

L AZARUS LETTER

March 2007

THE JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM
GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALIA

FROM THE GRAND PRIOR

Greetings. The time for our National Chapter Meeting in Melbourne is racing towards us. It is important that as many Members as possible be present to take part in the deliberations at the Chapter. As you will see from the Chancellor's page, there have been many developments in the international field since the last Lazarus Letter. These will be considered in Melbourne and it is important that we have as many Members as possible participate so as to give added weight to the decisions that are made.

Fortunately, in Australia, we have maintained solidarity and unity of purpose and have taken a consistent stand based on the principles on which the Order is founded. I have no doubt that with charity, patience and perseverance we will, in due course, be able both to adhere to proper principle and be part of a truly reunited Order.

Regrettably, at the present time, the events in Houston on 12 October 2006 would seem to have added to the fragmentation that had previously occurred in Toronto. However, there are signs that the decisions made at our last National Chapter in Adelaide are supported by a number of other jurisdictions, including France, Greece, Poland and the European Union Humanitarian Grand Priory. In addition we seem clearly to be of like mind with England and Wales, Ireland, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Lichtenstein.

I will be travelling to England and Europe in May and hope to be able to meet with the Lord Ferrers and Maj. James in an endeavour to further the good work done in February by our Chancellor, Chev John Bishop.

The number of Members of the Order continues to grow. We now have more than 200 active Members and 14 postulants, most of whom will be admitted to the Order in Melbourne. As a result, we in Australia are now the third largest Grand Priory amongst the former Paris Obedience. This is a far cry from those very early days when we were merely 6 or so Members. Our numbers throughout Australia mean that we can be a powerful force for good, provided we maintain our solidarity and the principles of the Order.

Chev John Bishop will retire as Chancellor at the National Chapter Meeting. The Chancellor has been a tower of strength to the Order and to me. His work both within Australia and in the international field has been exceptional. I am exploring ways in which his contribution in the international field, his contacts and corporate memory will not be lost to the Order notwithstanding his retirement as Chancellor. On behalf of the Order I would like to thank Chev Bishop for his exceptional contribution.

Our National Chaplain, George Cardinal Pell, will also retire at the National Chapter, having completed six years in that office. Cardinal Pell has given much of his time and extensive experience to the Order. His standing as a Prince of the Church has also given much kudos to the Order. On behalf of the Order I would like to thank His Eminence for giving so much time to the Order in what is an extraordinarily busy life.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in Melbourne.

Barry O'Keefe

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

There has been considerable activity on the international front since August last year when the Lazarus Letter was last issued.

As foreshadowed by Grand Prior, Barry O'Keefe, in that issue, a ceremony was held in Houston, Texas on October 12, 2006 at which a document entitled "Articles of Reunification" was signed in the presence of members of the Joint Reconciliation Commission and heads of other delegations including the US, Canada, Scotland, South Africa, Zimbabwe and New Zealand. Australia was not represented at the meeting and in the spirit of the resolution adopted by our National Chapter in Adelaide in May, 2006, we do not consider ourselves parties to that document.

Since then, Barry O'Keefe, David Crossin and I, being the "Committee of Three" appointed in May, have continued to pursue the wish of the National Chapter in endeavouring to reunify the former Paris Obedience as a priority ahead of a merger with the Malta Obedience.

This led to an interim report to National Council in January 2007 and attendance by me as an observer at a meeting of representatives of eight of the former Paris Obedience jurisdictions in Norwich on February 10, 2007. This group, which includes England and Wales, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Romania and Lichtenstein elected the Grand Prior of England & Wales - Lord Ferrers - as their Chairman and are very anxious to work with us as they strongly endorse the position we have adopted. Barry O'Keefe has also obtained the unqualified support of France, Poland and Greece through the Duchess of Brissac.

While I was in UK, I arranged to meet Chev. David James, the Grand Commander (effectively the CEO) of the group which adopted the "Articles of Reunification" in Houston and of which the Duke of Seville is Grand Master. I took the opportunity to put the case that the Order cannot claim to be reunified while there are still many jurisdictions with well over 1,000 members world-wide who do not accept the Duke of Seville as Grand Master at this time - and it is important that he take active steps to address this problem

Our "Committee of Three" will be submitting a further report and recommendation to National Council in advance of the Melbourne Chapter and we hope that there may be further news to report at that time. In the meantime, the Australian Grand Priory has continued to grow and achieve many things for the benefit of the under-privileged and disadvantaged in our society - which is our primary responsibility.

As my term as Chancellor will conclude in Melbourne, I take this opportunity to thank all members for their support - and particularly Ian Chesterman, who is retiring as Deputy Chancellor, and who has been a great help to me and done a magnificent job in producing the Lazarus Letter. I must also particularly mention John Herbig, who was Secretary General for the whole of my term as Chancellor and David Masters, who took over this very demanding role last year. Thank you all.

John Bishop

FROM THE GRAND PRIOR EMERITUS

Despite the dire consequences predicted, reunification of our two previous Obediences into one Order of St Lazarus seems to be slowly but steadily proceeding. With the merging of individual European Jurisdictions, membership numbers have in many cases swelled and strengthened and their presence

has been maintained. For example, without the "dissidents" (Patriarch's term) Poland has 22 members, France 51, Hungary 44, England and Wales 258 and Germany 13. There is still a fair way to go but I think the progress so far is encouraging.

