

LAZARUS LETTER

August/September 2006

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

FROM THE GRAND PRIOR

Greetings. My thanks to the Members of the Order for the privilege you have conferred on me by electing me as your Grand Prior. It never occurred to me that I would occupy such Office, despite having been a Member of the Order from the days when I attended the second meeting ever held in Australia. That was more than 25 years ago. We have come a long way since then and the Order is strong and cohesive in Australia. May it remain so.

I would like to thank Chev Ellis Wayland and Chev Ian Chesterman and their fellow South Australians who worked so hard and effectively to ensure that our National Chapter in Adelaide was such a success both in terms of the quality of debate and outcomes of the Chapter itself and of the most enjoyable social program that they had organised. Well done South Australia!

Since the National Chapter I have been heavily involved in the problems that are besetting the Order at the international level. The resolution for reunification that was pushed through the Chapter General in Baden has posed significant problems in view of the fact that His Grace the Duke of Seville has not yet been granted a canonical annulment of his first marriage. Despite this there is a move to bring forward the date of reunification and to cause the Duke to become the Grand Master of the Reunified Order, notwithstanding the absence of his annulment.

On 5 July 2006 I wrote to all Heads of Jurisdiction, as well as to the Members of the Joint Reconciliation Commission, informing them of what had occurred at our National Chapters in Adelaide (2006), Hobart (2005), Perth (2004) and Brisbane (2002) and advising that the Australian Grand Priory was unable to give unconditional support to the course of action that was being followed by the JRC and the International Governing Council. On 10 July 2006 I also wrote to the Patriarch requesting him to use his best offices to have the JRC postpone the date for reunification

so that there would be an opportunity for the decision of the Spanish Rota (Ecclesiastical Court) to be known before reunification was effected.

To date I have received a reply from the French Grand Priory indicating that its members are in accord with the decisions taken at our National Chapter in May 2006. In addition I have had an informal intimation that another Commandery in Europe is of a like mind. I am proposing to write again to the Heads of certain other Jurisdictions seeking their support for a moratorium on reunification pending clarification of the marital situation of the Duke of Seville.

Unfortunately, on 18 July 2006 I received a document under the hand of the Grand Referendary advising that the American Grand Priory will be meeting in Houston, Texas in October and that on 12 October 2006 it is proposed that "appropriate parties" will be signing Articles of Reunification. I have been invited to attend and to witness such document.

There is no definition as to the precise nature of the meeting that has been convened, the identity of the "appropriate parties", the contents of the Articles of Reunification and whether signature will mean that the Duke will become Grand Master of a Reunited Order despite the absence of an annulment of his first marriage. There is a number of other questions that still need to be resolved, including that of due diligence for both the Paris and Malta Obediences.

I have written to the Secretariat seeking answers to several questions relating to the meeting and proposed events in Houston and I understand that at least one other European Commandery has asked some highly relevant questions as well.

Should the proposals scheduled to take place in the USA in October 2006 be implemented without there having been an annulment of the first marriage of the Duke of Seville beforehand it would seem quite likely that a number of

jurisdictions will take a view like that taken by Australia and stand outside the reunification process at this stage.

It is unfortunate that my assumption of office as Grand Prior of Australia has been trammelled by the international *damnosa inheritas*. However, in conjunction with our Chancellor, our Referendary and our National Chaplain, with the benefit of advice from Monsignor Toms, and, most

importantly, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I hope that we in Australia will be able to cause harmony, good sense and patience to prevail in the months ahead and that we will remain united.

I ask all members to pray for the welfare of the Order and that the next few months will not see its further fragmentation.

Barry O'Keefe

FROM THE CHANCELLOR

This edition of the Lazarus Letter has been brought forward in order to report to the Australian membership on a number of important developments which have occurred in recent months.

The National Chapter in Adelaide at the end of May, which was extremely well organised and attracted a very pleasing attendance of members and accompanying persons has been a highlight of this period. The installation of our new Grand Prior and the admission of a record number of Postulants at such a memorable service were important milestones in the life of the Order in Australia and are reported elsewhere in this edition.

The timing of the National Chapter was very significant as it followed closely upon the holding of the Chapter General in Baden, where a far-reaching resolution regarding the future of the Paris Obedience had been made on the recommendation of the International Governing Council and the Joint Reconciliation Commission. The resolution is reproduced on the next page.

The Australian Select Committee appointed by the National Chapter in Hobart in September 2005 had circulated two reports to members regarding international developments, the second of which included a draft resolution which I had prepared following my attendance at the Baden Chapter General. This motion, together with the letter (see next page) from His Eminence George Cardinal Pell – our National Chaplain, was extensively debated by the National Council:-

The motion as amended by National Council was subsequently debated by the National Chapter and adopted without dissent. The motion is printed in full on pages four/five.

The effect of this resolution is that a “Committee of Three” - the same three members as comprised the Hobart Select Committee (Chevaliers O'Keefe, Crossin & Bishop) - have now been charged with the responsibility of “carrying the spirit” of the strongly held views of the Australian Grand Priory into effect.

The first step in this process was taken by Chevalier Barry O'Keefe in his new role as Grand Prior writing to the Paris Obedience members of the Joint Reconciliation Commission and the Heads of Paris Obedience jurisdictions around the world.

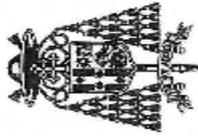
Concurrently, I conveyed details of the resolution to my friend Bernard Barton, who is an influential member of the “over 1,000 members world-wide” who are excluded from the “Reunited Order” as envisaged by the Chapter General in Baden.

More recently, Mons Tony Toms' report (see page five) on the Australian National Chapter and the resolution has been published in the “Members Only” section of the international website.

The “Committee of Three” appointed by the Adelaide resolution will continue to promulgate and promote the views of the Australian Grand Priory and oppose anything which would jeopardise the unity of the Australian Grand Priory which was so evident in Adelaide.

We will report further progress from time to time as required by our brief and in the meantime, urge you all to focus your energies and attention on the mutual objectives of charitable works and Christian unity which are our *raison d'être*.

John Bishop



Holding Centre
133 Liverpool Street
Sydney NSW 2000

25th May, 2006.

Lady Primrose Potter, AC DLJ, COMLJ, BtCLJ, SMT, J
Grand Prior
The Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem
National Chapter - Adelaide

My Dear Grand Prior,

Unfortunately my presence is required in Rome at the time of our National Chapter. As a consequence I regret that I will be unable to be in Adelaide for this important event. Please accept my apologies.

The matters that will be discussed at the National Chapter are of transcending significance for the future of the Order in Australia. It is important that any decisions have regard to the long term future, including but not limited to the upholding of the standards that the Order expects of its members and leaders. At the same time it is necessary that due regard be had to continuity and history.

The decisions that were taken in Baden will need to be understood in the light of the foregoing principle. If the Duke of Seville has not had his marital situation clarified by 1st November, 2006 there will undoubtedly be problems of conscience for a significant number of our members. This suggests either that the date for reunification might be postponed for a specific time to enable regularization or alternatively that the Duke of Seville might be prevailed upon to stand down so as to allow an International Chapter to elect a Grand Master who is acceptable to both the Paris and Malta Obediences.

Yours in the Lord,

George bad. Pell

ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

RESOLUTION

Whereas, for more than thirty years the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem (the Order) has been divided into the Paris Obedience and the Malta Obedience (the Obediences), each separately administered and operating apart, one from the other, but sharing a common history, heritage, tradition and mission; and

Whereas, it is manifestly in the best interests of the Order for the two Obediences to be reconciled and reunited, both in conformity with their joint commitment to Christian unity, and in furtherance of their shared mission to sustain and defend the Christian faith; to assist, succour and help the poor, the sick, and the afflicted; to promote and maintain the principles of Christian Chivalry; and to follow the teachings of Christ.

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Paris Obedience shall reunite with and merge ^{with} the Malta Obedience, forming one body, such body thereafter to be called and referred to as, and only as, The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem (the Reunited Order).

