

Grand Prior's Newsletter



October 2020

**WASH YOUR HANDS & SAY YOUR PRAYERS
CAUSE VIRUSES & JESUS ARE EVERYWHERE!**

Welcome to another Newsletter written during the reign, although somewhat diminished, of COVID-19. As a result of the imposed isolation caused by the pandemic, the social events and meetings that I usually report on have been replaced by ZOOM meetings, planning for 2022 and sorely missed interaction among Templars.

But the news is not all bad: and this Newsletter brings some bright lights, updates and concerns to share



The Investiture Recessional of the Priory of the Holy Trinity

First and foremost: Saturday the 10th of October 2020 the Edmonton Commandery became the Priory of the Holy Trinity during the Investiture which welcomed six new Templars and saw the elevation of the new Prior, Sir Rob MacMullen to Grand Officer. COVID restrictions made for a unique service and reception . . . but the experience was a delightful break from social isolation, while observing all the rules.



The Promotion of Sir Rob



The six newest Templars:

Sir Jason Green

Sir Cody Perkins

Sir Adam Pantelimon

Sir Carmelo Verduci

Dame Olympia Pantelimon

Dame Christina Verduci

I want to extend a special thank-you to our Chaplain, the Reverend Danielle Key of Holy Trinity and to all the folk there who worked so hard to make it all happen: and happen safely.

On the 24th of October 2020 at the St James Investiture, Sir George Jackowski will become the fourth Grand Prior of Canada. He has exciting plans for growing our Order in Canada until it truly is represented from sea to sea. Sir George will also be inviting all of us in share in what lies ahead: and how to involve our membership in short and long-term planning for a most successful future.



CONGRATULATIONS on your election, Sir George, and our very best wishes for all the adventures that lie ahead for you and the Templars of Canada. As we proudly pass the torch, know that you and our Order will ever be in our dreams, hopes and prayers for ever greater success in the years that lie ahead.

OUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE has spent endless hours putting together a great **WEBSITE!**

I urge you to visit it at
OSMTH.CA

The website is courtesy of the incredible efforts of Sir Aaron Mailloux and Dame Amanda Gellman. It will be updated on a regular basis: so send them content and

visit it frequently. It also provides a wealth of resources: such as how to put together a fund-raising effort and get tax credits for your donors. Or, what you need to do and the forms for The Pilgrim's Badge.

THOUGHTS on a SUNDAY MORNING . . . is published each week on YouTube. It is my thoughts on how to live as a Christian and Templar in these days of COVID: not a homily, just ideas. To join check out that title or Nola Crewe at YouTube or send your email address to me and I will add you to the direct emailing list:

DameTemplar@gmail.com

CHARITY

Our new Donations & Fundraising Policy has been approved and is available to all members on the website . . . Just another good reason to check the site out! Again we are greatly indebted to the efforts of Sir Stephen Willetts, the Grand Treasurer and Dame Amanda Gellman.

DOINGS during COVID

I am so proud of all I hear that Templars have been doing during these uncertain times. Like the Templars of old, we have been protecting those who cannot/will not protect themselves; raising monies; cooking and delivering food; visiting the lonely whether on-line or by phone - and making sure that no one is forgotten.

And we have all had our own projects to keep away the sense of futility at not being able to truly reach out a helping hand and hold another in our own.

One of the things I have been doing is working on the requirements for the Templar Pilgrim's Medal, and here they are:

You will be expected to have visited at least ten Templar sites: including at least three in the Holy Lands (actually, if you go to Israel, all ten sites can be done very readily).

At each site you will be expected to meditate on the meaning and the connection with our Order and make notes/take pictures to communicate the experience when you return.

Visiting ten sites can be done in one visit or over any number of years.

Your experience must be shared: whether in a presentation to your Priory, or in an article posted on our website or included with a Newsletter.

An application attesting to these requirements and co-signed by your Prior must be submitted to the Grand Prior.

*The design for the medal is being worked on . . . it looks like it will be a Canadian Logo with a pilgrim's staff on the reverse and on the obverse, a Pilgrim.
More on that once they are ready to go!*

Contact me with your questions (or suggestions . . .)

DameTemplar@gmail.com

As our International Commitment to our faith and the Holy Land, the Priors have agreed that each Priory will support a child in the Holy Land so that they will gain the skills and education necessary to have meaningful employment that will enable them to stay in their own land and not become part of the international tragedy of the refugee camp. I am awaiting the picture of the little girl who will be the Grand Priory's contribution to this great cause.