I understand that the "Orleans" group have disassociated themselves from Prince Charles-Phillipe and Piccapietra and many of them are now again interested in our reunified Order. I hope that in the fullness of time, we will have all successfully joined together and be able to direct our energies into continuing our humanitarian work, rather than wasting them on argument amongst ourselves.

To quote John Dickinson in the Liberty Song written in the 1770's: "*by uniting we stand, by dividing we fall*".

Editorial Note:

The figures quoted by Lady Potter appear to be the membership numbers that the Malta Obedience brought to the proposed reunification. They do not refer to the Grand Priorities or Members in the Paris Obedience. The Australian, French, Greek, EU and Polish Grand Priorities of the Paris Obedience do not accept the events in Houston in 2006 as binding them to the Duke of Seville as automatic Grand Master. Nor do the Grand Priorities of the Paris Obedience of Austria, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Lichtenstein, Romania or the UK (England and Wales). England and Wales - referred to in Lady Potter's letter as dissidents - have 229 active Members, and a total of 246, including clerical members. The total membership in the Grand Priorities referred to above is believed to be approaching 1000.

Signed: The Grand Prior, the Chancellor, the Referendary.

The actual ceremony of signing The Document of Reunification took place in Houston on Thursday 12th October 2006 in the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Aponte and over 330 clergy, members and friends from many Jurisdictions. Conducted with dignity and good will it was a significant and inspiring occasion followed by much rejoicing that we were entering a new era of faith, hope and charity for our Order.

Corinthians 1 Chapter 13: v13

Lady Potter, AC, GCLJ, GCMLJ

FROM THE REFERENDARY

There has been no notice given of any proposed changes to the Constitution or to the Rules of the Australian Grand Priory.

Friends of the Order – This matter was considered at the last National Chapter Meeting and the Victorian Commandery undertook to consider the various questions, discuss the matter with the Referendary and submit a report to the next Chapter meeting. I am happy to advise that active consideration is being given to the matter and Victorian Commandery expects to conclude its report in the near future. A recommendation will be submitted to the Melbourne Chapter

Insurance – The question of insurance for the National Executive is being explored. A number of Commanderies have insurance in place and the New South Commandery has obtained quotes for a National coverage. The economics are being considered and will be reported to the National Chapter.

Registration of Trade Marks

The registration of the Eight pointed Cross will expire in September 2007 and action will be taken to renew the registration. As reported earlier the Order's Coat of Arms was registered in June 2006 for a period of ten years.

David Crossin

Homily by Dean Emeritus Arthur Grimshaw ChLJ OMLJ at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane at Evensong to commemorate the Blessed Gerard; delivered to the OSL Queensland Commandery Members and other congregation on Sunday 15 October, 06

First may I thank Fr. Trevor Bulled, the Rector of Holy Trinity, and the volunteers of the 'Parish Pantry' for this invitation to the Queensland Members of the Order of St Lazarus to worship with you, and rejoice in the legacy of the founder of the Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus, the Blessed

Gerard, sometimes known as Gerard Thom, who is acknowledged founder also of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The emphasis of my words this evening will be to focus not on past events, but on the need for our continuing commitment to make the love and compassion of Christ visible in our fragile and divided world. The need now is even more pressing than it was in the 11th and 12th centuries.

It was in the 6th century that a community of monks under the Rule of St. Basil of Caesarea, established a large hospital at Jerusalem. Here they cared for and protected pilgrims to the Holy Places, and especially directed their efforts to the comfort and treatment of lepers. Their leprosarium or Lazar-House, was located outside the walls of the city near the postern of Saint Ladre, or Saint Lazarus.

Following the destruction of the Holy Sepulchre early in the eleventh century by the fanatical Egyptian Caliph Hakim, rebuilding works began under the protection of a more benign Caliph around 1048 (after the Roman Emperor Monomachus had released some 5000 Moslem prisoners). Pilgrim numbers in Palestine increased, and hospices were established to care for their welfare.

Inside the city, a hospice for pilgrims under the patronage of St. John the Almoner was established by merchants of Amalfi who had purchased the land. The white cross of Amalfi was adopted as their sign.

Gerard Thom, a godly merchant from Amalfi on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, was so impressed with the caring work of the hospice, that he worked with them, and in due course was named Master of the Hospital of St. John. It was Gerard who invited the monks of St. Basil's Lazar Hospital to bring their caring ministry inside the safety of the walls of Jerusalem and work alongside the Hospitallers of St. John. In 1113 Pope Paschal II recognised the Hospitaller Order of St. John and its founder Br. Gerard. Two years later, Pope Paschal by Papal Bull separated the Hospital of St. Lazarus from that of St. John. It was specifically designated to care for lepers - Crusading knights and others. In 1157, the Green Cross, symbol of hospital services became the distinctive insignia of the Lazarus Order (*see end- notes for further detail*).

While much of the early history is uncertain, what is clear is that the care of the unfortunate, and especially those who have no other support, continues through history. The military aspect of the crusading Orders is now a thing of the past, but the Christian compassion continues to have relevance, indeed importance, in our contemporary world.