Further Resolved, that the officers of the Paris Obedience shall be and hereby are authorized and directed to take any and all such actions as may be necessary, advisable or desirable to implement this resolution and to consummate the reunification and merger herein contemplated; and

Further Resolved, that the consummation of such reunification and merger shall be conditional upon and subject to the following:

1. The initial Constitution and Bye-laws of the Reunited Order shall be the constitution and bye-laws recommended by the Joint Reunification Commission, as amended and approved by the appropriate governing bodies of the Obediences;
2. The Joint Reunification Commission shall continue to function with the mandate and authority heretofore and hereafter given to its members, both jointly and severally;
3. All agreements, understandings and commitments heretofore or hereafter made by and between the two Obediences, or made on their behalfs by their authorized representatives on the Joint Reunification Commission, shall be honoured and implemented; and
4. The reunification and merger of the Obediences herein contemplated shall be consummated as soon as practicable, but no later than 1 November 2006, unless otherwise agreed by the Obediences.

Baden

Donna
25-05-06

ADELAIDE CHAPTER RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AND ENDORSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL ON FRIDAY MAY 26, 2006

AND

ADOPTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAPTER IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH
AUSTRALIA ON SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2006.

PREAMBLE

The Australian Grand Priory has received and discussed a report of the proceedings at the Baden Chapter General and has reservations about a number of aspects of the motion submitted by the Governing Council and ratified by the Chapter General.

These reservations are:-

1. that a motion of such significance was adopted by the International Governing Council without prior consultation with the National Councils of the constituent bodies.
2. that the Governing Council's resolution was submitted to the Chapter General without notice and may therefore be invalid and unconstitutional.
3. that the assumption of authority by the three representatives of the Joint Reconciliation Commission may be unconstitutional.
4. that a decision of this significance was made without undertaking the "due diligence" process and exchange of vital information which is considered to be an essential pre-requisite of any merger proposal.
5. that no attempt has apparently been made to embrace the many jurisdictions and members of the Order who have been lost by the Paris Obedience through the breakdown of communication at the Toronto Chapter General.
6. that the Acting Grand Master was not adequately consulted or advised of the Governing Council's intentions and had to resort to advising the general membership of his disagreement with aspects of the proposals.
7. that the Governing Council decided that the Acting Grand Master's term could not be extended as it would require six months notice, when his appointment to this position was made in Toronto with no such notice.
8. that the position of the Duke of Seville as Grand Master Elect of the Paris Obedience has not been extended but imprecise arrangements still exist regarding the circumstances under which he may become Grand Master of the "Reunited Order"

RESOLUTION

Notwithstanding its reservations about the validity of the proceedings at the Chapter General in Baden, the Australian Grand Priory confirms its support in principle for reunification of the Order of St Lazarus on a world-wide basis.

However, it withholds its support for the resolution passed by the International Governing Council and ratified by the Chapter General in Baden on the following grounds:-

1. that there should be no circumstances whereby the Duke of Seville can become Grand Master of the "Reunited Order" unless his marriage annulment has been granted and he is in good standing with his own Church.
2. that reunification should not occur unless the proposed "due diligence" exchange of information has been satisfactorily completed, promulgated and found to be acceptable to the members of the Paris Obedience.
3. that positive efforts are made by the Paris Obedience to invite representatives of the various jurisdictions which withdrew from the Toronto Chapter General to participate in the proposed merger and the due diligence process which is about to be undertaken.

It therefore requests the Paris Obedience representatives on the Joint Reconciliation Commission to ensure

that reunification will not take place unless

- A the Duke of Seville has been granted his annulment or has committed to stand down as Grand Master of the Malta Obedience to enable a new election of a Grand Master to be undertaken, and
- B the due diligence process has been successfully completed.

It also recommends that consideration be given to consulting with Prince Charles Philippe as well as the Dukes of Brissac and Seville with the intention of achieving a true reunification of the Order, world-wide, rather than pursuing a course which purports to be a reunified Order when there are still over 1,000 members world-wide who are excluded from the "Reunited Order".

The National Chapter appoints a Committee of three persons – namely Chevaliers John Bishop, David Crossin & Barry O'Keefe – to carry the spirit of this resolution into effect as soon as possible and report progress to the membership as and when it considers appropriate.

27 May 2006

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CHAPTER

The Australian Grand Priory held the 2006 National Chapter in Adelaide at the Stamford Plaza Hotel in the heart of the City from 25-28 May 2006. The Chapter was attended by over one hundred members from all seven Commanderies. South Australia is world renowned for its fine wines and noted artists. As a prelude to the Chapter a tour was arranged to visit some of the nearby wineries and a visit to 'The Cedars' the Sir Hans Heysen home/gallery close by the historic town of Hahndorf.

The first official function of the Chapter was an invitation to Government House where the Lieutenant Governor Mr Bruno Krumins AM hosted a reception in the Order's honour and who spoke of the importance of the Hospitaller work carried out by the Order. Later in the evening an informal dinner followed at the Adelaide Club.

Friday morning was taken up with various committee meetings: Almoners, Chancellor's, Chaplains, Heralds, Hospitallers, Secretaries and Treasurers, who met to report and coordinate their annual business activities.

In the afternoon the National Council met to discuss jurisdictional business and receive reports from the abovementioned committees. The Grand Prior, Lady Potter, gave her report to the National Council on the deliberations and resolutions of the Chapter General in Baden from her perspective as Chairperson of the Governing Council and member of the Joint Reconciliation Commission of the Paris Obedience. Following the Grand Prior's report, the Chancellor, Chev John Bishop, also present at Baden, gave his report to the National Council and spoke of the resolution that he wished to present to the National Council and Chapter. This resolution and matters concerning the recent Chapter General in Baden are reported separately to this review.

The Plenary Body of the National Chapter assembled on Saturday which followed the formal presentation of reports from the national office bearers. All reports had previously been distributed to members. The National Chapter saw the retirement of a number of national office bearers and the appointment of new members to assume those positions. The newly appointed office bearers are as follows with the retiring member in brackets. **Grand Prior:** Chevalier The Honourable Justice Barry O'Keefe, (Lady Primrose Potter); **Marshal:** Chev Kerry Bowerman, (Chev Barry O'Keefe); **Hospitaller:** Chev Willoughby Bailey, (Sister Juliana Coulson); **Secretary General:** Chev David Masters, (Chev John Herbig).

The resolution proposed to the National Council and Chapter by the Chancellor was discussed and passed unanimously by the National Chapter. It is reported under a separate heading.

As in all Chapters of the Order, the spiritual emphasis is the most important aspect of the Chapter. Our host city of Adelaide, also known as the *City of Churches*, provided us with perfect settings for our various services. The Vigil was held in St Andrew's Anglican Church at Walkerville in which fifteen Postulants made their Professions of Faith and recited the responses to the Meditations. The Deputy National Chaplain, The Right Rev'd Dr Ian George, gave the Occasional Homily and was assisted by six chaplains of the Order.

The Investiture took place the following evening in Adelaide's ornate St Peter's Anglican Cathedral. The Conclave was presided over by the Grand Prior, Lady Potter, assisted by the Deputy National Chaplain, Chancellor, Referendary, Marshal, and Secretary General during which seventeen Postulants received their Cross and Mantle of the Order. Rev. Monsignor Robert Aitken, Chaplain of the Adelaide Commandery, preached the Occasional Sermon.

Following the Investiture of the postulants thirteen members of the Order were Advanced in Rank followed by five members who were received into the Companionship of Merit. The Bronze Medallion in the Australian Meritorious Medallion was awarded to Mrs Wendy Bowerman, a non-member, for outstanding commitment and service to the Order in Tasmania.

At the conclusion of the Awards presentations, the Chairperson of the Governing Council, Lady Potter, proceeded with the installation of the Grand Prior Designate, Chevalier The Honourable Justice Barry O'Keefe AM QC KHS KLJ, who was escorted into the Conclave at the Cathedral by an escort party, commanded by the Marshal, with appropriate dignity and traditions of the Order. During the installation the new Grand Prior swore his oath of office and received the Chain of Office of the Grand Prior. Following his installation the Grand Prior expressed his thoughts and hopes for the future of the Order in these momentous times.

A formal Chapter Dinner at the Stamford Plaza Hotel followed the Investiture Ceremonies.

The Chapter concluded on Sunday morning with a High Mass celebrated in St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Monsignor Robert Aitken preached the Sunday Homily. At the conclusion of High Mass, members returned to the Stamford Plaza Hotel for a farewell luncheon.

