



OSLJ COMMANDERY OF GREAT BRITAIN



Newsletter July 2009

CHAPTER GENERAL EVORA 2009

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful or romantic place to hold a Chapter General for an ancient Order of Chivalry. The city is set high on a hill in Portugal and at the very top of the hill is the ancestral castle of the Cadaval family, surrounded by the old city with its Metropolitan Cathedral and University. Here we were welcomed by the Dowager Duchess and her daughter Princess Diana who is both Duchess of Cadaval and of Anjou, the wife of our Grand Master, Prince Charles-Philippe d'Orléans, Duc d'Anjou.



We came from the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, France, Sweden, Norway, the U S A, Ireland and Great Britain. It was a special delight to welcome Cardinal Paskai, our Spiritual Protector, who was with us despite ill-health, flying in from his home in Esztergom, near Budapest. The Cardinal presided at the Solemn Mass of Investiture on the Eve of Pentecost.



There was serious discussion about the Order and its future development. The Governing Council and the Grand Magistracy worked hard. We faced each point squarely and honestly with much positive input from the national Jurisdictions, each with its own perspectives to share. The aim was to turn issues into opportunities, while remaining true to the Order's vocation and the earliest insights of its founders. This was achieved substantially, with plenty left to do in the coming years. The

Mission of the Order within the Church of God will never be ended, nor will it stop developing until God's Kingdom comes at the end of time as we know it.

We worked in committee, we talked over drinks and meals in the Castle. It was a great opportunity to deepen friendships and make new ones. There were three major dinners and a Chapter General luncheon, all in different locations around the Cadaval Palace. 'It's only a small castle', I was told; it felt vast enough to me!

There were three lively workshops, held in the university. They were about Spirituality, Tradition and the Charitable Work of the Order and there was no shortage of ideas and discussions, boding well for our future resilience and strength. We looked at the roots of our vocation as an Order, at its call to prayer and action, rooted and nourished by our past. Developments were promised. In this respect, a Prayer Manual is being compiled. The work of Saint Lazare International is set to move into Mozambique. We need more members, we need to draw more men and women into the life of the Order. These developments are the responsibilities of all of us who follow the Lazarite way of discipleship.





At the very heart of the international reunion were the great acts of worship. The Vigil for new members and those being promoted was also attended by all who wished to reflect on the Beatitudes. The Church of Saint John the Evangelist – next door to the Palace – was candle-lit, crowded and the reverent devotion of the worshippers will stay in my memory for ever.

The Mass of Investiture was celebrated by our Spiritual Protector and the Grand Master presided over the admissions and promotions. There was a good number of new members from many parts of Europe and America. The promotions included the Chancellor of the Commandery of Great Britain, the Baron of Fettenear, and Nigel Sterland, the Treasurer. To his immense surprise and the general pleasure of all present, Aaron Kiely, the Grand Secretary of the Order was made a Grand Officer of Merit for many years' highly effective and invariably good-humoured service to the Order. Aaron's surprise and amazement was a delight to see!



The next Chapter General may well be in France, since the French Grand Priory have already put in their bid to host it. Wherever it is, watch out for the dates; it will be a great occasion!

✠ Richard Garrard, *Grand Prior Spiritual*

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Over the past few months the Great British Commandery has received several generous donations from its members. These have enabled us to offer financial support to various projects on both a local and an international level. The four main projects that we have donated to are:

1. The Italian Earthquake Disaster
2. The Saint Lazare Foundation
3. The Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice
4. Lepira

It is important to remember that at the heart of the Order's Mission is to "adhere to Christian values...in the service of the poor....[expressed] in the self-giving work carried out by the Knights and Dames of the Order in the sphere of humanitarian and charitable aid." This is our vocation! Thank you for the continued support for the Order's charitable works.

AN ESQUIRE'S PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2009

This summer Miss Corinne Wilson, an aspirant *Demoiselle*, and I constituted the British contingent at the Commandery of Orléans' annual pilgrimage of the Esquires and Demoiselles to Lourdes. Although the trip to was not due to begin until Monday 6 July we were willing to accept the generous invitation offered by the French to spend a weekend resting in the picturesque city of Orléans; a place of added significance for the Order since the Grand Master was installed in the Cathedral five years ago.