The contemporary boiling over of hostilities between the Muslim world and the West should make us examine more closely at our hospitallers' work in this context. There is a fundamental difference in our understanding of the knowledge of God.

The Muslim view is that God reveals only his will - and we have it in perfection in the Qur'an. It is the Word of God, the Commandment of God, the Will of God. But God does not reveal Himself to anyone. Here is the great difference between Islam and Christianity. To grasp this distinction is to go a long way towards understanding distinctive features of each faith. It shows why there is such an emphasis in Islam on law, *sharia*. The Christian view is that the Bible, from its first chapters, is above all else a book about God's self-disclosure to his people so that we might share his life.

The New Testament teaches that God is light and that he is also love. The knowledge of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit helps us to understand this love: the Holy Trinity is a fellowship of love. This love is not selfishly turned in on itself. It expressed itself in a beautiful creation wherein as human beings we are consciously able to receive that love and to share it with others. We are enabled to love because God first loved us (I John 4: 19). The love which we receive from God is intended to overflow into the lives of others.

Christians today should be encouraged to pray more deliberately for growth in the knowledge and also in the love of God which comes to us through Jesus Christ. Paul reminds us: I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love ... and to

know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3: 17 & 19).

Herein is the foundation for our Hospitaller work. Viewed from our present perspective, the Crusades were ragged, unfortunate, and ultimately ineffective attempts to impose Western control over the Byzantine Christian world in the name of defending Jerusalem and the Holy Sepulchre from infidel occupation. One fortunate result was that alongside the Military Orders there was spawned by the devoted work of Blessed Gerard, a compelling witness to the love of God at work in the midst of competing philosophies – with the aid of the monks of St. Basil, and others attracted to their caring work, the Hospitaller agencies of St. John and St. Lazarus ultimately gained papal recognition, and their ministries were carried out in the Orders’ hospitals throughout the Mediterranean and European worlds long after the Military role of the orders was set aside.

The ecumenical co-operation fostered within our works of charity is an important aspect of our common identity, and this parish, aided by people from other parishes in the city, is able to express the living care of Our Lord Jesus Christ in very practical ways here and now. On behalf of all who share in that work of compassion and support we praise our Blessed Lord, as we thank him for the example of brother Blessed Gerard our founder, and all helpers in the work of the Parish Pantry and other charitable works carried out under the banner of the hospitaller orders in our own day.

End Notes:

In 1113, Pope Paschal II, in a Papal Bull "Pie postulatio voluntaris":

- (a) recognizes the Order of St. John and the Hospital
- (b) And its daughter houses St Aigiduid, Lisan, Barum, Hispalum, Tarentum and Messina, St. Egid Castle, Pisa, Asti, Bari, Ydtrotum, Terent and Messina, Otranto and St. Gilles
- (c) And recognises that Brother Gerard is its founder.
- (d) And for the first time gives him the title of Master.”

The brethren increasingly include monks who are also men-at-arms, sergeants and knights some of whom would be mercenaries. The progressive militarisation of the Order is said to be for the defence of the patients, of the ministering brethren and of pilgrims and brethren when travelling in caravan.

In 1115 the Hospital of St. Lazarus was separated from that of St. John by Papal Bull, specifically to care for lepers, with Brother Gerard nominated as founder of the Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus. In 1157 the Green Cross, symbol of hospital services, became the distinctive insignia of the Lazarus Order.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMMANDERIES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

There was only one change in our office-bearers at our 2006 Annual General Meeting, at which the following were elected:

President	Dr John Donovan
Treasurer	Mrs Ann Sutton
Herald	Mr Pat Brazil
Hospitaller/ Almoner	Mr Jim Leedman
Historian	Prof Isabel McBryde
Secretary/Public Officer	Dr Peter Wilkins

We were well represented at the 2006 National Chapter Meeting in Adelaide. Both

Roger Beale and David Harper attended as Postulants and are now Officers of the Order.

We also congratulate Roger Beale on his elevation to Officer in the Order of Australia.

We thank the Grand Prior and Mrs Jan O’Keefe for attending our winter dinner as guest of the Commandery.

Later in the year we hosted our annual dinner in support of L’Arche, and raised more than \$20,000, easily exceeding our previous best result. So to make this report really useful for anyone else who is hosting a fundraising dinner, we did it by:

- increasing the price of raffle tickets from 3 for \$5 to \$5 each. The average purchase went from about \$10 to about \$20, and we had fewer ticket stubs to handle. This year we are moving, after about 15 years at the one location, to an upmarket venue. It will be interesting to see what effect the new venue has on attendance and thus on amounts raised.
- paying for liquor on consumption at \$8 per head instead of as a package at \$22 per head. It seems our guests are rather abstemious.

The Commandery is sad to report that Mrs. Ann Donovan, the wife of our President Dr John Donovan KLJ died on the 2nd February 2007. Ann had suffered from cancer for more than twelve months and our sincere sympathy is extended to John and his family. Ann fully supported all the activities of the Commandery and her cheerful smile will be sorely missed.

We are also sorry to announce that one of the Foundation members of the ACT Commandery, The Hon John Joseph Kelly RFD ED KLJ, died on 14th December 2006. John was admitted to the Order on the 9th March 1984. He had been in bad health for some years and had spent his last years in a nursing home. His wife Rachel had predeceased him. Our sympathy is extended to his sons Gary and Peter and their families.