Congratulations are due to the Commandery of South Australia for the success of National Chapter - The Honourable Justice Kemerli Murray, President, and to Chevs. Ellis Wayland and Ian Chesterman, on behalf of all South Australian members who contributed to a most productive and pleasant Chapter. Well done all.

Monsignor Anthony K. Toms JChLJ, OMLJ
Jurisdictional Chaplain Australia and
Member IC-PO, PRC

NOTES OF THE GRAND PRIOR'S ADDRESS ON HIS INSTALLATION IN ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL

"Madam Chairman of the Governing Council of our Order, Lady Potter, my Lords Bishop, Knights, Dames, Commanders, Officers of the Order, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Tonight my heart is full; full of gratitude to my fellow Members of our ancient and noble Order for having elected me to be your Grand Prior. It is a signal honour, a privilege - one which I never envisaged when I attended the second meeting of the Order ever held in Australia more than 25 years ago, when our numbers were few indeed; the Order a mere fledgling.

Just as I am conscious of the privilege you have conferred on me, I am, and hope I shall ever be, conscious of the correlative responsibility that such privilege carries with it, for there can be no privilege without a corresponding responsibility. Being Grand Prior is a responsibility that I shall endeavour to my utmost to fulfil in the spirit of the Order and for its long term good.

I come to office as Grand Prior only too aware of the grand tradition of service that I inherit from my illustrious predecessors in that office. Grand Priors Emeritus Chev Dr Mervyn Smith and Chev Anthony Sallmann have worn the Chain of Grand Prior with distinction and fulfilled their duties in accordance with the highest ideals of our Order of Chivalry. These are great exemplars.

And of course there is my immediate predecessor, Lady Potter. She too has distinguished herself as Grand Prior and beyond. She has represented

Australia at the highest levels in the international echelons of the Order. She has done so with great dignity, distinction and aplomb. She has worked tirelessly for the Order. I, we, all of us, owe her our love and respect as well as a deep debt of gratitude.

May I move from the past and look to the future?

The year ahead is likely to be one of the most significant in the recent history of our Order. As His Eminence Cardinal Pell said in his letter that was read at our National Chapter:

"There are matters of transcending significance that have to be dealt with".



The New Grand Prior giving his address following installation

Re-unification will be dominant amongst such matters: re-unification with our brothers and sisters in Lazarus who severed their allegiances to the then Grand Master, the Duke of Brissac, in Toronto in 2004; re-unification with the Malta obedience on honourable terms and under the leadership of an appropriate, fit and proper person.

Re-unification will involve making peace. It will involve an acceptance, in humility, that errors have been made and that they have not been entirely unilateral. However, the overriding imperative will be to ensure the cohesion and unity of our Order in Australia. That must be our primary objective, whatever may be the outcomes of the efforts for re-unification beyond Australia. At this National Chapter we in Australia have shown that we are one. We should remain one: one in our adherence to the ideals of the Order; one as a Grand Priory. That will require wisdom. It will require us to be astute, to be patient, to be charitable.

As we move forward we should all be mindful of the prayers said at the Vigil Service last night, especially the guidance given by Our Lord in his sermon on the mount in which he gave us the Beatitude :

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God"

Barry O'Keefe

FROM THE REFERENDARY

The Adelaide Chapter Meeting was most successful and a great tribute to the South Australian Commandery and its organising committee.

Elections:

As has been reported elsewhere Chev. The Honourable Justice Barry O'Keefe AM QC KHS KLJ has been appointed Grand Prior to succeed Lady (Primrose) Potter AC DGCLJ DGCMLJ SMLJ BCrlJ who has completed her term of office.

Chev. Kerry Bowerman OAM KLJ OMLJ was nominated as National Marshall of the Order and accepted the nomination.

Chev. Willoughby James Bailey AO KLJ OMLJ was nominated for the position of National Hospitaller and accepted the position.

Friends of the Order:

The question of recognising in a formal manner supporters of the Order was discussed and the Victorian Commandery offered to consider the

In fulfilling my role as Grand Prior I hope that I shall ever be conscious of this admonition of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as I strive, personally, to be a peacemaker and as I urge our Grand Priory in Australia to be an example to others in our desire for total re-unification, with honour and in accordance with the principles that govern all the Members of our Christian Order of Chivalry, including especially our leaders.

Finally may I again thank all of you, my brothers and sisters in Lazarus, for the honour you have done me and the privilege you have conferred on me this night, the feast of St Augustine of Canterbury. It is a night that will stand in my memory as long as I live.

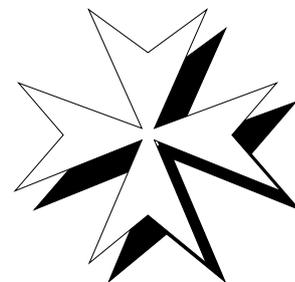
Pray for me in my new Office, as I now pray:

Direct I beseech you, O Lord, my actions by Thy holy inspiration and carry them on by Thy gracious assistance that every work of mine on behalf of our Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, may always begin from Thee and by Thee be happily ended, through Christ our Lord.... Amen."

matter and make a recommendation to the next National Chapter.

Insurance Cover for National Office Bearers:

The New South Wales Commandery has raised this matter and is seeking information with which to consider a proposal to try to obtain insurance cover for the Order on a National basis. Chev. William Killinger KLJ has sought such information from all the Commanderies.



David Crossin

**INVESTITURE HOMILY GIVEN BY
REVEREND MONSIGNOR ROBERT F AITKEN ChLJ
ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL ADELAIDE 27 May 2006**

One of the most famous paintings in the world is Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper." I think you know the one I mean. Jesus is seated at the middle of the table and grouped around Him, on either side, are the Apostles looking surprised and distressed because He has just announced that one of them is about to betray Him.

The story goes that while Leonardo was putting the finishing touches to "The Last Supper" a friend of his came around to see it. And Leonardo said: "Well, tell me the worst; what do you think of it?" And the friend said: "It's perfect! The colour, the balance, the figures, the expression everything's perfect. And Leonardo, I do love that little lamp between Christ and St. Peter."

When he heard that, Leonardo walked to the painting and, with a couple of strokes, he brushed out the lamp.

And the friend said: "But why? I said I like it."

To which Leonardo da Vinci replied: "Yes, you liked it too much. It was distracting you from Christ. And Christ is the centre of that picture."

People call us the Christians because, as far as we are concerned, Christ is the centre of the picture. Our lives revolve around Jesus Christ.

Not that we are thinking about Him all the time. That would be impossible. But, all our other interests and enthusiasms are of less importance. They take second place to our enthusiasm for Christ. They are guided by and in keeping with Christ's way of life. And if ever our interest in Sport, Politics, Science, the Arts or anything else interfered with our attachment to Christ, well then, we would do what Leonardo da Vinci did. We would tone down, or if necessary, brush out of our lives altogether the lamp – the trifle, the person, the place, the thing which was distracting us from Jesus Christ.

And on the positive side we make room for Jesus in our daily programme. Every day – every day without fail, we set aside some quality time for Him. Even on the busiest days we would leave undone other important matters rather than neglect the all-important matters of praying. And when we are planning our week-end, the most non-negotiable element in our time-table is the hour for family worship that we call "Going to Church."

And, of course, because Christ is the Centre of the Picture we practise what He preached in His Sermon on the Mount. We know that that famous Sermon was His First Policy Speech, the Opening Address in His Campaign to change the world. And we take very seriously indeed what He had to say about being gentle and merciful and peace-loving and humble and patient and forgiving and enthusiastic for justice.

What's more we consider ourselves honoured to sacrifice our own personal comfort, to use our time and our energies and our money in the service of His beloved poor. We do feed the hungry and we clothe the naked and we visit the sick and the lonely and we attend to all those other things which are the good works of the Order of St. Lazarus.

In 1888 there lived in Sweden a man called Alfred Nobel. He was famous for two things. He was the richest man in Europe and he was the inventor of dynamite.

On April 12th that year, Alfred Nobel was reading his newspaper and there, on the front page, was a report of his death – a report in which he was described as "The Merchant of Death." Alfred was rather upset, as you can well imagine. And his sister wanted him to sue the newspaper. But Alfred said: "No." No. I don't care about the error. But I'm shattered to think that when I do die they will remember me as the maker of dynamite and the Merchant of Death."