The Priory of ST JAMES



Toronto

**The greatest news coming out of Toronto is that the Prior of St James is about to become the Grand Prior of Canada.
On the 31st of August Sir George Jackowski was elected to fill this great honour.**

St James also demonstrates that it really only takes one Templar who is passionate about a project to make incredible things happen. Throughout the Pandemic Sir Sean Shirzadi has kept his Flemingdon Food Bank open and has met the challenge of a 20% increase in demand in this low-income community. And may I remind you: cheques and donations are always welcome.

And you can't keep a visionary occupied with only one project. Sir Sean is also about to launch into making T-shirts and jackets with our cross on it



**Priory of
SIMON-PETER**



Ottawa

For months 1070 hockey jerseys sat in great crates in the driveway of Prior Nicole, before finally being delivered to the youthful stars of the future!

A reminder: in 2022 Ottawa will be hosting, on behalf of all Canadian Templars, an International Meeting. We are looking for volunteers and I trust you are looking at the set of skills and talents and time that you have to offer!

**Priory of the
ASCENSION of OUR LORD**



Windsor

Respecting members concerns over COVID and the Province's request that unnecessary gatherings not take place, Ascension has decided against having their usual Investiture in November.

Stay tuned for the new date!



Grand Priors I and II

But there is nothing like a great birthday party to bring everyone together: and a 90th makes for an incredibly great one . . . even in the face of COVID, et al. Sir Ron Matthewman, Grand Prior I, turned 90 on the 8th of June and what a party they had for him. The parking lot at Dollarama was crammed full of cars bedecked with balloons, posters and flags. And then the parade began . . . and went on and on and on!



The Priory of the Holy Trinity



Edmonton

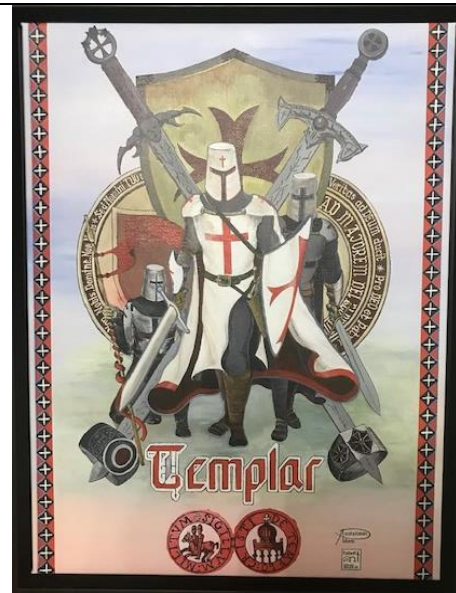
It is not only the "old Timers" that have great plans for our Order. Two of the new Templars have come up with great ideas on how they want to be involved.

Dame Christina has plans for introducing Templars with an on-line video to the Templar church in the community where she grew up.

Dame Olympia wants to see a committee of Canadian Templars interested in preserving and exploring the Order's heritage.

Another talented member from the Priory of the Holy Trinity, is Sir Adam, a very talented artist who presented me with this work at the Investiture

And finally, Sir Jason flew in from Victoria, B.C. to join the Order. He is confident that our values will attract members there and looks to having a BC Priory within the next three years. Our prayers and best wishes for attaining those noble goals!



Halifax Preceptory



We want to expand in the Maritime provinces and have two long-serving Templars in Halifax who are looking for others to join and create an outpost there.

If you know anyone keen on Templars, do put them in touch with Dame Anne Matthewman or L.Cdr.Sir Alan Williams.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Committee work continues internationally although physical meetings are not taking place.

ZOOM meetings are now the norm and many priories, both at home, and internationally are strengthening their ties through these meetings.

The Security Committee continues to train members for local and international meetings and the Venues Committee remains active planning for future meetings: including Canada for 2022.

SHARING INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS & REQUESTS FOR ACTION

The **HAGGIA SOPHIA** is an incredibly important Christian Site: it is the Eastern Orthodox' equivalent of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican or the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. I visited the Haggia Sophia ("*Holy Wisdom*") in 2005 and that evening I recorded in my diary:

"I found this site strangely unsettling. Bad enough that the Templars had desecrated it during their battles on behalf of the Pope vs. the Patriarch, but to see the garishly large hieroglyphics (70 metres - the larges in the world) and the defaced faces of saints & angels is disconcerting. I felt personally violated in that place. Strange . . . I had never expected any such response."

Yet, I also felt awe at its very presence, despite the fact that it had been turned into a mosque and then a museum. It was utterly overwhelming. I felt it had been desecrated

by no longer being a place of Christian worship but appreciated the fact that at least we could stand in the presence of this amazing structure, raised to the glory of God.