David Crossin
On behalf of John Donovan

NEW SOUTH WALES

New Members

Our Order has been favoured with receipt of applications for membership from some six new members. We are hoping to have five of these postulants admitted to our Order at the Investiture Service to be held at Newman Catholic College Chapel University of Melbourne during the National Chapter Investiture Service on Saturday 21 April 2007.

Recently we held a delightful cocktail party at the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron on Sydney harbour for prospective postulants to meet and talk with existing members. This activity proved to be very rewarding for all. The

beautiful surroundings, great refreshments and delightful company all contributed to making an excellent and rewarding St Lazarus activity. Twenty Four of us stayed on to dine at the Squadron in what is now one of the top dining rooms in Sydney.

We are all looking forward to appreciating the positive contribution we believe our prospective postulants will make to the activities of our Order. We are in the process of building together life-long relationships and friendships.



L to R, E Ross Brown President NSW Commandery, Dr Inis Grainger a Dame of our Order from Harare, The Hon. Justice Barry O'Keefe Grand Prior of our Order.

Future Activities:

Celebrating 25 Years of our Order in Australia – Gala Dining-In night at Victoria Barracks Sydney

On Saturday 10 March 2007 our Order will hold a delightful formal dinner at the historic Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess which was built in the 1840s. Our guest speaker is one of our members, Monsignor Brian Rayner OAM EV ChLJ RANR. Brian a Naval Reservist is the Principal Chaplain for the Royal Australian Navy. He will speak on Chaplain Services in the Australian Defence Force, today and tomorrow. We aim to fill the mess with our members and friends.

Pascal Celebration.

Sunday 1st April 2007 at 7.15pm. Palm Sunday. Service to be held at our garrison church, St John's Anglican Church Gordon where we celebrate the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ in word and song. This service features performances from three

excellent choirs, St John's Choir, Gordon, The Armenian Apostolic Church, Chatswood and the Holy Family Church, Lindfield. Bring your Regalia, Robes and Friends. We have an excellent get-together afterwards, and enjoy supper in the adjoining hall.

National Chapter Meeting

19-22 April 2007 National Chapter Meeting in Melbourne, where a wonderful time will be had by all attendees. Make sure that you are there to participate and enjoy the activities.

Other Commandery Activities

- a. Monday 18 June 2007 - 6.30pm. General Meeting of NSW Commandery to be held at the National Trust Board Room, Watson Road, Observatory Hill, Sydney. All present are cordially invited to join us afterwards for dinner at the nearby *Fish at the Rocks* which is said to be Sydney's favourite Seafood Restaurant located at 29 Kent Street on the corner of Argyle Street.
- b. Winter 2007 Sunday Luncheon at *Miramare Gardens* the new function centre created by our very own Knight, Santa Severino KLJ. Located at 48 Myoora Road, Terrey Hills this recently opened five star event centre is a magnificent venue and we all look forward to being there with good food, good friends and good camaraderie. Date to be advised.
- c. Spring 2007. Cocktail Party at the home of our Grand Prior The Hon. Justice Barry O'Keefe and his wife Jan. Located at 16 Calypso Avenue, Mosman NSW. We are looking forward to having an Order of St Lazarus activity at their lovely home. Date to be advised.

Annual General Meeting

Monday 29 October 2007. Annual General Meeting. To be held in the National Trust Building on Observatory Hill commencing at 6.30pm. Your presence will be very much appreciated. Dinner is available afterwards at *the Fish on the Rocks* restaurant which is said to provide some of Sydney's best seafood.

Dinner at Abercrombie House.

For Saturday 3 November 2007 we have planned a splendid black tie dinner to be held

in one of the finest stately homes in Australia, the 52 room mansion which is the home of our member Rex Morgan AM MBE OJ and Mary Morgan. The Morgan family is most generously providing this spectacular venue for an OSL fundraising event. Abercrombie House is located near Bathurst which is about a three hour drive West of Sydney. We suggest staying overnight at Motels in Bathurst.

Patronal Feast Day - Friday 23 November 2007.

This year we have two splendid venues for this activity. The service will be held in the magnificent St James Church in King St Sydney followed by dinner at the nearby Parliament House. Both are beautiful and historic venues. We are delighted that our National Chaplain George Cardinal Pell has indicated he will attend. This is a wonderful occasion and you will benefit greatly by attending. An invitation is cordially extended to all OSL members and friends from all Commanderies.

For Australian members of the Order, this occasion is well worth your while to visit Sydney and participate in the Service and Patronal Feast.

I do hope to see you there.

Official Overseas Service

Our Hospitaller, LtCol Michael J Champion RAAMC is currently posted as a surgeon to the Australian Army Medical Contingent in Southern Iraq. He is due home just before our National Chapter meeting. We wish him God's Speed.

Promotions

We are delighted that five of our members will be promoted at the Melbourne National Chapter from Officer to Commander. They are Confreres Champion, Franklin, Molloy, Morgan and Prior. Hearty congratulations to each of our new Commanders.

Atavis et Armis - Valour in the spirit of our forefathers.

