SOVEREIGN ORDER OF ST. JOHN
OF JERUSALEM,
KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER

Founded in Jerusalem 1113, continuing through Czar Nicholas II

Confirmed by the Royal Charter and Constitution of H.M. King Peter II of Yugoslavia

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019.

RECENT INVESTITURES

COMMANDERY OF GLASGOW

What an inspiring SOSJ Investiture we had in Glasgow in August 2019. Commencing on the Thursday evening with a Civic Reception at the City Chambers, which was hosted by Baillie Marie Garrity, followed by dinner at the Merchant House, Glasgow.

Saturday was our Investiture at St John's Renfield Church where we were joined by HMEH Grand Master Bailiff William D. Stein GCSJ MMSJ and HE Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid GCSJ MMSJ & Bar along with SOSJ members and friends from America, Canada, Sweden, Denmark and London.

Five aspirants from the Glasgow Commandery were invested, plus two promotions and one promotion from London.

At the Investiture the Glasgow Commandery was honoured to be host to the newly formed Dagmar Commandery of Denmark. Chevalier Jens Vexo KGSJ was invested as Commander of Dagmar

Commandery of Denmark followed by 6 aspirants and one promotion from their Commandery.

We were also honoured to have the world-renowned Phoenix Choir, conducted by Cameron Murdoch and accompanied by Alan Kitchen providing the musical dimension of this meaningful pageant.

A Gala Dinner and dance was the grand finale with Sunday being a fond farewell to all our guests. Thank you to all who attended to make this a memorable Investiture.

Commander Ruth Chappell Fleming DJSJ

GRAND PRIORY OF ST. HENRIK CEREMONY OF INVESTITURE

Kaleva Church Tampere, Finland Saturday 31st August 2019

The weekend started by a get together party Friday evening in the home of Tampere Commander Minna and Chevalier Osmo Romppanen. They have a lovely house on the shore of a beautiful small lake. The warm sunny evening offered an excellent opportunity to learn to know each other and some nice food plus drinks. Even two beach saunas were warmed, one of them a very traditional ancient style Finnish smoke sauna, but the guests were unfortunately not enjoying them.

The investiture was held Saturday the 31st August in the Kaleva Church, unique by its' architecture. The Order received six new Knights and one new Dame. Five of them to the Commandery of the Central Finland and two to the Commandery of Tampere. Six members were promoted.

There were also the official inductions of the Grand Prior of Finland Jukka Heinijoki and of Commander Jouko Seppänen of the Commandery of Central Finland.

The Investiture Dinner was held in an over 100 years old idyllic wooden house called Hovi. The evening passed fast with speeches, musical performances, good food and conversation. A founding member of the Tampere Commandery, Heikki Ylinen, was invited as the Honorary member of his commandery Tampere.

There is in Finland a very warm, communal and friendly atmosphere amongst the members.

The total number of members is now 60, and this figure will certainly grow substantially in the years to come.

Garden Party hosts Commander Minna and Chevalier Osmo Romppanen

Chevalier Klaus Pentti, Bailiff Thomas Pälviranta, Ulla Pentti, Anneli Uusi-Salava, Chevalier Martti Anttila

Text: Dame Milla Anttila, DGSJ

Translation and editor: H.E. Bailiff Thomas Pälviranta, GCSJ, MMSJ
Pictures: in the Church Matti Luiro, others Milla Anttila

NEWS FROM COMMANDERIES

GLASGOW COMMANDERY

We began 2019 activities with our Burns Supper Charity Dinner and Ceilidh celebrating the life of the poet Robert Burns. The evening was a great success with over 100 participants and gave us the opportunity to raise a substantial amount of funds for our charitable humanitarian work.

On Friday 12th of April we had a Heartstart Training event teaching life-saving and defibrillator skills for our SOSJ members and partners. This means that we gained certification in CPR and first aid. In return for our training we donated a portable defibrillator to be based at Hermitage Academy School for their gym which sees 1,800 children pass through it weekly.

On Saturday 22nd June we celebrated St John's Day at the home of Commander Ruth Chappell Fleming and Chevalier Brian Fleming. We were blessed with good weather which meant that we were able to dine al fresco starting and finishing with prayers led by Rev Dame Christine Murdoch.

