

SANTIAGO DI COMPOSTELA - 2010 Pilgrimage of the Order

From the 21st to 23rd May 2010, over 400 Pilgrims from the Order of St. Lazarus met with Grand Master Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón in the historic City of Santiago de Compostela to take part in this now ancient pilgrimage.

Welcome for the Pilgrims by the Grand Master

On Friday the 21st of May, a welcoming reception for the Order's Pilgrims was hosted by Grand Master Don Carlos Gereda, and by the Spanish Prior The Chev. Joaquin Cayuela. This was held in the old Chapel of the Monastery Reyes Catholicos, which is located across from the Cathedral of St. Jaques in Compostela. Those assembled were thrilled to greet notable pilgrims who led a walking group along traditional routes travelled by Pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela: these were the Chev. Dr. Ron Hendriks (NL), Jaqueline the Duchess de Brissac (F), and Dame Herma Wiejers (NL).

Grandmaster Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón and Prior Joaquin Cayuela, Grand Priory Spain welcome the Pilgrims after their 210 or 120 km footwalk to Compostela

Meeting of the Heads of Jurisdictions

The Pilgrimage was also an important working event for the leadership of our Order. The Grand Master met with forty two heads of jurisdictions (HOJ) who travelled from around the world to discuss the future plans and direction for the Order in accomplishing its many good works, and with special emphasis on its Hospitaller activities.

In the Auditorium of the Hostal de los Reyes Catholicos the Grand Master stressed that the Order of St. Lazarus is indeed a Sovereign Order unto itself precisely because it is beholden to no other authority. The Grand Master pointed out again that the Order is the sole ecumenical Order of Knighthood where members from throughout Christendom come together to perform our traditional hospitaller works of charity.

The participating 42 Heads of Jurisdictions after the Meeting - A Photo In presence of the Grandmaster

The Chev. Dr. Ron Hendriks during his presentation

The Grand Magistral Delegate for Europe, The Chev. Dr. Ron Hendriks, addressed the heads of jurisdictions on matters of administration. He also stressed the Order's ecumenical Christian traditions, and our international hospitaller works of charity to the poor and the needy. He pointed out the need in today's Order for openness and transparency, and especially of the important role that effective communications would play in the Order's new government.

Communications

The third part of the meeting with the heads of jurisdictions was an instructive presentation by the Order's Public Relations Commission (PRC). The Grand Magistral confirmed Strategic Communications Plan (SCP) was the base of the communication concept.

The presentation was introduced by the Commission's Chairman, The Chev. Klaus-Peter Polkm. In his introduction he focused on the Grand Magistral guidelines for the information policy: openness and transparency, which inherently requires two way communications.

The PRC Power Point presentation was given by Msgr. Anthony Toms, Deputy Chairman of the Commission. The presentation presented the Order's international website and highlighted the features that enable two-way communications. New news, calendar, and member features were presented and explained.

The need for jurisdictions to interface with the Greater Order by each appointing a Public Information Officer and Webmaster was explained. These initiatives have the full and direct support of the Grand Master, as well as the unanimous support of the Grand Magistracy.

Officials were shown how easy it is to now post special events and news of international interest. Now, and in the future, all Grand Magistral Decrees and Decisions will be published to promote transparency and an informed Membership. Jurisdictions were encouraged to publish their national bulletins on a national website and on the international server, to promote better informed members. The Commission's technical support includes graphic support to the jurisdictions. Finally, jurisdictions were informed that they can now post and publish their own special events on the international web site by using a simple, pre-formatted, upload tool.