Ross Brown

QUEENSLAND

Members of the Queensland Commandery gathered for our first meeting on Tuesday 30 January. It was a small but productive meeting. As a routine, our meetings commence with a homily from one of our Chaplains. These are very uplifting and members appreciate these inspirational items as we attend to the Order's activities as well as our own daily lives. Unfortunately, infirmity and the caring for loved ones are limiting some member's attendance at meetings. Our thoughts and prayers go out to these people.

The Treasurer's report revealed that we had a very successful year in 2006 with record funds being raised through our two major fund raising events. Members were very satisfied with the level of charitable giving. Local charities are very appreciative of the small amount of money that we donate. They seem to have an innate ability for making a dollar stretch very far. For a number of years we have been lending some financial support to the School of St Jude in Tanzania. Members were delighted to hear of the marvellous progress this school is making "fighting poverty with education".

This led conversation to planning of our fundraising events for 2007. It is our intention to hold our first function, a Sunday morning movie, on the 18 March at the Palace Cinemas. The film chosen is Razzle Dazzle starring Kerry Armstrong amongst others. Hopefully it will prove to be the successful and pleasant event it usually is. Later in the mid year we will be holding our major fundraising brunch. Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, has graciously given the Commandery permission to hold this function at Government House. Although the prospect is a little daunting, members are looking forward to what is a usually very successful event.

Hands on work is continuing with support for Stan Gray and the Mission to Seafarers. It is our hope to have a new member, Mrs Diane Andrews, join us in the near future. At this stage it would appear that a number of the Commandery will be unable to attend the Melbourne Chapter Meeting because of previous commitments.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 27 March 2007

At this stage the Queensland Commandery is humming along quite nicely.

Gordon Mor

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

After the efforts expended on the National Chapter held in Adelaide in May, the Commandery spent a large amount of effort on one of its most ambitious fund raising efforts so far --- i.e. "Arcadia"- held in the Adelaide Arcade on 22 November last. It was presented as a cocktail party, with music, refreshment and an impressive display of arts and crafts donated by leading artists and personalities, all of which were put up for sale by silent auction. About 300 people attended and the Commandery raised about \$17,500. But the efforts left the various committees and helpers, especially the Almoner's committee, exhausted. All money raised went to the Cora Barclay Centre for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children.

After three further meetings in August, October and November, the Commandery held its final ceremony for 2006 on 17 December to commemorate St. Lazarus Day. The service at St. Andrew's Church at Walkerville was well attended and our members and their partners intermingled with the congregation at morning tea following the service. This was a happy ending for 2006, which, overall, with the two major functions of the National Chapter Meeting and "Arcadia" on our plate, had been an extremely busy but successful year.

During the year, the Membership Committee approved two new members, Dr. Tony Cocchiario and Ms. Nadine Williams. The Commandery gave its approval also, and their membership in turn has been approved by the Grand Prior and Chancellor, so as to enable them to be invested at the April Chapter meeting in Melbourne.

The Commandery held its Annual General Meeting on 20 February 2007 at which the following were elected:-

President	Kemeri Murray (continuing)
Secretary	Ian Chesterman (continuing)
Treasurer	Basil Taliangis (continuing)
Almoner	Joan Paroissien
Hospitaller	Judith Roberts
Membership	Christopher McLaughlin
Herald	Don Sarah (continuing)
Archivist	David Seaton (continuing)

The relevant officers were asked to assemble their various committees.

In approving the above appointments, the meeting paid special tribute to Pat Schroder, Peter Hetzel and Jenny Linn for their work as Almoner, Hospitaller and Chair of the Membership Committee respectively.

The President and Secretary, however, informed the meeting that neither would seek re-election in 2008, and asked members to consider nominating for appointment to office next year, and in particular for these two positions.

Also at our most recent meeting we approved a grant of \$8,000 to the Palliative Care Council of SA to assist in meeting the costs of publishing a booklet entitled *A Caregivers Guide to the End-of-Life*.

The dates for meetings in 2007 are:-

(Tuesdays) 27 March, 29 May, 17 July, 18 September, and 20 November. The St.Lazarus Day service has been set for 16 December.

The 2006 Almoner's Committee has recommended that our main fund raising function in 2007 be a Film Evening, perhaps in June.

Kemeri Murray

TASMANIA

In Tasmania, we have just completed a year of growth in membership. This has been the result of a thorough process of review, bearing in mind the need to ensure that the "baton" is placed securely in the hands of those who will carry the life of the Commandery into the future.

We have prepared an attractive brochure which tells something of the life and history of the Order. But there is also the need to ask what are the particular features of the Order

of Saint Lazarus which give it a unique and attractive character. After all, there are many other organisations doing good works in the community.

The first part of the answer centres around *the faith we share*. Whatever part of the Church we belong to, whatever our tradition, we in the Order of Saint Lazarus stand together before God. In a divided world, and a divided Church, we are a symbol of hope, a sign that our common love for God-in-Christ is stronger than anything which may threaten to divide us.

So Prayer and Scripture are part of our meetings. Once a year we pause for a Quiet Morning together, and our December observance of the Feast of Patron centres on a Service of Worship that includes the reaffirmation of vows by members of the Order. Clearly *the faith we share* is what gives us our special character and sense of identity.