Our recent Charitable work has seen support given to Beatson Oncology, Marie Curie Hospice Care, Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Erskine Veterans Hospital. Loaves and Fishes, Centre 81, Helensburgh Food Bank. Springburn Alive and Kicking, Phoenix Choir, Calum's Cabin and Maggies Centre.

Commander Ruth Chappell Fleming, DJSJ

ST. JOSEPH COMMANDERY, CALIFORNIA, GARDEN PARTY

The signature event for the St. Joseph Commandery was held on Saturday, September 7, 2019 at the stunning Monte Sereno home of Dan and Charmaine Warmenhoven. Guests were welcomed by the Warmehnovens as musicians from the San Jose Youth Symphony played in their foyer.

We also celebrated our honorary co-chairs, Glen and Ellen McLaughlin. Glen and Ellen have been instrumental in founding and supporting our Commandery. Without these founding members we would not have been in a position to support over 48 local charities and donate over $3,600,000 since 1998.

This year the St. Joseph Commandery is funding $303,000 for eight charities to help the sick and poor in the Santa Clara Valley. With our contributions, Diabetes Youth Family will renovate camp buildings at the Bearskin Meadow Camp for type 1 diabetic children . First Community Housing will stock kitchens and furnish studios for temporary veteran's housing. Grateful Garments will transport clothing to rape victims before they leave the medical facility. Loaves and Fishes will have a temperature-controlled van to transport meals through the county. Health Trust will renovate and furnish their new Client Services Center. Lupus Foundation of Northern California will install new office equipment. Sacred Heart Nativity School will construct a STEM lab. Valley Medical Center will install a ramp for wheelchair access to the rehabilitation pool.

Our Order is rooted in history, founded in Christian faith and aspires now, as always, to put others before self and to demonstrate love towards others in the name of Jesus Christ.

We are good stewards of this legacy. Through goodwill and devotion to a just cause, the St. Joseph Commandery has served our community with leadership, dedication and integrity for over two decades.

Host Chevalier Daniel Warmenhoven

Garden Party Organizer Dame Kristi Hernandez & Commander Allison Abbott-Kline

The Party

Dame Ellen McLaughlin, Bailiff Emeritus Grand Prior Emeritus Glen McLaughlin, Dame Suzanne Stein, Grand Master William Stein

Commander Allison Abbott-Kline, DCSJ

VANCOUVER COMMANDERY GARDEN PARTY

On August 24 Commander Judith and Prior Emeritus Robert Trowbridge hosted a Commandery garden party as a social event. Members and their guests enjoyed a lovely summer afternoon and evening get together.

Heather Haywood, Dame Heather Hamilton

Renuka Wagner, Bailiff Al Wagner, Senator Leslie Strike, Prior Emeritus Poul Hansen

*** NEW COMMANDERY***

THE DAGMAR COMMANDERY OF DENMARK

We are very pleased to welcome the newly formed Dagmar Commandery of Denmark. Commander Jens Vexo, KGSJ describes the creation and historical background of this Commandery

In November 2018, Dame Lynda-May Vexo, DCJSJ and I had a formal meeting with H.E. Conventual Bailiff Grand Commander Ian Reid, GCSJ, MMSJ & Bar. Others attending were the H.M.E.H. Grand Master Bailiff William Stein, GCSJ, MMSJ and H. E. Conventual Bailiff Grand Hospitaller May Storrie. The subject of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of re-establishing our Sovereign Order in Denmark. At the end of the discussion Ian said, "Present me with a Business Plan by the end of January 2019 and I will raise it at the LPC meeting in February." We did and it was accepted.

We became the Dagmar Commandery-in-Formation on 7 February 2019 with some Danish members transferring their membership from the London Commandery and a member from the Glasgow Commandery, a Dane living in Sweden

Then the work really began as we built our infrastructure, established our governance models, which included by-laws for our commandery and foundation in compliance with Danish charitable law and prepared in the Danish and English languages and recruited our Founding Aspirants. In six short months and countless hours of work we received all the required LPC approvals and had recruited seven approved Aspirants.

On 24 August 2019 the entire membership of the Dagmar Commandery (save one) and 6 of our 7 approved Aspirants arrived in Glasgow for a most enjoyable Investiture.