BUT, the President of Turkey in July turned it over to Muslim authorities to be used as a mosque once more. All Christians should be appalled by a supposedly secular state acting in such a manner to a site designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. All Christians are urged take this matter to heart, to pray and to make all aware of this desecration. Write letters, lobby, do whatever you can do.



The World Council of Churches (of which we are a member) has also expressed its "fervent hope and prayer that Hagia Sophia will not become once again a focus of confrontation and conflict, but will be restored to the emblematic unifying role that it has served since 1934".

The Grand Prior of the USA has issued directives that there will be NO Investitures during the COVID outbreak. If you are accustomed to attending American events, it is unlikely that any such events will be taking place for the foreseeable future.



Bishop Angaelos, the General Bishop of the Coptic Church in the UK warned that Christians are facing genocide in the Middle East after two churches in Egypt were bombed by I.S. and 45 Christians died .

In light of all that is going on in the Holy Land, all Templars are requested to join in this prayer in words drawn from the OSMTH Prayer for Peace:

"Almighty God, the Creator of all, we remind ourselves daily ... that the psalmist of old bids us to pray for the peace and prosperity of Jerusalem and of all peoples." "Help us to see all people as members of the great family of humanity, under God, in a fellowship of peace; with love one for another in the dignity of the human form you have created. AMEN, AMEN and AMEN"

AND IN CONCLUSION . . .

This is my final Newsletter as your Grand Prior, and as I entrust our Order to the loving care and administration of Sir George, I want to share with you my vision for the future of our Order, slightly modified from my homily at the Investiture of our newest Priory in Edmonton:



REMARKS on the FUTURE of the ORDER
H.E. the Reverend Dame Nola Crewe
Grand Prior - Canada - OSMTH
the 10th day of October 2020



Look about you . . . such a building as this is called a church. But the four walls and roof, no matter how beautiful or how historic or how lovingly constructed is just a shell in which we gather. It is the people who are the Church. God's people are the Church.

Similarly, our Order is no more, and no less, than the individuals who enter into it and supports its goals and causes.

The Oath we take is the formal commitment made first on the day of our entry into the Order. But if your heart and soul does not embrace the objectives - which quite simply can be reduced to ensuring that the world is a better, more loving and peaceful place for your having passed this way - it is pointless to say the words.

Taking the Oath commits you to observing ever the Commandment of Jesus that you love your God and your neighbour as yourself.

To that end, there are many ways and places to serve: locally, nationally, internationally.

There are sick to be visited; hungry to be fed; Christians at risk; children to be educated; things to learn and thing to be taught; the aged; the refugee . . . whatever the talents God has given you: as a Templar, employ them in His service.

And so, I challenge you to examine your skills, your talents, your interests and then find a good fit for your abilities. Because when you do, service becomes a passion and the Order, a joy in your life.

Never underestimate your ability to influence the world about you. Both for good . . . and for bad.

Each day we touch the lives of others and that gives you the opportunity to impact others. BUT you must act. Dreaming about great deeds and doing them are two different things. And each great deed starts with a simple resolution to make change.

The health and growth of our Order is in your hands. What you do and how you act and the good that you do is how our Order will be judged.

Your Priory's growth and the success in the projects you undertake are entirely in your hands.

You are Templars.

You have answered the call.

You have accepted the challenge.

You have endless opportunities to do good before you.

You are my brothers and my sisters. And I am yours.

I commend this Priory of the Holy Trinity to your care and keeping . . . with you may it thrive and bless our lands, our faith and our world.

And my God, the Holy Trinity, bless you all.

So may it be.

AMEN

CANADA on the INTERNATIONAL SCENE IS WELL REPRESENTED



700th Anniversary Celebrations in Portugal in 2019.

*Grand Chancellor Bill Megill; Ascension Chancellor Dame Gillian Matterman;
Grand Prior Canada Emeritus II Sir Peter Kelly, Grand Master David Appleby,
The Royal Patron of OSMTH Her Highness Princess Elizabeth of Ysenburg & Büdingen,
Princess of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Clücksburg,
Grand Prior - Canada Nola Crewe;
St Simon Peter Prior Dame Nicole Lassaline, Dame Sheila Wright*

To each and every Canadian Templar, Thank-you for the privilege and honour you bestowed upon me in allowing me to serve as your Grand Prior for the past three years. And a special thank-you to Sir Bill Megill the Grand Chancellor and Sir Roy Embury, the Grand Secretary and all the other members of the Grand Priory Council who did so much to make the past three years a source of pride and success for our Order.

God bless you one and all
nnDnn

Nola+
GP Canada



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