So, that very morning, Alfred Nobel changed his Will and established the Nobel Prize awards for peace and science and medicine and education. He decided that if he had money to spend he would spend it on causes much more worthy than the discovery of dynamite. He wanted to be remembered not as the Merchant of Death – but as the Merchant of Life.

Now it occurs to me that you, the members of the Order of St. Lazarus, are so many Merchants of Life. It is your great concern to provide relief and support for those in need. And you do this without any expectation of gain or favour for yourselves. For you, Christ is the Centre of the picture! And you know that Christ identifies Himself with the poor, the lonely, the distressed, anyone at all who is disadvantaged.

In that famous Chapter 25 of St. Matthew's Gospel Jesus does not say: "As often as you did it to one of these, the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to someone like Me." No, He says: "You did it to Me, to Me, Jesus."

As far as Our Lord is concerned there is absolutely no difference between Him and the person in need – the person in trouble. And how well that truth is expressed in tonight's Ceremonies of Investiture and Promotion.

As the Chaplains bless the Cross and the Insignia to be worn by every Postulant, they say: "Lord, grant that they may give themselves in service of others. to the glory of your Holy Name." May they give themselves in service of others. Yes, in service of others.

The Postulants are reminded that Jesus came into the world not to be served but to serve. And so they gladly accept the Cross – the Cross on which Jesus died in the service of others. And they readily put on the mantle which is a symbol of unity. Members of the Order are united in their love for one another and in their enthusiasm for serving those in need.

And you will notice that, not content with the recommendation of the Marshal, the Grand Prior and the Chancellor ask the Postulant to declare personally his or her determination to uphold in speech and behaviour the "high ideals of Christian devotion, service and charity."

When she is dealing with those to be promoted in rank to the office of Commander, the Grand Prior spells out even more dramatically and beautifully the presence of Jesus Christ in all the good works of the Order. "Wear this Cross" she says. "Wear this Cross to the glory of Jesus Christ..... It is the standard of Jesus, our unseen Captain."

Yes, Christ is indeed the Centre of the Picture. The Order of St. Lazarus is all about Jesus Christ. Our greatest ambition is to promote His influence, His Kingdom as He liked to call it. And we do this best of all by loving one another and serving those in need.

I don't know whether you've heard of Flannery O'Connor. She was an American, a Christian, a Novelist, who specialized in short stories. And she died in 1964.

One of her short stories was called "Bethlehem in Brooklyn". And in just 17 pages Flannery O'Connor described the Christmas event in language that every American would understand. The story was highly praised by the critics. But Flannery's agnostic cousin was not at all impressed. She said. "You know, you're rather tiresome, Flannery. You talk of God as if He's an American citizen. Look, leave Him up there in His Heaven. And He won't bother us and we won't bother Him."

Well, Christmas reminds us that God is not content to stay up there in His Heaven. He left His Heaven something like 2000 years ago and He came not to bother us but to brother us. He is our brother. He is one of the family. He is God and He is Man. Or, to put it in the words of the Christmas Carol "Veiled in flesh the God-head see Hail the Incarnate Deity."

Now, whatever about Christmas Carols, I'm sure you know that for most Australians Jesus Christ is no more than a name. If they think of Him at all, they shrug Him off as someone who lived a long, long time ago and who has no real meaning in the Year 2006.

We Christians are a fairly small minority in a Nation which is trying to manage without Jesus Christ. And that makes us very sad indeed. And very humble!

Why is it that you and I have had the chance to know and love Jesus Christ – and so many others have not?

We know from observing and listening to our non-Christian friends and neighbours that they are searching for something that will give a deeper meaning to their life. And we know that that something is Someone. It is the Man who is also God. It is Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead that every Australian and every human being would live forever and be perfectly happy in His company.

It is the Jesus Christ who taught a way of life which IS guaranteed to make us happy while we're living here on earth and prepares us for that life of perfect happiness which (for want of a better word) we call Heaven. It is the Jesus Christ who invites you and me and every other Christian to introduce Him to those who do not yet know Him.

What a responsibility we have! What a privilege. And surely from this National Chapter onwards we shall be more than ever concerned to know Our Lord and love Him and advertise Him by the goodness of our lives.

A final thought!

We are preparing for the great Feast of Pentecost the birthday of the Church the day the Holy Spirit came to those 120 men and women who were the first Christians. And He came in the form of Wind and Fire.

I think it's worth noting that wind and fire are two things against which we can take out insurance. And perhaps we do! Perhaps we do take out insurance against the Holy Spirit. He is that wind and fire who is so eager to sweep away the barriers – the barriers by which we protect ourselves from being too much influenced by God.

How often we Christians try to do a deal with God. We can be tempted to keep the Holy Spirit at arm's length. To say: "Look, you can come this far but no further. I'm even willing to pay an annual premium of controlled Christian behaviour, of reasonably good Christian behaviour, as insurance against your making too many demands."

Yes, I think we are often tempted to settle for that comfortable, cosy sort of Christianity –

- to forgive 7 times, but not 70 times 7 times
- to be generous to the poor, but not until it hurts
- to recognize Christ in the nice people, but not in the uncouth, the unwashed, the unwanted
- to aim at being good – even very good – but not perfect – not as good as God wants us to be.

At Pentecost we should tear up that insurance policy. We should ask the Holy Spirit to come with fire to burn away the dross of our mediocrity, and to come with a powerful wind to break down the barriers by which we protect ourselves from being too much under His influence.

On this wonderful Feast let us ask the Holy Spirit to work wonders in us.

To borrow from that beautiful prayer of Cardinal Newman, let us ask the Holy Spirit to penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that everyone who sees us may be reminded of Jesus Christ.

Robert Aitken

ADELAIDE CHAPTER GALLERY



New Grand Prior and Mrs O'Keefe



Installation of the new Grand Prior



Outside St Peter's Cathedral following the Investiture and Installation



A tender moment!



After High Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

Unification through Communication



Grand Prior O'Keefe, Justice Murray, Lady Potter and Mons Toms



Two old war horses



Postulants: MajGen Hughes, Hon Gavin Fielding and Phillip Clarkson



Down to work at the Chapter meeting



The Hon. Commissioner Ted Mullighan Q.C.



Fr Nichols and Lady Potter



The new Marshal under instruction



Hon Justice Keneri Murray Presenting the Grand Prior's Collar

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMMANDERIES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Many of us greatly enjoyed the hospitality of our colleagues in Adelaide. Our next gathering is on Friday 25 August when we look forward to the company of our Grand Prior. Any others who will be in Canberra on that day are most welcome to join us

John Donovan

NEW SOUTH WALES

New Members – Transfer from overseas.

We are pleased to announce the acceptance of a family of new members who have transferred to our Commandery from overseas.

Background

William (Ben) Franklin is an Australian citizen 56 years of age. Ben was educated in Sydney at Cranbrook School and proceeded to undertake studies to become ordained in the Anglican Church. Some 27 years ago he moved to the UK to complete his religious studies and become ordained. He married Antoinette and had a family of two boys who are now aged 19 and 22 years. Ben joined the Royal Navy as a chaplain and has served there for the last 16 years until his recent retirement from the Senior Service. His naval career includes some very prestigious postings such as chaplain to the submariners.

Order of St Lazarus

Ben joined the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem some seven years ago in 1999 as an Assistant Chaplain and was promoted to Chaplain in the Grand Priory of England and Wales in August 2004. It is understood that the rank of Chaplain equates with Commander within the Order. His UK referee stated that “he would, undoubtedly have been promoted to the rank of Senior Chaplain in 2007, if not before, such was his commitment to the aims of the Order and contribution to the spiritual health of the Grand Priory.”

British Status of New Members:

The status of the family within the Grand Priory of England and Wales is:

- a) Ben Franklin a Chaplain (an ecclesiastic rank equivalent to Commander)
- b) His wife Antoinette an Officer
- c) His son Richard, 19 years of age an Esquire.
(Esquire is a junior rank below Officer and it is understood that in the UK on reaching 21 years of age, Esquires become an Officer.
- d) The other son is not a member of the Order.