With a membership of 12 we achieved full Commandery status and I was elevated to the position of

Commander, Dagmar Commandery of Denmark, an honour I do not take lightly.

You may wonder why we chose the name Dagmar for our Commandery in Denmark. Dagmar of Bohemia, also known as Margaret of Bohemia, was born a princess in c. 1186 and died in childbirth on 24 May 1212. She was Queen Consort of Denmark between 1205 – 1212 as the first spouse of King Valdemar II (Valdemar the Victorious) of Denmark (1205) and daughter of King Premysl Ottokar I of Bohemia and his wife Adelheid of Meissen.

A Christian queen, she was known to be mild, patient and universally loved and is said to have done many good deeds for the Danes. The day after her marriage, she petitioned the king to repeal the plough tax, which was then a heavy burden on the Danes. She also begged for the release of all prisoners. Having rapidly won the love of the Danes because of her beauty, goodness and saintly life, Margaret was rechristened Dagmar ("the mother of the day") by a grateful nation. To the end of her life, she was constantly striving to ease suffering and relieve distress.

The deeds of Queen Dagmar are those which we most sincerely wish to emulate and we felt it was only fitting that we name our commandery after her, not only to honour her, but to constantly remind us of our mission to care for the sick and the less fortunate in Denmark. She would have made a grand Dame.

Queen Dagmar is buried in St. Bendt's Church in Ringsted. And, on 20 June 2020 I invite you to join us as we launch our Inaugural Investiture in St. Bendt's Church. We have been fortunate enough to have been invited to participate in the 850th Anniversary of St. Bendt's Church, where most of Denmark's Kings and Queens are buried. It will be an historic investiture with a potential 500 + people sitting in the congregational pews. Hopefully you have received your "Save The Date" notice by now. If not check the SOSJ International website. Registration packages will be available shortly.

We are very grateful for the support of LPC and, H. E. Bailiff Grand Hospitaller May Storrie, to whom we reported directly until we had achieved Commandery status.

We wish to thank the London Commandery for their support over the last two years; for taking us as transfer members; managing our financial affairs and for their ongoing support of our new commandery. We would also like to thank the Glasgow Commandery for allowing us to participate in their Investiture Service and making us feel so welcome.

Members of the Dagmar Commandery in Glasgow with the Grand Master, Grand Commander & Grand Hospitaller

Commander Jens Vexo swearing his Oath of Office with Dame the Rev. Christine Murdoch, Grand Master & Grand Commander in Glasgow.

Commander Jens A. Vexo, KGSJ

CONNECTIONS

On May 30th Chevalier Fernando Zazueta of the Commandery of St. Joseph, and his wife Cecily, spent the day with Bailiff Emeritus René Tonna-Barthet of the Commandery of London, England, and his wife Gertie. The accompanying picture (taken by Gertie) is of Fernando and Cecily with René at Hampton Court Palace just outside London. René described it as "a very enjoyable day."

PROFILE

From time to time we profile members.
Chevalier Sir John Cave-Browne-Cave Bt. KJSJ of the Vancouver Commandery.

The Full Achievement of Arms of Chevalier Sir John R. C. Cave-Browne-Cave, Bt., KJSJ, Judge of Arms and Master of Regalia

Chevalier Sir John, 17th Baronet, has connections with the Sovereign Order both modern and ancient. He has ancestors that were members of the ancient Order of St. John. He has been a member for twenty years, but he was preceded into the Sovereign Order by his father and so he has been exposed to the SOSJ and has been attending events since the mid-Eighties.

Chevalier Sir Robert, 16th Baronet, was Grand Cross of Justice, Chancellor of the Senate and Judge of Arms. Always a resource of matters heraldic, chivalric and on the history of the Sovereign Order, Sir Robert wrote the book "900 years of Chivalry", which references the descent of the Sovereign Order from the ancient Order of St. John through Russia. He also did other research and was part of the group of members that acquired a Grant of Arms for the Sovereign Order in Canada. Sir Robert was awarded the Silver Cross of Merit for his services to the Sovereign Order.

