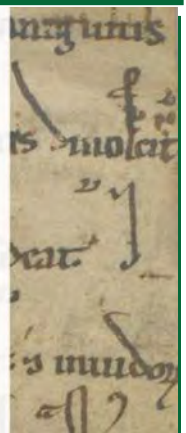
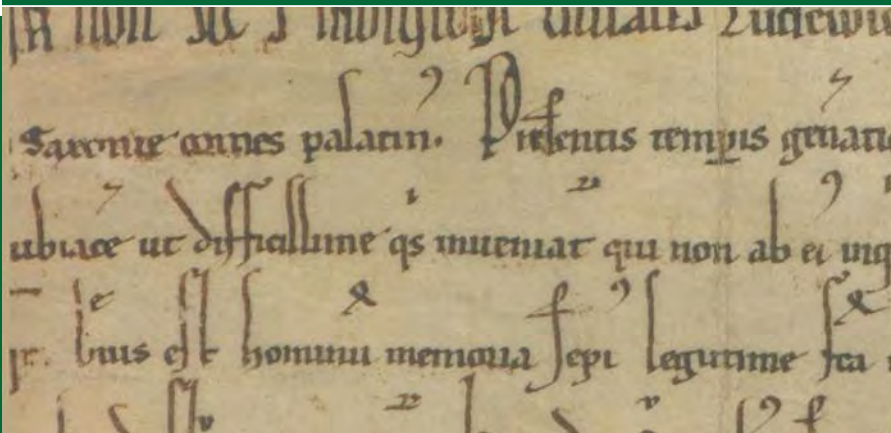
We have all been suffering from profound changes to our lives, changes that most of us could never have imagined.

Drought, famine, war, severe weather, dramatic price increases in food and energy, the pandemic, civil unrest, shifting political landscapes and even the death of our beloved sovereign. What are we at Saint Lazarus Canada to do? All of us are reassessing our spending habits, and are calculating what the new future holds for us.

Small Acts of Kindness are free, and bring relief, in so many ways, to those who are suffering. Reaching out to someone who is ailing, lonely, suffering from the loss of a loved one, maybe in hospice care or simply tired of being shut in from Covid isolation, will make you feel better about yourself and bring a lift to your own burdens. Our Small Acts of Kindness award program has had a big impact on those who have been recognised. Now, more than ever, is time for us to step out and help those who are in need.

Recently, I telephoned and spoke with dear friends who are both suffering from two kinds of terminal cancer. We keep in touch from time to time, and they always tell us how much it means to them. They are about to be presented with Small Acts of Kindness pins as they have spent a lifetime volunteering, helping others in need, sacrificing for the good of others. They are the embodiment of what service to others means. And service to others is free.

Local initiatives could mean walking next door to lift the spirits of someone in need (our next door neighbour's beloved dog died, and they were in a very sad state). Palliative Care is not just for end of life, but includes emotional and practical care for anyone in need. So, reach out, visit someone, call someone, take a friend in need for a special lunch, or to the theatre, or just accompany them on a walk so they can talk. It is all free.



800 Years  
Order of St Lazarus  
in Germany

The Grand Bailiwick of Germany of the  
Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem  
is honoured to invite to the celebrations commemorating the  
800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the first commandery on German soil,  
the Hospital Mary Magdalene in Gotha,  
in presence of H.E. The Grand Master, Francisco de Borbón, Graf von Hardenberg.

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- 09:00 am Meeting of the International Historical Academy (on its behalf)
- 04:00 pm Reception by the Lord Mayor of Gotha, Old City Hall
- 05:00 pm Guided historic walk through the Old Town and unveiling of a statue
- 07:00 pm Thuringian Evening, Hotel "Am Schlosspark"

Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- 11:00 am Academic Ceremony, Municipal Library, followed by refreshments
- 04:00 pm Ecumenical Service, Augustine church
- 07:00 pm Reception, Dinner and Charity Ball with live music, City Hall

Participation fee:

Full programme: 230,00 €, Saturday programme: 185,00 €, Dinner and Ball only: 150,00 €, Academy: +40,00 €

Registration:

Please register at [www.st-lazarus-orden.de/gotha](http://www.st-lazarus-orden.de/gotha) or use the attached form.

Information:

The hotels "Am Schlosspark" (4\*) and "Der Lindenhof" (4\*) offer a contingent (ca. 93 € single room/night, ca. 132 € double room/night incl. breakfast). Information will be provided during registration.

Questions are answered by Chev. Dr. Andreas Rademachers KCLJ, phone +49.151.40055993, [referendar@st-lazarus-orden.de](mailto:referendar@st-lazarus-orden.de).

Travel information:

The international airport Frankfurt am Main (FRA) is 230km away and offers a regular direct high speed train connection, the airport Leipzig/Halle (LEJ) 170km, the airport Erfurt/Weimar (ERF) 25km. We are glad to assist you.

Prolong your stay?

The state of Thuringia offers a wide variety of cultural sights (e.g. about their "local" Martin Luther) and beautiful nature. Please visit [www.thueringen-entdecken.de](http://www.thueringen-entdecken.de) for more travel tips.



*Courtesy of The Grand Prior*

### Conversations at the February Summit Meeting.

A Summit Meeting is an opportunity for the BOG to meet with the Commanders and those formal appointed positions to gather ideas, gain feedback and discuss the issues facing the Grand Priory in Canada. The Summit Group provides the Board with feedback on what’s working, what needs to be adjusted, and has input into future projects prior to launch.

