



Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem
ORDO MILITARIS ET HOSPITALARIS SANCTI LAZARI HIEROSOLYMITANI

DOM BERNARD LORENT GENERALIS PROCURATOR
 EMINENTISSIMUS ANTONIUS CARDINALIS KAMBANDA SPIRITUALIS PROTECTOR
 SUB ALTO PATROCINIO DOMUS REGIAE FRANCIAE

~
GRAND PRIORY OF THE U.S.A.

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The Investiture included Mass. As you can see above the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem Clergy were all wearing their OSLJ vestments.

The following members were promoted within the Order:

Promotions:	Rank:
Fr. Christopher Koehn	SChLJ
Caleb Baumgardner	KLJ
Deacon John Mahon	KLJ
Keith Pilcher	KLJ
Mike Monaghan	SBLJ
Frank Douglass	SBLJ

Professed Knights:	Rank:
Deacon Dev Lobo	Prof. Knight
Deacon Todd Slezak	Prof. Knight
Deacon John Mahon	Prof. Knight

Merit Awards:	Award:
Sir Cole Gallup	MMLJ
Sir John Raynor	OMLJ
Sir Thierry Pauquet de Villejust	GOCMLJ
Sir Pete von Jess	Justice Cross
Sir Tom von Jess	Justice Cross
Robert Weskerna [District Commodore]	CMLJ (male)
Victoria Aponte [District Commander]	OMLJ (female)
Sven Christian Dobler [Director of International Affairs]	CMLJ (male)

INVESTITURE of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem at the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene in Apex, North Carolina – April 22nd 2023. 10 new postulants were inducted as well as six members were promoted. Additionally, three of our members became Professed Knights, bringing our Professed membership to a total of six; led by Sir Robert Klesko as our Rector. Eight of our members were recognized as Members of Merit.



The following new members were invested into the order:

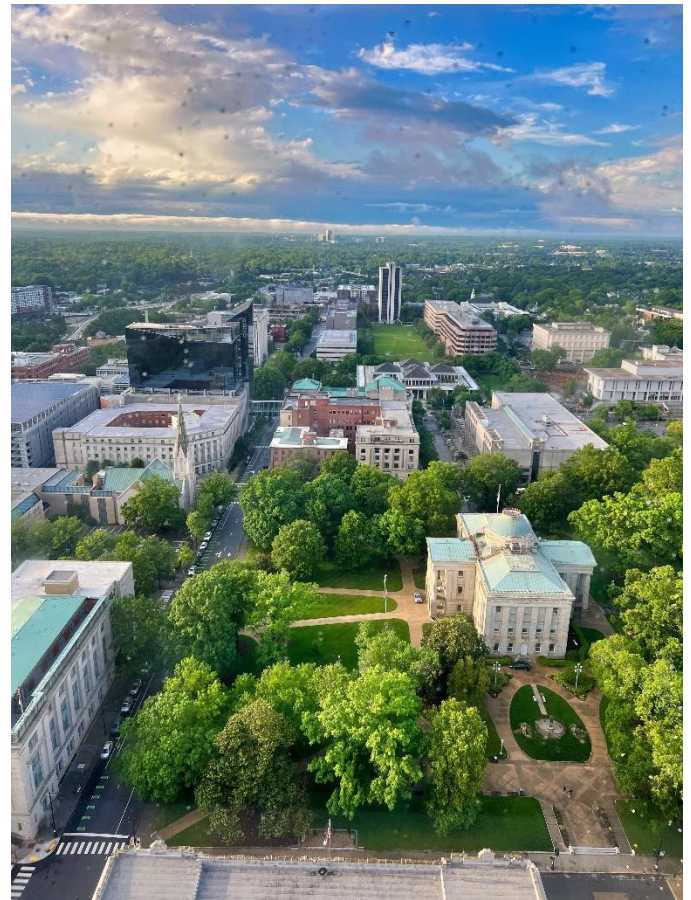
Postulants:

Deacon Dev Lobo
 Chris Lossack
 Trish Steele
 Pete Moyer, DPM
 Ann Moyer, PA
 Tad Cobert
 Tomas Voboril
 Fr. Price Oswalt
 Fr. Michael Zuffoletto
 Christopher Kremer

Rank:

KLJ-Prof.
 KLJ
 DLJ
 SBLJ
 SSLJ
 BLJ
 BLJ
 ECLJ
 SChLJ
 KLJ

Following the Investiture was a Royal Reception and Charitable Gala Dinner which was held in the City Club Raleigh, overlooking the Oak City.