Pilgrims Mass

On Saturday, the Order was invited to attend a Pilgrim's Mass in the Cathedral of Compostela. The Mass was celebrated as Main Celebrant Canon of the Cathedral Rvdmo. Sr Dean de la Catedral de Santiago de Compostela D. José M^a Díaz in concellebration with with H.B. the Patriarch Gregorios III – Spiritual Protector of the Order, Archibishop em. of Santo Tomé, Msgr. Dr. Abilio Ribas, the Chancellor of the Archiepiscopate , Rvdmo. Sr. Canciller del Arzobispado de Santiago de Compostela, D. Elisardo Temperán Villaverde and numerous Prelates and Chaplains of the Order of St. Lazarus. Over 400 Members of the Order attended this Mass in the Cathedral, accompanied by thousands of pilgrims from around the world.

Grand Master's Offering to the Apostle

One of the highlights in the Pilgrim's Mass at the Cathedral of the Apostle Saint James was the offering to the Apostle by Grand Master Don Carlos de Borbon. Standing in front of the altar, within the St. Jacob shrine, and surrounded by 42 heads of jurisdiction, the Grand Master proclaimed:

I come to this Cathedral of Compostela, as Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, to offer you once again our determined will to live as committed Christians with a fervently renewed spiritual dedication in a world that questions and viciously fights traditional values and customs that Christendom cherishes and represents. In spite of this, the Spirit of Saint Jacques, which summons the faithful and pilgrims of all nations, has remained strong; a Spirit found in all the "ways" that come to this "Campo da Estella" (Compostela) where you will rest in peace until the end of time...

.... Today, after so many generations, these "ways" are full of pilgrims coming from afar, crossing oceans and countries to reach the "Monte de Gozo," and feeling the joy of reaching these towers. This joy, which is a daily miracle occurring during this jubilee year, a special year of great forgiveness.

.... We come to kneel before you, Christians of different confessions - Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants - serving together and longing for unity found only in the Baptism and Faith of Christ, which characterises us and makes us unique amongst the Orders of Christian Chivalry. Our ecumenical movement is driven by the Holy Spirit whose impulse we will specially beg for tomorrow, Whitsun, and the desire of the reestablishment of unity is a Divine vocation. Help us, Lord Saint James, to persevere in attaining our lofty goals and selfless commitment to thy service.

.... Lord Saint James, Patron Saint of Galicia and Spain, we are here at your Shrine to beg

you to protect our Order of Saint Lazarus. We pray that your silver cape may be the mantle where we can find refuge and I humbly request of your generosity that the Apostolic shelter may reach our brothers and sisters performing good works in your name all over the world. I also beg your paternal blessing, through the merits and love of Saint Lazarus, true friend of Jesus. Amen

spoken by

Grandmaster HE Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón; Marquis de Almazán

The full wording of the [Grand Masters "Offering to the Apostle"](#) is also available as PDF-file in the Members Area.

Concelebration in the **Catedral de Santiago de Compostela**: from left: Cannon of the Cathedral Rvdmo. Sr Dean de la Catedral de Santiago de Compostela **D. José M^a Díaz** (Main Celebran) , in concelebration with H.B. the **Patriarch Gregorios III** – Spiritual Protector of the Order, H.E. Archbishop em. of Santo Tomé, **Msgr. Dr. Abilio Ribas**, the Chancellor of the Archiepiscopate , Rvdmo. Sr. Canciller del Arzobispado de Santiago de Compostela, **D. Elisardo Temperán Villaverde** , **Msgr. Haddac, Rome** , and numerous Prelates and Chaplains of the Order of St. Lazarus.

Investiture Service

A Solemn Investiture Service in presence of the Grand Master, the Spiritual Protector and the Archbishop of Santiago took place in the Church of the Monastery of San Martín Pinario and was finalized with a festive Dinner with over 40 participants in the dinning rooms of the Monastery.

Melkite Pontifical Mass

Finally on Sunday the Spiritual Protector of the Order Patriarch Gregorios III celebrated a Solemn Pontifical Mass Melkite Rite in the Church of San Fructuoso.

The full wording of the [Patriarchs Sermon in the Pontifical Mass](#) is available as PDF-file in the Members Area

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24 May 2010 by IntPRComm