



the Grand Priory of Canada

May 2018

First, an apology for a late and extensive Newsletter: but April was hijacked by the Grand Magisterial Council meeting in Greece and then I indulged in some vacationing . . .



International News

I am attaching the official announcement of the most significant outcome for our Order's future: the **Election of the new Grand Commander, Chev. George Maclean, the current Grand Prior of the United Kingdom and the new Grand Master, Col. Chev. David Appleby, past Grand Prior of the USA.**



Grand Commander Chev. George Maclean, Dame Nola Crewe, GP Canada, Grand Master elect, Col. Chev. David Appleby

I am convinced they were the best Templars for these crucial roles and that in their hands, our Order has an even more promising future.

The debt we owe to those who have led us in the past is vast. They saw the Order through many challenges and grew our influence throughout the world. As the torch is passed, we need to acknowledge all we owe them (and undoubtedly will be doing that when next we meet in Serbia and Chev. Patrick Rea steps down as Grand Master).



Grand Master Patrick Rea bestowing award upon Chev. Lt. Col Thomas Curtis, former acting Grand Commander

A most significant report was received from the **Grand Priors Strategic Directives Committee.** The first and foremost recommendation was to . . .

"focus the direction of our international Templar Order in keeping with the original and fundamental mission of the Poor Knights of Christ: to help Christians

at Risk in the Holy Land (and throughout the world); and keep the Road to Jerusalem open to believers of all faiths.”

This recommendation was based on the following considerations:

1. Other organizations can do equally good works for secular issues. i.e. clean water; climate control, etc.
2. OSMTH can rightfully claim a uniquely historical mission that is religious in orientation. Protecting and preserving the right of pilgrims to freely worship at the most sacred sites to the three great Abrahamic Faiths is traditionally our mission .
3. Given our limited resources as a charitable Christian Order of Knighthood, all initiatives of OSMTH should adhere to a narrow path to accomplish attainable goals designed to aid and relieve persecuted Christians, primarily in the Holy Land.

There are five other Strategic recommendations and three Operational / Administrative Directives, attached.



H.E. Dame Nicole Lassaline, Prior, St Simon-Peter, receiving the Superior Service Award

Every Grand Priory has their own traditions and expectations. The Postulants of Greece come forward bearing a crimson pillow on which to kneel, wearing a robe of black and once vested, their mantles are changed and they receive a sword indicating their new status.



As they move up the ranks, the lining of their mantle changes and you see blue, green, purple and golden interiors peeking over their collars.

They also have a most impressive headquarters full of artifacts, offices, the round table at which they meet, swords lie facing the chairs in which they sit, in a chamber with an altar and stained glass windows.



Of particular interest to Canada was the passage of the **Venues Planning Guide** which will be our Bible over the next two years as

we move ahead to hosting the Fall 2020 GMC meeting.

Volunteers, anyone . . .

There are a number of international volunteer positions to which members are appointed (i.e. representing us at the United Nations in New York or Geneva). In the future, notice will be sent to all the Grand Priors advising of such vacancies and asking if any Grand Priory wishes to nominate a candidate. A warning: such positions are time consuming and expensive to assume: as all costs are borne by the volunteer. We currently have a representative at the UN, Sir George Platsis, who makes monthly trips from Toronto to New York to meet his obligations on the Committee for the Status of Women. If you are interested in such a volunteer position, please let your prior know.



News from Canada

Our Grand Prior, Grand Chancellor, the Prior of Simon-Peter and an Ottawa Templar were in attendance. Four Canadians attended the optional trip laid on in Rhodes to explore their history of the Crusades.

Sometimes we appear to forget the Christian roots of our Order and our obligations under our Oath. To that end I pass along two prayers with which you may choose to start and end your days

<p>A Templar Morning Prayer</p> <p>O God, the author of life and guide of the pilgrim: defend us, your humble servants in the paths that we take this day, that we may always take the road that you would have us to take; that trusting in your defense, we may not fear the power of any adversaries, through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMEN</p>	<p>A Templar Evening Prayer</p> <p>O God, who has been a light on the path of the pilgrim this day: we give you thanks for safe delivery of harm and rejoice in the ways that you have allowed us to lead others; now let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessings be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMEN</p>
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**St Simon
Peter
Priory
Prior
LCdr Dame
Nicole
Lassaline**



A new initiative: Costco has agreed if waivers are signed, to release food product that is approaching its "best before date" to be donated to Cornerstone, our shelter for homeless ladies. Knights and Dames attend the shipping doors on Sunday mornings and load up the food and deliver it to our Cornerstone site.

**St James
- Prior George Jackowski**



Whereas, Toronto goes in for shoes, socks and glasses. These go to the Cathedral

where their various programmes for the homeless are in great need of such offerings . . . again, pass them on.

Toronto is hard at work on its upcoming fund raising dinner. For more information, do contact their Prior.



Ascension
- Prior Sir Walt Pastorius

Our second Dinner Meeting of the year was held at the Church of the Ascension on Apr 11, 2018. As we often do, we invited one of the charitable organizations we support to speak to us.

*Catharine Shanahan
, Lady Carol DelCol
and Prior Walt
Pastorius*



Catharine Shanahan, the Executive Director of Family Respite Services, gave us an informative overview of the multiple challenges FRS addresses, accompanied with a video showing the organization in action. FRS works in partnership with families who have children with disabilities. They coordinate support and provide short breaks that strengthen families and contribute to children having meaningful lives in their community. They currently support approximately 900 families in Windsor and Essex County. Windsor's next Dinner Meeting and AGM will be held June 20, 2018.

OTHERS . . . We look forward to learning of the plans, successes, frustrations and delights from our Commandary in Edmonton and our Preceptory in Halifax and the "orphans" living far from other Templars.

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 June 2018 St James' Fund Raiser

20 June 2018 - 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 - Ascension of Christ Investiture.

Blessings, good Dames and Knights, in all you do and all those you serve.
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H.E. The Reverend Dame Nola Crewe
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