With slight apprehension, and excitement, as to what the week ahead had in store for us we arrived in Orléans just in time for lunch on Saturday 4 July. After several hours of travelling, the French Esquires were waiting eagerly to collect us. Immediately we were taken to the homes of our host families where we were welcomed with the full force of the Order's hospitality. This time gave me the opportunity of embracing French culture and more importantly the chance to ameliorate my

spoken French. Needless to say my first day came to a close with a welcome introduction to *Pastis*.

To fulfil the Sunday obligation, and in preparation for the forthcoming pilgrimage to Lourdes, we attended Mass at Orléans Cathedral. It was encouraging to see that most of the members of the Commandery came together for Mass and lunch. Although an English esquire, in the city of Saint Joan of Arc, I was made more than welcome. We were given the uniform of the Esquires which included the infamous 'Green Beret'.

We departed for Lourdes at 10am on Monday morning, and after spending 8 hours travelling by train we were thrust into the job of looking after the sick. The evening was spent transporting luggage from the Station to the Hospital. Although it was a laborious task, it was a reminder of the Esquire's motto *Aimer et Servir!* (This would be a watchword for the remainder of our stay). Just before dinner we had to make our way to the *Village des Jeunes*, just outside the town, which would be our home for the rest of the week. Without delay, in order to avoid the approaching rain storm, we set up our tents. With the campsite organised we headed back into Lourdes for Dinner with the Knights of Orléans.

Our days in Lourdes were punctuated by eight defined events;

6am - rise, pray together the *Angelus* and take breakfast

7am - briefing in the Hospital

morning - transport *les malades* to Mass

1pm - lunch

afternoon - transport *les malades* to a Church service

7.30 - Dinner

evening - take part in the torch light procession

12pm - pray together the 'Prayer of Esquires' before lights out

Each day after breakfast we were expected to meet at the *Centre d'Accueil Marie Saint Frai* at 7am for a briefing of the day's activities. Without exception we would be pushing wheelchairs, pulling the 'chariots' through the streets of Lourdes, or assisting those too sick to leave their rooms. For me the most enjoyable part of the experience was the conversations I had with the pilgrims, explaining that I was an English Esquire of the OSLJ, on the whole the French were not too begrudging.

Outside of the working day, which would often stretch to more than 17 hours, we were introduced to other Knights of the Order, namely the Grand Capitular His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Philippe Jourdain, the Bailiff of France Dr Mary-Antoine Huot, and our Chaplain whilst in Lourdes, Fr Claude Girault. Over a pint of Guinness in the evening, or a glass of wine at dinner we had the chance to learn about the international nature of the Order, and to give some impression as to what the Commandery of Great Britain was becoming.

The Master of Esquires Chev. Audry Huguet du Lorin took care in ensuring that our pilgrimage was spiritually, physically and socially enriching. At the same time he was keen to use the experience as a chance to form a link between the young associates of both France and England. Drawing on the similarities and differences between our cultures we formed an idea of what OSLJ is, and should be, for the Esquires and Demoiselles. By the end of the week I feel that friendships had been formed and links for the order had developed which can only strengthen the Order. The two moments of great significance for me included our 5.30am praying the Way of the Cross on the mountain above Lourdes, and the afternoon picnic we had with the French Commandery. I hope that this is only the start of the Anglo-French *Entente cordiale*.

Mr Matthew Jackson, *EsqLJ*

INVESTITURE 2009

Echoing the sentiments of the Grand Master during the General Chapter in Evora, the forthcoming Investiture is a very good opportunity to introduce family and friends as potential companions or future members of the Order. It is our duty to encourage 'new recruits' to expand our activities: "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few." The success of the Charity Dinner taking place over this weekend, to raise money for our local Commandery projects, would only be enhanced by a good turn out!



MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM
Under the High Protection of Monseigneur Le Comte de Paris, Duc de France, Chef de la Maison Royal de France
Spiritual Protector: His Eminence Laszlo Cardinal Paskai OFM, Primate Emeritus of Hungary
Magus XLIX Magister citra et ultra maria, Praeceptor Boignaci:
HRH Prince Charles-Philippe d'Orléans, Duc d'Anjou

COMMANDERY OF GREAT BRITAIN

*The Chevalier M. E. Thacker, Baron of Fetternear
Chancellor of the Grand Magistral Commandery of Great Britain
requests the pleasure of your company at the annual
Commandery Investiture and charity dinner.*

*The Vigil and Investiture will be held at
Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street*

*Friday 23 October 2009
Saturday 24 October 2009*



ATAVIS ET ARMIS