The three family members, who are members of OSL in the UK, have joined our Order in Australia. They are aware that we are affiliated with the Paris Obedience, even though the UK body is affiliated with the Obedience led by Prince Charles-Philippe.

Ben Franklin and his family have recently migrated to Australia and are settling in Sydney.

Ben gave up his career in the Anglican Church as an ordained priest and having left that church has become a lay member of the Roman Catholic Church.

The NSW Commandery has requested and received a "Certificate of Good Standing" for Ben and his family, from Gareth Vaughan KLJ who is Registrar & Communications Officer, Grand Priory of England and Wales. This reference was very complimentary.

Ben's address in Australia is WH Franklin, 1 Ruthven Street, Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Tel: 0416 576 838.

Acceptance:

The prospective member was interviewed by our Commandery President and Secretary and executive. This interview was very favourable and the applicant appears an excellent acquisition. We have obtained a "letter of good standing" from the Registrar & Communications Officer of the Grand Priory of England & Wales. Both Ben Franklin and his wife Antoinette are an excellent fit for us and are readily accepted as members.

Ben and Antoinette's son Richard 19 years of age, will be nurtured until 21 years of age, when he will be eligible to be admitted as a member of our Order.

We are confident that these new members will make a significant contribution to the NSW Commandery and the Australian Grand Priory of the Military Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.

Upcoming Events in New South Wales

- Monday 21 August - General Meeting, Royal Automobile Club 6.30pm
- Sunday 22 October - Summerlees Park luncheon. From 11.00am. Summerlees Park is the rural home of Ross and Joan Brown, located at RMB 1386 Yarramalong Road, Yarramalong in the beautiful Yarramalong valley, only a 50 minute drive North from Wahroonga. You will enjoy a relaxing day on a farm, so wear old cloths, walking shoes and bring a sun hat. A great opportunity for us to build our lifelong friendship and fellowship.
- Monday 23 October - Executive Meeting 14 Matong St Gordon 6.00pm
- Monday 30 October - Annual General Meeting, National Trust Building, Observatory Hill, 6.30pm

- Friday 24 November - Patronal Feast Day. The service will be held in the crypt of the beautiful St Mary's Cathedral where our National Chaplain George Cardinal Pell will conduct the service. This is an inspirational experience and your presence will be well rewarded. Dinner will follow in the Buena Vista Restaurant which is located above the Supreme Court building in Macquarie Street, an easy walk from the Cathedral. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Ross Brown - President

Atavis and Armis- Valour in the spirit of our forefathers

QUEENSLAND

Members of the Queensland Commandery who attended the Adelaide Chapter Meeting came back refreshed to continue our work in our charitable activities with considerable verve. Congratulations to the South Australian Commandery for such a very well organized event.

Since that time the Queensland Commandery has continued to have regular animated monthly meetings. It has been decided that on the 15th of October we will have a special commemorative service for the Blessed Gerard. This will be held on Sunday, 15th October at the Holy Trinity Church, Fortitude Valley. This is the first time we have done this so it is all a bit exciting.

We are delighted to have a new member, Ms Lorraine Martin. Lorraine enjoyed her induction to the Order in Adelaide. She is already proving to be a valued member of the Commandery. Unfortunately one of our long standing members, Mr Greg Vickery, has asked to be placed on the inactive list. Greg is deeply involved with the Red Cross at a national and international level. As a result he has been unable to support the OLG as he would like. Hopefully he will be able to return to active duties at a latter stage.

The Commandery was delighted to see that our longstanding member, Mr Bill Tunny, has been promoted to Knight and that he has taken on the big task of National Treasurer.

At the Chapter meeting the Queensland Commandery Directory of Members Past and Present was launched. This has been a labour of love by many members. In particular Mrs Maureen Freer, Dr Fred Schubert and Mr John O'Keeffe have been instrumental in pulling this Directory together. They are to be thanked for this considerable effort.

The Directory evoked quite a lot of interest at the Chapter Meeting and if any other Commandery is interested in how this project was formulated they should contact Mrs Maureen Freer through her email address, mfreer@bigpond.net.au.

Hands on activity continues with our support of Mr Stan Gray, a quadriplegic aboriginal man whom we have been supporting over the past six years and volunteer work at the Mission for Seafarers.

Most of our energies in the past month or so have been directed towards our major fundraising brunch which will be held at the residence of Mr and Mrs Brian Flannery for the second year in a row on the 23rd July. The Governor of Queensland, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, has graciously accepted our invitation to attend. This is the first time we have had such an illustrious person attend this function. At this stage we hope to have 160+ people in attendance which is very gratifying. We will be supporting the same charities that we have supported in the past. Many representatives of these charities will be present.

In summary the Queensland Commandery is cracking on. Our major problem is new members and this is being addressed.

Gordon Mor

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The South Australian Commandery was delighted to host the 2006 National Chapter here in Adelaide at the end of May. With 102 members and 41 accompanying non-members registered we had a very successful few days. The weather was pretty much as requested and our first event – a trip to Hahndorf and, in particular, The Cedars, which was the home of Sir Hans Heysen – set the tone for a great time together. We next gathered together for a Government House reception which was followed by dinner at the Adelaide Club.

The next day involved many members in meetings before we all attended the Vigil service at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Walkerville. Ellis Wayland had set the mood for the Vigil by hiring a number of candelabra and the playing of a Gregorian chant. It was a moving service for the 15 postulants at the Vigil. Unfortunately Cardinal Pell, our National Chaplain, was unable to be with us but Deputy National Chaplain, Bishop Ian George, very capably stepped in to see that our church services were conducted with dignity and reverence.

The Chapter's main business is well-reported elsewhere in this publication and there is little need to comment further in this report.

The Investiture service at St Peter's Anglican Cathedral was a splendid affair and the address by our new Grand Prior and the sermon preached by Monsignor Robert Aitken are published elsewhere in this Lazarus Letter. There were 17 postulants made Officers in the Order, four Officers advanced to Commander and nine Commanders advanced to Knight or Dame. There were also five members admitted to the Companionship of Merit and one non-member awarded the Bronze Medallion of the Order. The installation of our new Grand Prior followed and was very moving.

The Chapter's formal dinner at the Stamford Plaza Hotel was enriched by an address from The Hon. Commissioner Ted Mullighan Q.C. whose insights into the issues in our society were thought provoking and very appropriate to the audience.

Solemn Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral followed on Sunday morning and was another opportunity for the Order to be visible in the community. The farewell luncheon which followed saw the South Australians breathing a sigh of relief that all the arrangements had worked pretty well and that there had not been any major disasters. It is refreshing to know that we have seven years respite before it is our turn again.

Turning now to our Commandery's activities I can report that we will be holding a cocktail function in the Adelaide Arcade on 22 November with a silent auction of Christmas theme items that a number of leading artists and personalities will have decorated. The charity to benefit from this event is the Cora Barclay Centre for the deaf and hearing impaired children.

Our Commandery meetings are set down for:

22 August

17 October

14 November

St Lazarus Day service early December but not yet fixed.

Ian Chesterman
On behalf of Kemeru Murray

TASMANIA

The Tasmanian contingent returned home from Adelaide and the National Chapter Meeting a little concerned about the difficulties we face on the international scene, but inspired by the three Services of worship, encouraged by being with other members of the Order from the length and breadth of Australia, and full of praise for the way our hosts

had planned and presented every detail of our coming together.

Since then we have had one meeting of our Commandery. Our focus is clearly on the opportunities for care and service which never seem to decrease. We yearn for reunification and the clarification with regard to the position of Grand Master, but have resolved that nothing will deflect us from the work God has called us to do.

We are able to report on two important developments on the Tasmanian scene.

The first is the completion of a *Prayer Resource*, the work of our Chaplains. Members are encouraged to use the resource at least once a week, on a Wednesday where possible, so that the Commandery is united in regular prayer for all aspects of the Order, in Tasmania, throughout Australia, and internationally. This may be an idea that other Commanderies would like to emulate. A copy of the prayer leaflet may be obtained by writing to the Tasmanian Secretary or President.