Secondly, there is the attraction of *the care we share*. Like Saint Lazarus, we seek to continue Christ's ministry of healing and compassion. In the Order of Saint Lazarus, we are called to give outward expression to our faith through our deeds of generosity and sacrificial service. The command of Christ at the end of The Parable of the Good Samaritan rings in our ears: "Go and do likewise".

Through *Anglicare Tasmania* we have offered some assistance to a family devastated by the bush fires. But our major fund-raising has once again been directed towards palliative care.

The excellent financial results of our Cocktail Party have enabled us to undertake special projects for the Whittle Ward (Royal Hobart Hospital Palliative Care Unit) and The Gibson Ward (St John's Campus of Calvary Care Tasmania). Tables and chairs for the verandah area, and a new sound system with appropriate CD's, have been purchased for the Whittle Ward; and we have provided an ice-crushing machine, and some wall clocks for the Gibson Ward.

It is not surprising to report that the mood at our February Annual General Meeting was very positive, as we planned for the

forthcoming twelve months. It is intended to continue our recruiting of new members over the year ahead, as well as strengthening our caring work.

The Annual Meeting expressed its deep appreciation to retiring office bearers:

Chevalier The Honourable Ken Lowrie OBE
OAM KLJ CMLJ (Secretary)

Dame Dora Thomson DLJ (Almoner)

Mr Patrick Murray CLJ (Treasurer)

It also welcomed the following strong leadership team:

Bishop Phillip Newell AO GCSJ CMSJ ChLJ
OMLJ (President)

Mr Peter Bennison OLJ (Secretary)

Mr Christopher Jones OLJ (Treasurer)

Mr Ron Banks AM CLJ OMLJ (Hospitaller)

Mrs Bronwyn Wood OLJ (Almoner)

Chevalier Brian Gallagher KLJ (Herald)

Chevalier Kerry Bowerman OAM KLJ OMLJ
(Minute Secretary)

Chevalier Professor Hermann Tisch KLJ CMLJ
AEM CME AMH (Archivist)

The Commandery continues to be well served by its Chaplains:

The Venerable Dr Christopher Jones ChLJ

The Reverend Father Brian Nichols ChLJ

The Right Reverend Phillip Newell ChLJ

We are looking forward to the National Chapter Meeting in April in Melbourne, and a strong representation of the Tasmanian Commandery is confidently expected.

(Bishop) Phillip K Newell

VICTORIA

The Victorian Commandery continues to meet bi-monthly preceded by a short service in Lazarus Chapel at St Peter's, during which a Commandery Chaplain leads in meditation, reflection and devotion.

Following successful fund raising functions earlier in the year a Cocktail Party and Private Viewing of Bishop John Bayton's latest paintings and sculpture was held in November.

The Hon. Dr Barry Jones AO opened the exhibition and reflected interestingly on elements of his experience and the artwork.

The exhibition of Bishop Bayton's impressive work, which he says is about integration of material things and things of the Spirit, was titled "Sacred Land Sacred Space" and focussed on the Holy Land. The art and sculpture presented included some 100 works.

Over 200 Commandery members and guests enjoyed the evening, held in the magnificent ambiance of St Stephen's Church, Richmond, and contributed over \$20,000 to the Commandery's charitable fund, due to Bishop Bayton's generous allocation of a major portion of the proceeds of sales.

The Annual Lazarus Day Service and Dinner at Saint Peter's was again held in December when a record number of members and guests gathered for the service and later for dinner. Although not viewed as a fund raising event the charitable fund benefited from the evening.

The Commandery continues to focus its main efforts at present on three causes, The Lazarus Centre, The Wellington Centre and Green Cross Inc., and reports of the activities of each of these organizations have been presented at recent Commandery meetings.

Planning is underway for the 2007 Program which includes the following:

February, April, June, August, October, December	Commandery meetings
March	Quiet Day and luncheon Saint Mary's Church, Seymour
April	Annual General Meeting
April	National Chapter
July	Formal Fundraising Dinner
December	Lazarus Day Service and Dinner

Max Carr

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Order in W A has enjoyed a rewarding and successful year in 2006 and looks forward to 2007 in which we will pursue our many goals both in the areas of Christian Endeavour and helping the Marginalized in our community.

Donations 2006/2007 financial year:

St. Bartholomew's House.	\$4,000
Parkerville Children's Home Building Project	\$4,000
St. Patrick's Care Centre Fremantle	\$4,000
Wyn Carr Women's Refuge Fremantle	\$4,000
East Timor Student's Support [on going]	\$2,000
Passages Referral Centre Perth [on going]	\$2,000
New Norcia Restoration Fund.	\$5,500
Total	\$25,500

Membership:

Membership has been a fluid affair, with much possibility and endeavour, although slowly coming to fruition.

We are pleased to advise that Mr. John Cunningham has agreed to join the W A Commandery. He has been accepted into the Order, and will be Invested at the National Conference in April.

Commandery Activities:

Parkerville:

Mr. Basil Hanna, CEO of Parkerville Children's Home, addressed the Members at the August Commandery Meeting. He reported on the changes occurring in society generally, forcing changes in the work and structure of Parkerville Home. Whilst the work and facilities at the main centre at Parkerville were continuing it was felt that more facilities should be established at Armadale and Belmont to deal with different needs of care. Whilst the basis aim was always family reunification, they were realistic enough to know that this was not possible in all cases and therefore a second aim was therapeutic and educational, to prepare youths in their care for independent life.

