

Grand Prior's Newsletter



COVID-19

(or the Summer of 2020)

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

INTERNATIONALLY

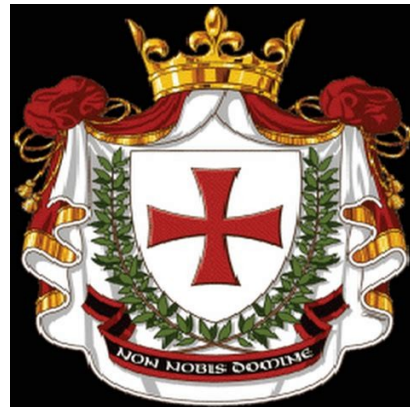
The international meeting scheduled for Sophia, Bulgaria this Fall has, been deferred due to COVIS.

There will be a Pre-GMC International Scientific Conference.

Subject: *A Templar project on civilized relations in society*

Those willing to participate in the international scientific conference as rapporteurs should contact their Grand Prior.

For the participants in the conference, GP Bulgaria provides free airport transfer, coffee breaks and lunch on the day of the event



For more information please speak to your Prior or the Grand Prior and also see: the International website.

Useful links are included for Bulgaria, Sofia and Plovdiv: Information about the city of Sofia, the capital city of the Republic of Bulgaria and Plovdiv, the second-largest Bulgarian city. Places of interest included in the sightseeing programs as part of the Friends & Family Program;

[Official Tourism of Bulgaria](#)

[Sofia Municipality](#)

[Visit Plovdiv](#)

[Sofia City Guide](#)

[Plovdiv City Guide](#)



The Grand Priory of Italy has graciously agreed to a rescheduling of the meeting in Florence also as a result of COVID.

Sister Kathy Watson of OSMTH Communications & Webmaster advises that she has 2019 Highlights from thirteen of the Grand Priors. All members in good standing can have access to this interesting highlights from around the world on the international website. Ask your Prior to have your name placed on the access list.

Every now and then I run into an item on the internet that really strikes me as worth spreading among our members. My most recent find is by Heather Hastie, entitled, *The Relationship between the Crusades and Pilgrimage in Medieval Europe*. <https://www.heatherhastie.com/the-relationship-between-the-crusades-and-pilgrimage-in-medieval-europe/>

Sir Edward Carey, our Grand Registrar and a member of the Priory of the Ascension of Our Lord, sent an item that will, hopefully, leave you in tears and inspired: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=85231a2b8a&attid=0.1.0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1666142562679484077&th=171f53d549ab6ead&view=att&disp=safe>

If you find a site/item that would be of interest to other Templars, just send the address along to me and I would love to include it in a future issue.

BACK in CANADA

CHARITY

A great deal of work is being done in updating our guidelines for charitable giving. This will allow for a far easier system to get charitable tax receipts and credit for expenses associated with charitable works. Sir Stephen Willetts, the Grand Treasurer and Dame Amanda Gellman are the authorities on these matters and can answer any specific questions your Priory may have. Also, please keep track of hours volunteered as a Templar. Part of the Annual Report that the Grand Priory must submit each year includes such a number. Help us to show how great a contribution our members make to making our world a better place.

Wonderful story from Ottawa and their Hockey

Priory of
SIMON-PETER



Knights in Canada charity. Sir Frank received a call from Edmonton asking if they would accept some hockey jerseys that were in team sets. Ignoring their usual guideline not to accept jerseys, it seemed matched sets would be disposable. So Sir Frank said "yes". And this is what arrived:



And this is what 1070 jerseys look like!!!

The crates travelling from Edmonton to Ottawa must have cost a fortune to ship but a lot of nascent hockey players are going to have great team shirts for the coming season (assuming there will ever again be a season!) thanks to this generous donor.

Now that approval has been given for the 2022 International Meeting to be held in Ottawa, the myriad of detail that goes into such an undertaking is their grand challenge. From organizing the opening of the meetings with a First Nations ceremony to signing up for Cancellation Insurance to planning the route of the parade from the hotel, it is all a wonderfully challenging year-and-a-half that lies ahead.

And we will be looking for volunteers from across Canada . . . with all the talents and gifts that our Order has within its membership! We will need greeters at the airports, and workers to register attendees and see to their losses of luggage or need for a trip to the drug store or recommendations on side trips and restaurants.

Security people to keep us safe and translators for those whos do not bring French or English to the table.

Make sure your name is on the volunteers' list . . . contact Dame Nicole at nicolelassaline1@gmail.com to share your time and love of our Order.



**Priory of the
ASCENSION of OUR LORD**



Grand Priors I and II

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 laden with balloons, posters and flags. And then the parade began . . . and went on and on and on!



**Priory
of
ST JAMES**



Like the rest of the country, Toronto is locked down and there are no gatherings allowed, but . . . hopefully before Investiture date comes, . . . the churches will be open again and more than ten can gather.
In the meantime, plans are being made, potential postulans are being considered and invited and the dreams of tomorrow continue . . .

Edmonton, and it's Commander, Sir Rob MacMullen, has

Edmonton Commandery

been working incredibly diligently for more than a year to get their group reorganized and active and on the way to being a Prior. They have a new rector at their church who is excited to play a part in all of this and a membership which has been reaching out to others who share their beliefs and recruiting them to our Order.



They are committed to each bringing in two new members: one to replace themselves and one to grow the Order. Would that every other member across this great country accepted that challenge!

All of which explains why Edmonton is so close to moving from Commandery to Priory . . . a VERY great accomplishment.

Halifax Preceptory



I am really looking forward to the day that Halifax has an Investiture because I am sure with the interest Sir William has in the *Mystery of Oak Island*, he will manage to book a tour for visiting Templars to the site with its strange links to our Order's predecessors.

TIME FILLING SUGGESTIONS in the time of the Corona Virus

The Time Team has an archeological dig of a Templar site at Templecombe, Somerset, that is entertaining as ever: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL_gq5wwR8k

The Knights Templar

Dan Jones and Suzannah Lipscomb discuss the rise and fall of the medieval military order that became the stuff of legend.

<https://www.historyextra.com/article-type/podcast/>



Greetings . . .

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 - making sure that no one feels 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's 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.

Contact me with your questions . . . DameTemplar@gmail.com



In May 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 . 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.

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"

God bless
nnDnn

Nola+
GP Canada



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