The second item on which we can report is progress with the recruiting of new members. We recently invited prospective members to be our guests at a Cocktail Party so that we might share with them "our story". As President I welcomed our guests and told them a little of our Order and its work on the local scene, with Past President Kerry Bowerman speaking on "What the Order Means to Me". Members of the Commandery were then able to answer any questions as they chatted informally with our guests. Each prospective member is being followed up with a personal contact. We are confident that a number of those present will feel a strong call to share in the life and ministry of the Order. It is intended to hold a similar evening later in the year.

Plans are also in hand for our Annual Quiet Morning, to be conducted this year by Fr Brian Nichols, and for our Service and Annual Dinner in December, our Feast of Patron celebration.

(Bishop) Phillip K Newell

VICTORIA

The Commandery AGM on 2nd May elected the following members to office for the following 12 months:

President:	Max Carr KLJ
Secretary:	Beverly Charlton CLJ
Treasurer:	Peter Bearsley O LJ
Herald:	Roger Blythman RFD KLJ

Almoner: Glenise Masters DLJ

Hospitaller: Rosalind Lawrence DLJ

Social Convenor: Margaret Bevan CLJ OMLJ

The annual Quiet Day was again held in March when a number of members travelled to Seymour for a day of fellowship and spiritual reflection hosted by Monsignor Tony Toms.

A fund raising event, "Gala Dinner at the Club", was held on 14th July when some 100 members and friends gathered at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club for dinner and entertainment by opera singers under the leadership of Maestro Richard Divall OBE. Almost \$16,000 was raised towards the Commandery's charitable fund.

Further fund raising events planned for later in the year include a film afternoon in September and an art exhibition in November, and the traditional Annual Lazarus Day Service and Dinner in December.

The Commandery continues to support three main causes –

- The Lazarus Centre in the city of Melbourne,
- The Wellington Centre in Collingwood, and
- The Green Cross bus outreach project.

At recent Commandery meetings reports from our representatives of each of these organizations have indicated the value and benefit we are able to provide through our relationship and contributions.

Here's another story from the Lazarus Centre. Father Michael Hopkins was given a ticket to the Commonwealth Games which he made available for use by a "client" of the Centre. At first it was difficult to give it away, some felt inadequate, would not fit in, wouldn't be dressed appropriately, would be uncomfortable. It was finally given to a younger man sitting quietly in the background who said it would be a great day out. When he returned to the Centre a few days later he was asked how his day at the Games went. "I had a great time. I sat next to twins and we talked all day. They ended up taking me home and we had steak for dinner and lots of vegetables. It turned out I knew their father. He used to work with me in Geelong and now runs a concreting business and he ended up offering me a job. I told him I had to do some prison time. He said he would hold the job for me until I get out of prison".

A donation was recently made to the cost of one of twelve religious icon panels erected in St Peter's

church as a result of Bishop John Bayton's very detailed work with an ecumenical group of icon painters and writers.

Planning has commenced in regard to arrangements for National Chapter to be held in Melbourne on 20 – 22 April 2007

Max Carr

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We seem to have just caught our breaths, since the Chapter Meeting in Adelaide, and here we are reporting for the September Lazarus Letter.

The twelve Members and spouses from the W A Commandery who attended the National Chapter Meeting in Adelaide, voted the occasion a resounding success. The day trip to The Cedars, the Church Services and the dinner venues, were outstanding and the organisation most efficient. The Investing of, and acceptance speech which followed, by the incoming Grand Prior Justice Barry O'Keefe, was nothing short of inspirational and we feel that the Australian Grand Priory is in wise and safe hands.

Our sincere thanks must go to the Grand Prior Emeritus, Lady Potter, who for the six years she held Office, totally devoted herself to the Order of St. Lazarus. She gave of herself both in representing us but also imparted a dignity and selflessness to the position which will be hard to surpass.

The Commandery held its Annual General meeting on April 18th last, when the following Office Bearers were elected:

President: Elizabeth Summerhayes DLJ
Secretary & Auditor: Jock Morrison KLJ OMLJ
Treasurer: Tony Gardner CLJ
Almoner: Kevin Fox-Slater KLJ
Hospitalier: Terry Jackson AM CLJ
Herald: Richard O'Clery CLJ

Eleven Members and Spouses spent a weekend in New Norcia 24th – 25th of June.

It was a busy two days filled with prayers, chanting with the Monks and discussions with Dom Chris Power, as to the work being currently carried out in the Community and many of the plans which are in place to preserve and restore this historic town. Larry Foley KLJ, a former student, organised the event in great detail and caused secret places in the Monastery to be opened to us.

The men were most fortunate to be allowed to visit the Library, which is home to many rare

manuscripts and books, whilst the ladies were taken by Larry to see the refurbished, painted Chapel at St Ildephonsus Boys' School, which is an important part of the campus.

It was olive picking time and some hours were spent walking over the property, which included watching their famous olive oil being produced by the 100 year old grinding stones and equipment. The restored Apiary was also inspected.

Mass On Sunday found us processing with the Monks, the oldest of whom is 96 years, followed by celebration of High Mass in the Abbey Cathedral.

After enjoying a wonderful country roast lunch in the Guest House, we headed for home. Promising ourselves that the calmness and tranquility of New Norcia might just stay with us for a short while before we joined the hustle and bustle of the city.



Sue Fielding, Jane Morrison, Irene Davies, Elizabeth Summerhayes and Julie Gardner in the Chapel of St Ildephonsus at New Norcia

Our Annual Fundraiser for Sunday 5th November, is in the process of being planned, 600 tickets printed and soon the task of selling will begin.

Tanya and Peter Young have generously allowed us to use their Garden again but with the added feature of a preview of a new garden under construction, on a recently acquired, adjacent block.



WA Commandery Members with Dom Chris Power after Mass at New Norcia

Their English architect has been in residence, and from the talk of dovecotes and the 11th Century acquisition from Thailand, I know this will be another beautiful experience not to be missed.

The WA Commandery has allocated our donations for 2006. They are as follows:

Parkerville Children's Home Inc. Armadale Project.	\$4,000
St. Bartholomew's House Inc. - Refurbishment Program	\$4,000
St. Patrick's Care Centre, Fremantle.	\$4,000
Wyn Carr House, Fremantle - Women's Refuge.	\$4,000
Passages Resource Centre	\$2,000
East Timor University Student Support	\$2,000

The dates for the Commandery Meetings for the remainder of 2006 are as follows:

Tuesday 1st August

Tuesday 17th October

Tuesday 12th December - St. Lazarus Day Service and Dinner.

Elizabeth Summerhayes



TONY'S CHRISTMAS SHORTBREAD



As this special edition of Lazarus Letter is going to press earlier than usual, the catch phrase *Christmas in July* is not inappropriate, for I intended to share this treat with you in September, which I bake each Christmas for my nieces and nephews. It is a simple recipe I have taken from my mother's notes while she was a student at the Emily McPherson School of Domestic Economy, (*acknowledgment given Mum*) and I have converted the avoirdupois to metric. The following ingredients should make about two dozen standard-sized shortbread biscuits.

Ingredients

375gm of sifted plain flour
 60gm of sifted rice flour
 275gm soft butter cut into small portions
 150gm caster sugar
 sliced blanched almonds and or glazed cherries
 1 teaspoon of salt

Utensils

large mixing bowl
 non-stick baking tray
 sharp kitchen knife

Method:

1. First of all preheat the oven to 170-180 degrees celsius or 325 degrees fahrenheit.
2. In the large mixing bowl beat the soft cubes of butter and 150gm of caster sugar together till smooth, then sift in the plain flour, rice flour and salt until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. I find it easier to mix using my fingers.
3. With your fingers mix together gently into a smooth dough, gently, so that the butter does not become oily.
4. With your hands, not a rolling pin, press out the shortbread dough onto a lightly floured surface until it is about one centimeter thick.

5. With a sharp knife cut the dough into the desired shape then place onto the nonstick baking tray, leaving a centimeter gap between each slice. Add a blanched almond or a half sliced cherry on top of the shortbread.
6. Place the shortbread tray into the hot oven for approximately 30-40 minutes or until the shortbread begin to turn a light golden brown. Once the shortbread begin to turn golden brown take the shortbreads out of the oven else they will burn. Dust with some caster sugar and allow to cool before removing from the tray.

You may need to repeat the above sooner than you think as it has been my experience that these *Christmas Shortbreads* have a very short shelf-life!