The February 25<sup>th</sup> Summit meeting had a group of twenty gathered in person and via Teams. The conversation was robust and collegial and revolved around an examination of the SWOT analysis done in 2018 and the various strategic initiatives that were put in place as a result. It was also an opportunity to share information on the Virtual Chancery, discuss operational efficiency and needs and revisit the way we describe ourselves. The input from those present will be used to assist the board of governors as they consider changes and redevelop the work plan envisioned in 2019.



The lunch break provided an opportunity to honour our confrere **Chevalier George Trusler** with a 20 year meritorious service medal. *See article on Page 6 for more detail.*

After lunch the work continued well into the afternoon. Those who were able to stay took the opportunity to enjoy dinner served in the library at RCMI and extend the conversation.

*Courtesy of Julien Hammond—Edmonton Commandery*

### Edmonton Commandery 40th Anniversary Celebrations have begun

Recently Edmonton Commandery members enjoyed each other’s company at their 40th anniversary AGM and Friend-Raiser Brunch.

During this, the Commandery’s 40th Anniversary year, and amongst a number of Commandery initiatives, Edmonton is co-hosting the Regional Investiture,



Promotions, and Awards Ceremony taking place in Calgary on May 20th. As well, members of the Commandery will be distributing copies of *A Caregiver’s Guide*, at the "Horizons of Hope" information sessions on palliative care during April & May at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park.





## Message for Easter 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem,

In John's Gospel the resurrection of Jesus is preceded by the resurrection of his friend Lazarus. Jesus is the only one who, in the face of the death of his friend, continues to hope. The resurrection of Lazarus is not only a symbol of the future resurrection, but it is also a sign of a gift that the Lord Jesus already offers to those who believe. The cry "Come forth" with which Jesus calls Lazarus is also the voice of the one who already calls the spiritually dead to rise and live. It is not only an invitation to each one to come out of the grave of their own selfishness, torpor, coarseness, despair; but it is also an effective word that really frees us and allows us to taste true life, because life is Him. Jesus Christ wept for Lazarus, his dearest friend, and raised him up, but only for earthly life: years later, in fact, Lazarus was to die again.

Christ wept for us too. By weeping and dying, He gave us new life not only for now, but forever. Faced by Jesus Christ, who presents himself as the resurrection and the life, we must remind ourselves that bodily death is not the end of everything, that Jesus opened the dark door of death once and for all and through that door we too can pass without harm. Beyond the lacerating experience of death, the reality that becomes true for us at Easter is that we are invited to contemplate Christ's victory over death.

Christ's resurrection marks his definitive victory over death. This certainty is at the origin of Christian hope. Saint Paul says "If Christ is not risen, your faith is vain" (1 Cor 15:17). The resurrection of Christ is an event that involves all Christians beyond all confessional differences.

The evangelical theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, killed by the Nazis, wrote: "If Christ is not risen, the foothold that supports our whole life falters and everything is shattered; our life declines towards meaninglessness. Every discourse concerning God is illusory, every hope evanescent."

In a sermon entitled "The Beginning of Life", the Russian Orthodox theologian Fr. Florensky, shot on December 8, 1937, said: "In the confused flow of events, a centre has been found, the point of support is revealed: Christ is risen! If the Son of God had not been resurrected, then the whole world would have become completely absurd, then the most precious treasure would have been definitively burned and beauty would have irrevocably died; then the bridge between earth and heaven would have collapsed for eternity. And we would have been left without either, because we would not have known heaven and we would not have been able to defend ourselves from the destruction of the earth."

The Anglican professor N. T. Wright states: "To be grasped by our contemporary risen Jesus is to know and love the one who defeated death by the power of love and the new creation. Every glass of fresh water, every



. . . continued from previous page

tiny prayer, every confrontation with the bullies who oppress the poor, every song of praise or dance of joy, every work of art and music, nothing goes to waste. The resurrection will reaffirm it, in a way we cannot imagine, as part of God's new world. The resurrection is not only about a glorious future; it is about a present full of meaning."

I hope that the light of the Risen Jesus Christ will illumine the life of every member of the Order of Saint Lazarus called to contribute to the healing of lepers and people affected by every kind of disease, to bring the hope of a future of freedom, justice and peace to the whole world.

*Palm Sunday 2023*

*+ Msgr. Michele Pennisi*

*Archbishop Emeritus of Monreale & Ecclesiastical Grand Prior*

## THE GOOD WORKS OF THE ORDER

*Courtesy of Chevalier Julien DeSchutter—Calgary Commandery*



*Giovanni Di Vincenzo, Chaplain; Theresa Bellows, Coordinator Volunteer program; Dame Glynis Grigg, VC Commanderies; Pansy Angevine, Resident Care Manager*

Recent donations by the Calgary Commandery have included: **(A) Dulcina Hospice** for development of a music therapy program for the patients. \$2,500 in funding raised by the Commandery was matched by Saint Lazarus Canada, allowing for a total donation of \$5,000 for this wonderful program.

**(B) \$5,000 to The Friends of the Colonel Belcher Society** to assist with Palliative Care programs for veterans.

**(C) \$15,000 to Hospice Calgary—Sage Centre & Rosedale Hospice** for the Living with Advanced Illness Program.



*Chev J. DeSchutter—Commander Calgary; Charles Hamel— Board Chair , Friends of the Colonel Belcher Society*



*Chev J. DeSchutter—Commander Calgary; Fiona McColl— Executive Director Hospice Calgary; Dame Glynis Grigg— VC Commanderies*

In addition the Calgary Commandery has recently met with the Cochrane & Area Hospice Society to determine how we may be able to offer assistance with their plans to care for palliative individuals in their region. They now have 100 Caregiver Guides and 50 Comfort Bears to use in the 'kits' they provide to those palliative individuals.