St. Bartholomew's House:

A group of members attended the St. Bartholomew's Day Service at St. Bartholomew's Church, East Perth, on the 27th August. This was presided over by the Anglican Bishop of Perth The Rt. Rev. Roger Herft, and was followed by afternoon tea at The House where we had the opportunity to mingle with the Board of Directors and the Residents.

East Timor: Father Richard Daschbach SVD of Topu Honis Kutet East Timor, continues to write with news of Jacob, the student which the W A Commandery is financially supporting through Tertiary Education in Dili. Due to the unrest in that region Jacob will transfer his schooling

over the border in Indonesia. This area is stable and father Richard feels it is the only direction to take under the current political circumstances. Jacob's University course will continue for three or four more years.

Wyn Carr House Woman's Refuge:

This facility goes from strength to strength. Our support with funding, Councillors, providing second-hand equipment, clothing and a myriad of other services has been coordinated by Julie Gardner OLI who visits the facility regularly and reports to our Meetings. She receives additional donations from friends and acquaintances, which is gratefully accepted by this most deserving cause.

Passages:

Passages is now a highly professional organization which we continue to support financially. Maurice Rousset CLJ represents us on their Steering Committee and gives regular reports at our Commandery Meetings.

St Patrick's Care Centre Fremantle:

St. Patrick's continues to provide free Meals to the marginalized in Fremantle. Up to 93 clients are housed in the Town in low cost accommodation and take advantage of the free health and services provided. Effort is still being put into moving the meals facility to the Stella Maris site, with ongoing discussions being held with the Council and surrounding Residents.

Annual Fundraising Function:

The Open Garden 5th November 2006 at the beautiful garden of Peter and Tania Young was an outstanding success. The weather was perfect with 550 guests attending. All members excelled in their designated tasks and as a team effort it could only be called a triumph. Our profit for the day was a record \$29,601.

St. Lazarus Day:

Our St. Lazarus Day Service and Dinner was held on the 12th December 2006 and 35 members and spouses attended.

Bishop Sproxton ChLJ and The Rev John Shepherd ChLJ, assisted by Dom Chris Power

OSB, conducted the Ceremony at St. Bartholomew's Church, East Perth. The Rev. John Shepherd delivered the homily, as well as playing the antique pedal organ. Unfortunately Bishop Kyme ChLJ OMLJ was unable to attend the Service but joined us later in the evening.

The Dinner at The Weld Club was a wonderful evening full of camaraderie and good fellowship

Upcoming Events:

Sunday 1st April 2007. Visit and Commandery Picnic at Parkerville Children' Home.

The CEO, Basil Hanna, will escort us around the Campus and will introduce us to some of the House Parents so that we may assess their needs. There will be a visit to their historic Cemetery included in the tour.

Saturday and Sunday 28th /29th July 2007. Visit and overnight stay at New Norcia.

Prayers and chanting with the Monks, a Tour of the Abbey with Dom Chris to view

restoration work in progress. Quiet time and discussion with The Abbot Dom Placid and Processing, whilst wearing cloaks, at Mass in the Abbey on Sunday

Dates for Commandery Meetings:

Tuesday 20th February 2007

Tuesday 10th April 2007 AGM

Tuesday 19th June 2007

Tuesday 21st August 2007

Tuesday 16th October 2007

Tuesday 11th December 2007 St. Lazarus Day Celebrations.

*Date for Annual fundraiser yet to be confirmed.

The Members of the W A Comrnandery look forward to the national Conference in Melbourne, 19th to the 22nd April 2007, and we look forward to the majority of the Membership attending, as they have done in the past.

Elizabeth Summerhayes

TONY'S LAMB DAMPER

It would be difficult to find a more Australian Recipe than Lamb Damper. I was introduced to this succulent meal on New Year's Day at Bamford Manor, Kilmore. I have known Ian and Joyce Bamford for the best part of thirty years from my Puckapunyal army days and have since been a regular guest at the family's New Year's Day dinner gathering. Apart from turkey and the traditional Yuletide repast, the highlight of this year's dinner was a *boned pumped leg of lamb* cooked in a simple damper. The texture and colour of the cooked lamb was almost indistinguishable from *ham off the bone*.

Surprisingly it is a very simple dish to cook as I subsequently discovered a week later.

Ingredients:

a boned pumped leg of lamb, your local butcher will prepare it for you

1 kg of plain flour

cold water

1 dessertspoon of red wine vinegar or any table vinegar

Your choice of fresh herbs: mint, rosemary, garlic; the herbs are optional

White Parsley Sauce:

plain flour

butter

milk

salt and pepper to season

chopped parsley

Preparation:

1. Pre-heat the oven to 220 degrees.
2. Rinse off the boned leg of lamb, pat dry, set aside.
3. Depending on your choice of herbs, I prefer fresh mint or rosemary; leave the leaves on the stalks to wrap around the leg prior to wrapping in the damper.