Happy baking, Tony



NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER – 27-29 OCTOBER 2006

The Grand Priory of New Zealand will be holding its annual Chapter meeting in Dunedin on 27-29 October 2006.

Members of the Australian Grand Priory are cordially invited to attend – the haggis for the Chapter dinner has already been ordered.

Registration and accommodation details can be obtained from:

Chev John Scott
132 Hackthorne Road, Christchurch, New Zealand
email JohnScott@xtra.co.nz Phone 0064 3 332 6743, Fax 0064 3 3374477

NEW MEMBERS & ADVANCEMENTS

The following new members were invested in Adelaide as Officers of the Order:

Roger Beale AO OLJ	ACT
Phillip Clarkson OLJ	NSW
The Hon Gavin Fielding OLJ	WA
Dr Charles George OLJ	NSW
Master David Harper OLJ	ACT
Dr Terence Hoolahan OLJ	NSW
Major General James Hughes AO DSO MC OLJ	VIC
Kerry Jones OLJ	NSW
Michael Jones OLJ	NSW
Edith Kidd OLJ	NSW
Dr Victoria McGahey OLJ	NSW
Lorraine Martin AO OLJ	QLD
Enza Messina OLJ	NSW
John Pegg OLJ	NSW
Pamela Schulz OLJ	SA
John Straskye OLJ	NSW
Warwick Wilkinson OLJ	NSW

The following members were advanced in rank or admitted to the Companionship of Merit in Adelaide:

Peter Cavanagh OLJ	Commander
Regina McGuire OLJ	Commander
Basil Taliangis OLJ	Commander
John Castles CLJ	Knight
Judge Paul Flannery CLJ	Knight
William Killinger CLJ	Knight
Rosalind Lawrence CLJ	Dame
David Masters CLJ	Knight
Beverley Seaton CLJ	Dame
Barry Strong CLJ	Knight
William Tunny CLJ	Knight
Max Yelds CLJ	Knight
Willoughby Bailey AO KLJ	OMLJ
Ronald Banks AM CLJ	OMLJ
Kerry Bowerman OAM KLJ	OMLJ
Sr Juliana Coulson AM DLJ	CMLJ
Sara Wordsworth DLJ	CMLJ

In addition to the above, Wendy Bowerman of Tasmania was awarded the Bronze Medallion of the Order.

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA HONOURS

Our congratulations to the following member who has been recognised under the Order of Australia in the 2006 Queens Birthday Honours:

Roger Beale AO OLJ	ACT	Appointed Officer (AO)
Kerry Bowerman OAM KLJ OMLJ	TAS	Awarded Medal (OAM)

In addition your scribe has learned of two more members who were recognised in the Order of Australia but were not acknowledged previously in this journal.

Joan Kitchin (nee Buchanan) AM DLJ	QB 2004	Appointed Member (AM)
Terry Jackson AM CLJ	QB 2004	Appointed Member (AM)

REPORT ON THE CHAPTER GENERAL HELD AT THE HOTEL SCHLOSSWEIKERSDORF BADEN AUSTRIA FROM 27-30 APRIL 2006

GENERAL

1. A Chapter General for the Paris Obedience of the Hospitaller and Military Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem was called by the Grand Referendary, following the London meeting of the Governing Council in October 2005 and was held at the Hotel Schloss Werikersdorf in Baden, Austria, from 27-30 April 2006.
2. The Grand Magistry and Governing Council of the order met in conclave on Wednesday 26 April 2006 to discuss and fine tune the Agenda both for the Governing Council and the Chapter General. This meeting was not open to observers but only to Heads of Jurisdiction and invited members of Commissions.
3. Registration of members took place during the afternoon and a welcome Cocktail Party

took place in the evening in the ornate courtyard of the Hotel Schloss Werikersdorf.

SPIRITUAL

4. The organizing committee for the Chapter General wrote into the daily programme a Morning Ecumenical Prayer Service which was held in the designated "prayer room" of the Hotel and was conducted by chaplains of the Order, Monsignor Anthony K. Toms of Australia, Monsignor Lothar Schlegel of the European Humanitarian Community and Very Reverend Father Val McInness OP of the Grand Priory of America. The Spiritual Protector of the Order His Beatitude Gregory III Laham presided at the Morning prayers and elaborated on the scriptural texts.
5. A Vigil Service for Postulants and those to be promoted or advanced was conducted by the Order's chaplains in St. Stephen's Church in Baden on Friday evening 28 April 2006. The parish of Baden was established in 1312 and is also noted for Mozart's *Ave Verum* which was played for the first time in St. Stephen's Church.
6. The Investiture Service, which was presided over by the His Beatitude the Spiritual Protector, took place in the magnificent baroque church of St. Stephen's on Saturday evening 29 April 2006. Monsignor Anthony K. Toms was Principal Celebrant and preached the Occasional Homily he was assisted by Monsignor Lothar Schlegel, Very Reverend Fr. Val McInness and chaplains of the Order. At the conclusion of Mass, Chev Klaus-Peter Pokolm introduced the Investiture Service which was presided over by the Grand Master Emeritus and Members of the Grand Magistry.
7. At the conclusion of the Investiture Service, His Beatitude presided held an ancient Eastern Agape Ceremony of the blessing of bread, wine and olive oil after which members of the Order and parishioners of St. Stephen's received a piece of bread from His Beatitude and then dipped it into the oil and wine. His Beatitude clearly explained that the blessing was not a consecration but an Eastern ceremonial custom.

THE CHAPTER GENERAL

8. The Chapter General was attended by 110 members from thirteen Jurisdictions: America, Australia, Canada, European Humanitarian Commandery, France,

Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, New Zealand, Poland, Scotland, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

9. Chev Klaus-Peter Pokolm Grand Prior of the European Humanitarian Commandery (EHC) was convening host for the Chapter General and welcomed all members to this historic meeting, in particular His Beatitude the Spiritual Protector and His Excellency the Duke of Brissac. Due to the necessity of administrative matters, Chev Klaus-Peter Pokolm requested the chairmanship of the Chapter General be conducted by Chev Georges Parent, Grand Secretary, this was accepted.
10. His Excellency the Duke of Brissac declared the Chapter General open and read from a prepared statement indicating that he would resign from his position as Acting Grand Master and would be happy to accept a title of Grand Master Emeritus. It was also the intention of the Duke of Brissac to write to the Duke of Seville and suggest that he may do likewise should his marriage annulment continue to be prolonged beyond a reasonable period of time. The Duke of Brissac also thanked His Beatitude, the Spiritual Protector, and stated that he should continue in his role towards a united Order. This was greeted by unanimous applause.
11. Following the words of the Grand Master Emeritus the Grand Chancellor Chev Bruce Harrington, in response to a question, informed the Chapter General that at this point in time the Paris Obedience did not have a Grand Master, neither *Acting* nor *Elect*, the two year terms given at the Chapter General in Toronto in 2004 to the Duke of Brissac as *Acting Grand Master* and the Duke of Seville as *Grand Master Elect* having expired on 8 March 2006 and were not extended. The Duke of Seville, although no longer *Grand Master Elect*, was given a reasonable time to endeavor to get his personal matters rectified
12. Governance of the Order. The Chapter General unanimously endorsed the decision of the Governing Council, under the Chairmanship of the Lady Potter, that the Paris Obedience component of the Joint Reunification Commission (JRC), would manage all the affairs of the Paris Obedience in the absence of a Grand Master. Those members of the JRC are: Chev Bruce

Harrington (Chairman), Chev Bob Vandewater and Lady Potter.

JURISDICTIONAL REPORTS

13. Reports of the 13 Jurisdictions were given by their Grand Priors and will be reported elsewhere.

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPORT

14. The Chair of the Governing Council, Lady Potter, gave a report to the Chapter General on the deliberations and decisions of the Governing Council. While no written report was given to the Chapter General the salient points were:

- a. that the New Joint Constitution, drafted by the JRC's of both Obedience's and as amended on 11 March 2006, has been approved and adopted. This was the competence of the Governing Council and not a matter for the Chapter General to debate. It was given universal approbation by the plenary body of the Chapter General,
- b. that in the legal opinion, concerning the terms of both the Acting Grand Master and the Grand Master Elect as having expired, this opinion was accepted by the Governing Council,
- c. that the offer of the Duke of Brissac to remain in an acting position was not accepted as this would require 180 days notice and an election to the position,
- d. that the Governing Council having invited the Spiritual Protector to offer his advice on the matter of reunification, accepted his opinion of the importance of merging "sooner rather than later" with the Malta Obedience, and
- e. that the Governing Council is looking towards November 2006 as a possible date for the merger with the Malta Obedience.