Sharing his father's interests, Sir John is also a Director of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada and he too has been placed in the office of Judge of Arms. This office is a Lieutenancy of the Grand Marshal and the Judge of Arms advises the Grand Marshal on matters of heraldry. The Judge of Arms also maintains the heraldry and symbols of the Sovereign Order and ensures that forms are correct and that uses of these devices are appropriate.

To complement this role John has also recently taken on the office of the Master of Regalia. This position is a Lieutenancy to the Grand Commander and has stewardship of the Regalia and Decorations of the Sovereign Order. This is a very committed role, connecting with all units worldwide; maintaining inventory and distributing of regalia. John takes over this office from Dame Anne Wood, DCJSJ, MMSJ., who has most capably served in this role for many years.

John is also Marshal of the Vancouver Commandery and has directed the past three Investitures and assisted in several others. Having the occasion to travel to other Investitures Sir John has often assisted or taken on roles when needed.

As one of a number of Vancouver Commandery members of the Patron's Corp of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, John helps to maintain the relationship between this Vancouver based Canadian Armed Forces Reserve Regiment and the Sovereign Order. Members of the Vancouver Commandery have been part of the Patrons Corp since it was founded.

"HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL" VIDEO

It has become a tradition at investitures of the Vancouver and Victoria Commanderies that the Service concludes with Bands of Pipers and Drummers piping the moving Scottish tune "Highland Cathedral." In Victoria it is the City of Victoria Police Pipes and Drums. In Vancouver it is performed by the Band of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, and accompanied by Rupert Lang, the Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral on the Cathedral's great organ.

The Vancouver Commandery commissioned a video of the playing of Highland Cathedral with the knowledge and approval of the Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ed Haverstock, CD.

The YouTube of this recording can be found under "Videos" in the Vancouver Commandery web-site at www.sosjvancouver.org The video is in appreciation to the Seaforth Highlander's Pipers and Drummers for their support of the investitures over many years.

ELECTIONS

The following have been elected and appointed to leadership positions in the Sovereign Order since September 2018.

Priors.
Grand Prior of Canada Stewart Johnston, KJSJ
Prior of the Western USA Brian Rauschhuber, KJSJ
Grand Prior Finland Jukka Heinijoki, KJSJ

Commanders.
Commander Allison F. Abbott-Kline, DCSJ of the Commandery of St. Joseph, California, USA

Commander Maria Dominelli, DCSJ of the Commandery of Victoria, Canada
Commander Robert K. Leonard, KJSJ of the Commandery of San Francisco, California, USA
Commander Antoinette MacAulay, DCSJ, DCSJ of the Commandery of Washington DC, USA
Commander Lorraine McLachlan, DGSJ of the Commandery of Ontario, Canada
Commander Claire Rosacco, DCSJ of the Commandery of Cleveland, USA
Commander Christophe Pouliquen, KGSJ of the Commandery of Léon-Cornoueille, Brittany, France.
Commander B.J. Sullivan, KJSJ of the Commandery of The Sierras, Nevada, USA
Commander Minna Romppanen, DGSJ of the Commandery of Tampere, Finland
Commander Jouko Seppanen, KGSJ, of the Commandery of Central Finland.
Commander Jens Vexo, KGSJ of the Commandery of Dagmar, Denmark
Commander Joy Zsombor has been re-elected as Commander of the Okanagan Commandery, Canada

Our congratulations to all.

FORTHCOMING INVESTITURES AND EVENTS

2019

November 9.	Commandery of the Palm Beaches Investiture followed by a Cruise.
December 1.	Glasgow Commandery charity concert with the Phoenix Choir

2020

February 1.	Glasgow Commandery charity Burns Supper
May 2.	The Bay Area Investiture. San Francisco.
May 18.	St. Joseph Commandery Golf Tournament
June 20	Commandery of Victoria Medieval Faire
June 20 -21	Commandery of The Sierras Investiture
June 20-21	Commandery of Dagmar Investiture. Copenhagen
June 27-28	Priory of Brittany. Investiture and Retreat.
August 30.	Commandery of Pieksamaki, Finland. (Requested but not confirmed).
September 14 – 20.	Sovereign Council Meetings and Events. Vancouver.
September 26.	St. Joseph Commandery Garden Party
November 28.	Commandery of London Investiture. London UK.

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