



News from the Grand Priory of Canada

April 2018



International News

March has been a busy month.

The 24th of March was the Investiture for The Priory of St John the Baptist in Wisconsin . . . and the invitation was extended to all Canadians. Fortunately, I was able to take advantage of the invite although I could not stay for everything: having a Sunday service to celebrate. But I was there for the Silent Vigil and Retreat. And we have a lot to learn from this particular Priory. It was a super introduction for their postulants and a superbly well-organized silent retreat of 38 Templars. . . something that most people do not get the opportunity to engage in throughout their lives. Not easy: but strongly recommended!

What was most impressive was the Vigil of Arms, replicating in many ways the original experience of Templars and, as the Master of Postulants explained:

"The purpose of this Vigil of Arms is to purify you, future Knights and Dames, and to always remind you that your duty to God supersedes all worldly duties or obligations. After that, you are responsible to the duty imposed on you by your country, then by your family, your brothers and sisters in the Order, and of the world. You are also to champion the poor and misused and oppressed, and to hold all of these things above yourself."

At one point in the ceremony, the postulants ceased to hold that title and became Vigilants. Each of them then received the "Stole of a Vigilant" to wear through the intervening hours, to remind them of the commitment they would be making the following day.



They also had an incredible slate of speakers: Bishop Younan was the homilist on Friday night. On Saturday, three hours of contemplation was led by the Grand Commander, H.E. Tom Curtis, in full regalia presenting a dramatic history of the Order, followed by Templar Spirituality and concluding with the Grand Master, H.E. Pat Rae, on the Work of the Order Today.



But on Friday evening, over an incredible black forest cake, we got to celebrate our Grand Master, Patrick Rae's birthday and be regaled with his stories.

One of the great things about attending the events of other priories is discovering great new ideas that really work and getting to know people who share your values and dreams. I know I learned a lot in Wisconsin last week.

And finally, a friend of mine visiting Bethlehem brought me back this very special cross: crafted by a member of a family that went to the Holy Land 900

years ago when they went there as stone masons to assist in the construction of the buildings of the Crusaders. And throughout all those years, they have remained faithful to Christ and His teachings which is to be found in their work. Visit their site to learn more of what has become of one of our original follower's families: www.mychristmashouse.com

If you get to Bethlehem, this is a really worthwhile shop to visit and say "hello" to Issa Giacaman, from Father Filip, a Polish priest from Toronto.



National News

The Planning Committee for 2020 is recommending the dates for the 2020 International Gathering hosted by Canada and to be held in Toronto: from the 23rd to the 27th of September, with the King Edward and St James Cathedral both advising they can accommodate our needs. Events preceding the Convent and during it for guests are still very much in the dreaming stage. Get involved and help shape this into the best international event EVER!

APPOINTMENTS: Simon-Peter's Prior, LCdr Dame Nicole Lassaline has been chosen to fill the international role of Deputy Secretary General & Administrative Assistant - OSMTH . . . an honour for her and a great reflection on the caliber of Templars to be found in Canada. And good news for the fund-raising teams: Amanda Gellman has agreed to chair the national committee. Her experience and expertise maximizing our efforts.

Local News

St Simon-Peter Priory

Quarterly, the members of the Priory of Simon Peter get together to serve lunch to the homeless temporarily housed at "Cornerstone", a ladies' shelter.

After solving the world's problems, the evening's really important discussions revolved around fund raising schemes to finance this and other projects.

While some members supervised refreshments, others chopped and baked.



The finished product was so heavy that it took two to lift it from the oven

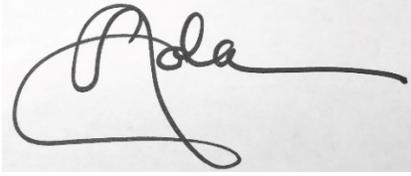
St James

Once again the Wounded Warriors will be the recipients of their major fund raiser on June the 8th in Woodbridge. More details to follow!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11 April - Windsor dinner meeting.
- 16 - 18 April 2018 - Pre-GMC 900th celebration excursion to Rhodes, Greece
- 18 - 22 April 2018 - GMC - Athens, Greece
- 8 June - Toronto's Grand Ball for Wounded Warriors
- 20 June - Windsor dinner and AGM
- 11 August 2018 - NATO Priory Investiture at Quebec City.
- 8 September 2018 - St James Investiture
- 13 October 2018 - Mourn the arrest and subsequent torture of the original Templars in 1307. Wear a black ribbon under your GP-Canada pin. Share with the world both our sorrow and our pride.
- 17 - 21 October 2018 - GMC/Grand Chapter General - Belgrade, Serbia
- 3 November 2018 - Investiture of the Ascension of Christ Priory.

Be blessed with the courage to live as Templars, nndnn

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light background. The signature is highly stylized, starting with a large, looping initial 'N' that extends downwards and then curves back up to meet the top of the letter. The rest of the signature, 'ola', is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal tail stroke extending to the right.

H.E. The Reverend Dame Nola Crewe,
GP - Canada