We also Invested our Grand Prior, Pete von Jess.



TWO UPCOMING INVESTITURES

SAVE THE DATE - INVESTITURE - SEPTEMBER 29TH through 30TH 2023 - in Raleigh, NC

SAVE THE DATE - INVESTITURE - APRIL 12TH through 14TH, 2024 - in Oklahoma City, OK at the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine

TRIVIA: June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus... Which country was the first to be consecrated to the Heart of Jesus? [A] Ecuador



[B] Portugal [C] France (Answer later in the newsletter...)

Visiting the Spectacular Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in Oklahoma

I'm beginning Lent far from Queens, in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, where I'm leading a mission at St. Anne's Catholic Church. (A grateful diaconal bow to Father Matt Gerlach for inviting me and offering such a warm welcome!) I had some free time Monday morning and decided to drive up to Oklahoma City to visit America's newest shrine: the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine, dedicated just two weeks ago [This was published on February 28th, 2023.] In a word: Wow.

Out of a flat patch of land that used to be a golf course, they've constructed a spectacular and beautifully realized place of pilgrimage that many clearly believe will one day be the final resting place of a Catholic saint.

The main church — built to seat 2,000 — is impressive: massive, spacious, but not cavernous. I imagine the clear glass windows will one day be stained glass. But for now, the building welcomes bright light and feels both modern and traditional — as if it has been around for centuries, but finished just last month. It still smells new! [For the rest of this article and some [amazing pictures](#) please copy and paste this link: <https://thedeaconsbench.com/visiting-the-spectacular-blessed-stanley-rother-shrine-in-oklahoma/>

TOLKIEN, LEWIS, & MARY J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis were great friends, and embarked on great adventures together in the worlds of theology, literature, and everyday life. They must have shared with each other their ideas about the Mother of God. But as a Protestant and a Catholic, did they clash? Here is a letter that gives us some cool insight into their minds. **READ**

RELIGIOUS SISTER'S BODY INCORRUPT? Hundreds of pilgrims have descended on a Benedictine monastery for

religious sisters in rural Missouri after news began to spread on social media last week that the recently exhumed remains of the contemplative order's African American foundress appear to be incorrupt, four years after her death and burial in a simple wooden coffin. **READ**

Our own Sir David Petro, KCLJ, our Capitular visiting the incorrupt remains of Sr. Wilhelmina...



BEST COMMENCEMENT SPEECHES OF 2023 Along with the academic fanfare and congratulatory messages, commencement speeches serve as a customary send-off from one's new alma mater. What's even better though, is when the send-off is soaked in Catholicism and truth! Here are the top picks for the best commencement speeches of 2023! **READ** Featuring **Harrison Butker** – Georgia Institute of Technology; **Lila Rose** – Franciscan University of Steubenville; **Bishop Robert Barron** – Hillsdale College; **Arthur**



Brooks – Catholic University of America and
Sohrab Ahmari – St. Thomas More College of
Liberal Arts.

Chivalric Virtues – Charity **Robert Klesko, KCLJ-Prof.**

“For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward” (Mark 9:41)

I thought it would be a good idea to introduce a series in our Newsletter on the chivalric virtues. This is an area where we need regular reminders if we are to continue to grow. Hopefully, these small reminders will help us to exercise the virtues we profess as Knights of St. Lazarus. We need to grow, personally, and as an Order. The more we grow, the better able we are to serve those who are unable to help themselves. The more we do that, the more we bring Christ’s peace into a world so desperate for it.