15. The Chair of the Governing Council read a long resolution that had been proposed in the Governing Council by the Jurisdictions of South Africa and New Zealand, that the Paris Obedience merge with the Malta Obedience no later than 1 November 2006. The resolution was couched in legalize which made it extremely difficult for most members to comprehend. Lady Potter offered to read it as many times as members needed, however after long discussions a request was made to the Chair to have printed copies made and available for all members to read following the mid-morning

break. (A copy of this resolution appears on page three of this Lazarus Letter).

16. A very robust debate followed on the terminology contained in Para 3 "*...shall reunite with and merge into the Malta Obedience...*" This was perceived by many members present in the Chapter General that the Paris Obedience would be 'swallowed up' by the Malta Obedience and thus strongly rejected this wording. The proposers defended the wording of their resolution stating that it was a legal necessity, due to the Malta Obedience being a corporate entity and holding ownership of the intellectual property.

Following lengthy debate without decision, the Chair announced that the Governing Council would review the wording *merge with*. The meeting then adjourned for lunch.

17. Following the luncheon adjournment the Chapter General reconvened. The Chair asked Chev Mitch Laithrop to repeat his earlier motion that the Governing Council's resolution be confirmed. Without indicating whether the Governing Council had amended its resolution or inviting any discussion, the Chairman called for a seconder, put the motion and declared it carried while a member was seeking permission to speak. Later in the meeting, that member was given an opportunity to speak and he explained his concern at the absence of any notice of the proposed resolution being given by the Governing Council, that this may well have contributed to the limited attendance at the Chapter General and that reunification cannot be claimed without embracing the 1,000 or more members who had broken away from the Paris Obedience in Toronto. His remarks were applauded by a number of members present.
18. The Grand Hospitaller, Chev Tom Yarrington, gave a comprehensive report on the Order's Charitable and Hospitaller works and will be reported elsewhere on the Order's web site. Two individual presentations were made as part of the Grand Hospitaller's report:
 - a. an informative and comprehensive report was given by Mr. Phillip Tilemann on the work of Lazarus Hilfswerk, in particular, dealing with the post tsunami emergency assistance given to the Island of Nias Indonesia following the 26 December 2004

catastrophe. Lazarus Hilfswerk has played an important part in the construction and rebuilding of schools, student dormitory accommodations and village infrastructure on the Island of Nias. A recent visit to Nias by Chev Klaus-Peter Pokolm and Mr. Tilemann Sr. can be viewed on the Order's website.

- b. Monsignor Anthony K. Toms gave a report on the Saint Lazarus Asia Disaster Relief Programme carried out on Nias with reference to the initial rice distribution to homeless villagers, the construction of over 60 fishing boats with new nets and gear, and the Lazarus Module House project. Special thanks were given to Dr. Peter Kremser who over saw the project on behalf of the Order and LHW
19. The Grand Treasurer, Chev Schalk Visser, presented the Finance report and will be reported elsewhere.
20. The Grand Referendary, Chev Bob Vandewater, presented his report and it will be available on the Order's website

IC-PO PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

21. The IC-PO PR Commission held it's meeting on Friday morning 28 April to formalize the regulations of the Public Relations Commission. Items covered were:
 - a. the Mission of the Public Relations Commission,
 - b. Organization,
 - c. Responsibilities of Jurisdictions.
 - d. Activities,
 - e. Responsibilities of the Chairman of the Commission
22. Chev Klaus-Peter Pokolm is the Chairman of the Public Relations Commission; he is responsible for establishing meetings and agendas, all security aspects for the Order's web sites, electronic archives, and the dismissal of representatives or seconded personnel to the Commission and the recommendation of honours for members.

OBSERVATIONS

23. In brief the Baden Chapter General of the Paris Obedience of the Military and Hospitaller order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem may be summarized by the following:

- a. the amended Constitution produced by the Joint Reunification Commission (JRC) with the amendment of 11 March 2006 and issued on 14 March 2006 had been adopted.
- b. The Paris Obedience does not currently have a Grand Master.

The governance of the Paris Obedience, until reunification with the Malta Obedience, will be conducted by the Paris Obedience component of the JRC.
- c. It has been proposed that the Paris Obedience should merge with the Malta Obedience no later than 1 November 2006.
- d. The offer of the Duke of Brissac to continue as Acting Grand Master has not been accepted by the Governing Council and he has accepted the title of Grand Master Emeritus.
- e. The Duke of Seville has been offered a reasonable time to await the result of the Tribunal's decision regarding his annulment.

CONCLUSION

24. Following the Investiture Ceremony in the historic St. Stephen's Church Baden, a Gala Dinner was held for members and guests in the Ball Room of the Congress Casino Baden. During Dinner members and guests were entertained by an excellent quartet playing Viennese music.
25. During the formal part of the evening, His Beatitude spoke to the assembled diners a highly spiritual motivating talk reminding them of the great historic origins of the Order of the great expectations for the future of a truly united Order of Saint Lazarus. His Beatitude's inspiring words were followed by the chairperson of the Governing Council Lady Primrose Potter who gathered all the components of the Chapter General together and thanked those responsible for their various contributions. In particular, Lady Potter sincerely thanked Chev Klaus-Peter Pokolm who was the co-coordinator of the physical aspects of the Chapter General. The contribution of the Marshals was particularly noted by Lady Potter for the co-ordination of the Vigil and Investiture Ceremonies in St. Stephens Church under the leadership of Chev Larry Lisle and for his introduction of the principal guests at the Gala Dinner. As one Senior Officer said:

"Well done to the host and all who organized the Chapter General"

and concluded with:

"It was an international meeting which was carried out effectively and welcomed by all".

26. During the formal speeches, the Grand Chancellor, Chevalier Bruce Harrington, summarized his personal impressions of the Chapter General 2006 and followed with an official statement, that was addressed to the Head of the European Jurisdiction, that the European Jurisdiction had, by a unanimous decision of the Governing Council, been raised to a Grand Priory. Congratulations to the EHC.

27. The Grand Chancellor continued:

"the Chapter General in Baden was from beginning to end outstanding in all respects. All of the arrangements, including the lovely accommodations, the beautiful venues for our Vigil and Investiture Services, and the closing

celebration were all outstanding, thoughtfully and carefully accomplished. Above all, however, was the courtesy and warm friendship of our hosts and their concern and care for us, their guests, which was very much appreciated.

Please convey my deep gratitude, admiration and applause to all those who participated in accomplishing such an outstanding event, with special thanks to our brothers and sisters in the Malta Obedience."

This report has been written from the notes of the Chapter General taken by

Monsignor Anthony K. Toms at the Chapter General.

Monsignor Anthony K. Toms, JChLJ, OMLJ

IC-PO Representative PRC

Baden,

1 May 2006

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."



Late News

Bishop, Christabel Jean (Jeanah)

On July 27, 2006

At home

Aged 69 years

On 28 July Chancellor, John Bishop, emailed many of us with the following message – it is reproduced for those who may not have email:

I regret to advise that my dear Jeanah died very suddenly at home last night.

As you know, she has not been well in recent years but she has known and accepted her health limitations without complaint and managed extremely well. It was therefore unexpected and a shock in one sense but a relief that she will not suffer further in another.

Andrew, Jamie and David have been a great help and Nick, who was in London this week, is coming home at the weekend. Dean Rowney, a former Chaplain of the Order and a friend from years ago has very kindly agreed to conduct a service for us next Friday.

I am sorry to advise you this way but I wanted to let our St Lazarus friends know and an email at this stage is much more manageable than a phone call.

Yours sincerely,

John

Princess Tatiana

Monsignor Tony Toms has emailed the following news:

*I pass onto you the sad news that **Princess Tatiana Furstin von Metternich-Winneburg** passed away in the Johannisberg Castle on 26 July 2006.*

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

More news as it comes to hand,

Tony