Damper:

The damper is not going to be eaten; it is used only to encase the leg of lamb. Measure out 750 gm of flour into a bowl and slowly add cold water while mixing the dough to a scone like consistency. Do not add salt. When you are satisfied with the consistency add 1 desert spoon of vinegar and mix in well then roll out onto a floured surface. The damper dough should be approximately 2 cms thick and large enough to encase the lamb.

Method:

1. Wrap the herbs of your choice around the leg of lamb; then wrap the leg in the damper making sure that it is fully encased. Place the lamb in a baking dish with the join of the damper on the bottom of the baking dish and place into the pre-heated oven at 220 degrees for 30 minutes.
2. Reduce the temperature to 180 degrees and cook for two and a half hours.
3. The leg will be cooked after a total of three hours in the damper, remove from the oven and let it rest for 15 minutes.
4. Break open the damper and remove the leg of lamb. Depending on your dinner plans, the leg can be eaten hot or cold. If it is to be eaten cold I suggest cooking the lamb the day before.
5. I find that the meat carves well with either a sharp carving knife or an electric knife.
6. If the lamb is served cold, I suggest a mixed salad with steamed baby potatoes, beetroot and pickles. If served hot a selection of steamed vegetables as you would for corned beef.

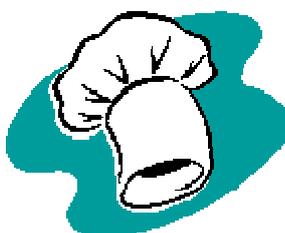
White Parsley Sauce:

The White sauce is prepared in the usual way: melt butter in the saucepan, add plain flour, mix well, add milk little by little while stirring all the time so it does not become lumpy, add pepper and salt to season and finally the chopped parsley.

Enjoy your meal and comments are most welcome.

Tony

Post Scriptum: for our many overseas readers of the Lazarus Letter, Australian Damper is a simple outback or bush bread cooked in the hot ashes of a campfire. It is simply made using self-raising flour, a pinch of salt and water, and made into shaped loaf. It will emerge from the campfire looking similar to the lamb damper below. It goes well with butter and jam and *billy tea*, but that is another story for later...



NEW MEMBERS & ADVANCEMENTS

The following members are to be advanced in rank:

Dr Michael Campion KM OLJ	Commander
Mr William H Franklin ChLJ	Commander
Mrs Maureen Freer OAM OLJ	Commander
Dr William Molloy RFD ED OLJ	Commander
Mr Rex Morgan AM MBE OLJ	Commander
Mr Peter Prior OLJ	Commander
Mr David Slater OLJ	Commander
Mr Terry Jackson AM CLJ	Knight
Mr Maurice Rousset CLJ	Knight

The following new members are to be invested as Officers of the Order:

Mr Peter Bennison	TAS
Dr Tony Cocchiaro AM	SA
Mr John Cunningham	WA
Dr Bryan Cutter	ACT
Mr Simon Frame	NSW
Mr James Grant	TAS
Mr John Hitchen RFD	NSW
Mr Luigi Marasco	NSW
Mr Peter Mason	VIC
Mr Richard Pringle-Jones	TAS
Mr James Roach OAM	NSW
Mr Peter Robinson	NSW
Ms Nadine Williams	SA

EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

My baptism as editor of the Lazarus Letter began with my appointment as Deputy Chancellor at the National Chapter in Canberra in 2001. The September 2001 edition was my first effort and this will be my last. A new Deputy Chancellor will be appointed by the new Chancellor at the Melbourne Chapter.

In March 2001 the then Deputy Chancellor, the late Chev Norm Bevan, wrote: *Mostly it has been fun, but it has had its moments. Deadlines seem to mean different things to different people, and I certainly do not have to keep reminding myself that we live in an uncertain world.* Nothing has changed in one sense yet everything has changed in another. In the secular world we have lived through September 11 2001 and the invasion of Iraq. Within the Order we have moved towards re-unification and then at Toronto in 2004 we witnessed a most unhappy fracture within the Paris Obedience. Work is ongoing to try and heal these wounds and to restore the international dignity of the Order. I am sure that future Lazarus Letters will continue to report on this significant issue for some time to come.

My computing skills have improved enormously as I have wrestled with margins and spacing to ensure that (a) I could fit everything in and (b) that I didn't end up with blank pages. You may not appreciate that the Lazarus Letter in its current format must be a multiple of four pages i.e. four,

eight, 12, 16, 20 or 24 pages in size. One can achieve much by using larger or smaller fonts. If you have detected this from time to time there isn't much wrong with your eyesight!

I trust that you will all continue to enjoy the 'read' and trying out Tony Toms' recipes.

Our membership is ageing and the Lazarus Letter fulfils a very useful function in keeping up-to-date those members unable to attend National chapters regularly.

I thank all who have been contributors during my time as editor and I wish my successor many happy hours at the keyboard and screen.

My best wishes to all.

Ian Chesterman



GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALIA WALL PLAQUES

Order of St Lazarus wall plaques are still available from:

Dr F. Schubert
153 Hawken Drive
St Lucia Qld 4067
Telephone: (07) 3870 7009

Cost: \$50 + \$5 postage

FORM OF BEQUEST

"I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem for the general charitable work of the
Commandery of the Grand Priory of Australia the sum of \$..... and I declare that the receipt of the Commandery Secretary or Treasurer will constitute a sufficient discharge for my executors or trustee."