The first knightly virtue I want to highlight is charity. This is an especially important virtue for our modern Order. As we no longer fight with sword and shield, our very existence is that of a Catholic charitable institution. We fight the enemy of poverty, of disease, of oppression, and a host of nameless demons of human suffering. It can be an easy thing, for those of means, to simply write a check for any number of charitable causes. Of course, this is a good thing. However, our charity cannot simply be that. It has to be charity driven by the fire of our love for Christ. We must see in those we serve the very face of Jesus.

An example of this is one of the first patrons of the Knights Hospitaller - St. John the Merciful (*also called St. John the Almsgiver*). He was the Patriarch of Alexandria until c. 619 AD and developed a reputation for his selfless acts of charity. He would visit the sick three times a week and sit outside of his cathedral distributing alms, resolving disputes, and teaching his flock. He called the poor his “Lords and Masters” and would go to the very limits of his strength to

assist them in their need. It was for these reasons why the Knights Hospitaller adopted him as a patron saint very early in their history. His example of benevolence (especially toward the Holy City of Jerusalem whom he personally sent supplies to following the invasion of the Persians) struck their chivalric hearts.

We too can learn from St. John’s example by asking the Lord to set our hearts aflame for love of Him. Ask the Lord to help you to see His face in everyone you serve. If you serve hands-on with the homeless, hungry, or destitute, ask the Lord to help you experience His Presence in them. If you have been given an abundance of wealth and are busy taking care of the needs of the poor by sharing your wealth with them, ask the Lord to guide your hands and direct your steps. There’s no right way or wrong way to be charitable. The only truly “wrong way” is to reject the imperative to care for others. However you discern the best way in your vocation to be charitable, ask the Lord to inflame your heart with love for those whom you serve.

St. Lazarus and St. John the Merciful, pray for us!

Ode to Sir Felix v. Holewinski, PhD., GCLJ-GCMLJ



Sir Felix Holewinski was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, went to Marquette University and received a Bachelor of History Degree with a minor in Political Science. He then went on to receive a master’s degree with an emphasis of study in the Civil War.

While studying for his master’s degree he taught history at Webster High School in Wisconsin for which he went on to teach for a total of 12 years. While teaching he became interested in the Order of St. Lazarus. The



individual who introduced Sir Felix to the Order was a man named Carlovski; a man of Bohemian descent and a captain in the Czech army living at the time in Switzerland. Felix wanted a coat of arms and one of the places to obtain one at the time was Switzerland which had a heraldic registry. Carlovski was a member of Order of St. Lazarus Spanish branch. After he did work for Sir Felix he suggested he reach out to the Order of St. Lazarus in the United States.

After Sir Felix completed his master's degree, he then went on to pursue a Doctorate and decided to enroll in the program at the university of North Dakota where he received a Carnegie scholarship and worked as a teaching assistant. His primary emphasis of study was 19th century US History with an additional concentration in North American archaeology. During this time, his interest in heraldry eventually involved him in the activities of the International Congress of Heraldry and Genealogy. He attended six of their international meetings in London, Scotland, Ireland, France, and Spain. And presented a paper at one of the meetings on Polish nobility. During that time he was recommended for investiture in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher by the bishop of Superior, Wisconsin for his work in his advisory committee. After Sir Felix completed his doctorate work he obtained an equivalency for certification as a high school principal and was a senior high school principal for five years in Florence, Wisconsin. It was about this time that he was nominated for membership in the Sovereign Military Order of Malta by a member in the Green Bay, WI Diocese. Sir Felix then left his job in Florence in 1986 and became superintendent of schools in the school district of Hilbert, WI which was just south of Green Bay. While in Hilbert, WI he was nominated for candidacy in the Constantinian Order of St. George.

Throughout this whole period, Sir Felix attended all the Grand Prior meetings for the Order of St. Lazarus in the United States as well as traveling to Puerto Rico and Mexico to visit the Order's Pories. For most of Sir Felix's membership in the Order of St. Lazarus he

served as First Vice Marshall and then eventually as Capitular. He holds a registered coat of arms in Switzerland with an armorial grant from Spain. His coat of arms was matriculated in Scotland by the Lord Lyons; the government official in Scotland that approves all coats of arms. Sir Felix also holds a second armorial grant from the Republic of South Africa as well as a second registered coat of arms utilizing British customs.

While functioning as Capitular for the Grand Priory of the United States which consisted at the time of several hundred members, he developed an armorial for the Grand Priory. Sir Felix then authored a comprehensive paper about heraldry which spoke about heraldry in general, heraldry in the United States and then gave a summary of the basic heraldic rules and where to obtain grants of arms. Sir Felix has had the honor of being associated with those who first established the Order of St. Lazarus in the United States and has committed a total of 43 years of his life to the Order.

Sir Felix is a cherished member of our Order and he was bestowed with the prestigious St. Joan of Arc Award at our Investiture in April of this year. We owe a great debt to our beloved friend Sir Felix!

**The Rev. Dom Gregory Alfred Pilcher, OSB
Grand Cross Saint Lazarus, Officer of Merit.**



A unifying builder, musician and counselor: Dom Gregory Pilcher, OSB serves as an Ecclesiastical Commander, Prelate Grand Cross. A Subiaco Abbey monk for over 50 years, he was educated at St. John's in Minnesota (BA), St. Meinrad's in Indiana (MDiv), and Loyola in New Orleans (MA in Music). He taught music and religion for over 15 years, recruited an 80-



member choir,, and then became an Associate Dean at Subiaco's Academy. He served his flocks as a pastor at Holy Redeemer in El Dorado for 14 years (fundraising and expanding its campus), as a Chaplain at Holy Angel's for 4 years and again as a pastor at St. Scholastica for 4 years. He returned to the Abbey this year as the Director of Oblates and Asst. Director of Formation. He also serves as a Knight Commander in the Holy Sepulcher, Chaplain of St. Michael of Ala and Chaplain Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order Reginae Coeli.

His magnanimous, deep-bellied laugh is contagious, rounded by his wry wit. He is an ardent student of history, offering context to our understanding of church history and rituals. His adolescent dreams of chivalric knights led him to our French order, while his awe at the majesty and richness of the pipe organ fostered his lifelong love of music. Deeply thoughtful, he imbues liturgy with care and detail to reveal the profound meaning of the sacred. We are proud to call him our brother and join the generations grateful for his discipleship and service.

CONSIDER PRAYING THE HOURS What is the Prayer of the Church? The Mass? No, the “prayer of the whole Church” is the Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office. *It's the second highest form of prayer after the Mass, higher even than the Rosary.* Many think the “Hours” are just for priests and religious, *but this is a misunderstanding.* Here's a great article which will give you the scoop on this form of prayer and help take away some of the intimidation. [READ](#)

ANSWER TO THE TRIVIA It should have been France, but it wasn't! Apparently, King Louis XIV had been asked by Our Lord Himself to consecrate France to the Sacred Heart, but Louis XIV and his successors all ignored this request. The French monarchy then fell into misfortune. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 17, 1789, the Jacobins started the French Revolution. The French king would be executed, and the Church would suffer dearly. Years later, Gabriel Garcia Moreno of Ecuador, embarked on a two-year visit to Europe to study the effects of the 1848 revolution. When he returned home to

Ecuador, he became upset at its anti-clericalism. When he became leader of Ecuador, he had the legislature consecrate Ecuador to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When he came to power, Ecuador's treasury was empty and the country had an enormous debt. But Garcia Moreno turned the country's fortunes around and the country prospered. After Moreno was assassinated, Pope Pius XI ordered a solemn Mass of Requiem to be celebrated in Rome and erected a statue in his memory as well.

But wait there's more... Lastly, but certainly not least...



We are grateful to celebrate with Prince Francois d'Orleans, Comte de Dreux upon his entrance into the Order of Saint Lazarus!

On September 16, 2023, a small contingent of the Grand Priory of the United States led by our Grand Prior, H.E. Sir Pete von Jess, will gather in Belgium at the Abby of Maredsous. There, they and all of the Grand Priory's around the world will witness the Investiture of our New Grand Master, His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince Francois d'Orleans, Comte de Dreux.

