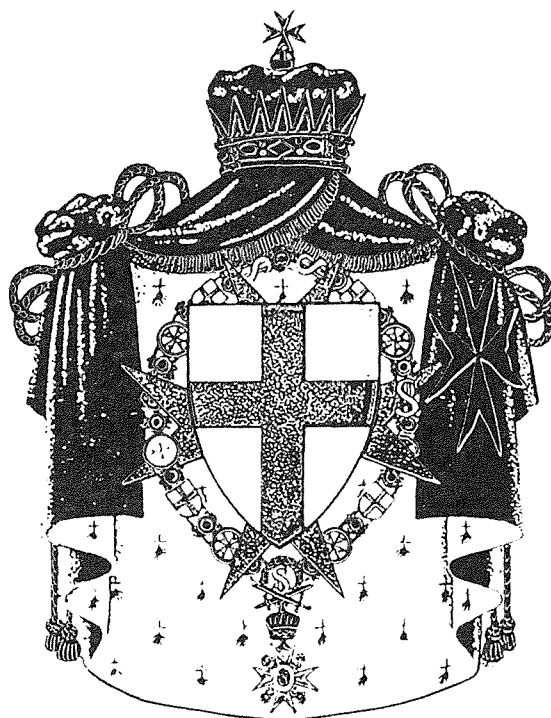


# THE ORDER OF ST. LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

Tony C Cutajar CLJ





*Grand Master  
Don Francisco de Borbon y Escasany  
Duke of Seville*

# THE ORDER OF ST LAZARUZ OF JERUSALEM

## **FORWARD**

For a long time now it was felt that we must publish a short history of the ancient Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem especially in the Maltese language. There are very few people in Malta who are aware of this international Order of Knights which in the past has been doing a lot of charitable work with particular attention to leprosy. The philanthropic activities of its members are presently concentrated especially in the health and educational fields worldwide but with emphasis on third world countries. In this way they are contributing to the achievement of the aim and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Statute of the Council of Europe.

There are various Orders of Knights even in Malta and it's no wonder that some people mix us up with other Orders. So it was providential that Tony C Cutajar came up with the idea of producing this short history of our Christian Order in English and Maltese. Besides being a member himself, Tony is an established scholar and author locally and this work of his will definitely be appreciated by the general public.

We as an Order do certainly appreciate this history especially as in 2005 we shall be privileged to welcome in our midst the Grand Master of the Order who will be presiding the international meeting held every two years in different countries thus attracting the highest foreign authorities of the Order. In this way I hope that the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem will become better known and respected and that the activities of its members will be better appreciated by the Maltese public.

**Chev. R S Attard**  
**Grand Chancellor**

## INTRODUCTION

I knew very little about the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. My first contact with its members was when, as Mayor of San Gwann, I was invited by Commander Chev. Stuart Hamilton to attend one of their functions at their impressive headquarters of Torri Lanzun situated in our town. I just could not miss such an occasion as I always had our heritage at heart and as Chairman of the Council's national heritage committee I was the first local councillor to demand that we call on the Planning Authority to add the historical sites at San Gwann to its conservation list. These sites included Torri Lanzun which I had always seen and admired only from outside, especially its focal point consisting of an old balustraded corner balcony supported on six massive corbel stones.

Now I could admire it better still from inside. I wrote about its history in the two books published by the Local Council and included it in one or two of my children's books. This picturesque building and its environment are really suitable for an organization such as that of the Order of St Lazarus even though the history of the Order goes much further back than that of the Torri. While there I could imagine life at the end of the seventeenth century when it was nothing but a fortified farm because of the fear of the Turkish invaders who used to land in Spinola Bay and carry with them people into slavery.

It was certainly a great coincidence that the first man to live in this farm – Wenzu Lanzun – had come from Cottonera after he had lost his family due to the plague of 1676. According to ancient tradition, the birthplace of the Order was a leper hospital built outside the walls of Jerusalem. The Knights of St Lazarus cared for and protected pilgrims to the Holy Places and especially directed their efforts to the comfort and treatment of lepers as they still do in various countries.

During that function at the Torri I was presented to Chev. Reggie Attard, the Grand Chancellor, who invited me to join their ranks, an offer which I could not refuse. It is with great pleasure that I am here presenting the history of the Order which has been written so many times in various languages. It is a greater pleasure for me to do the same for the first time in the Maltese language. To give the right background I could not help referring to the history of the Crusades which is intimately entwined with that of the Order of St Lazarus.

**Tony C Cutajar**  
**10<sup>th</sup> October 2003**

## THE BEGINNING OF THE CRUSADES

The Muslim expansion was part of centuries of Arab movement. The coming of the prophet Mohammed (c. 570 – 632) and the acceptance of his faith of Islam had a unifying and inspiring effect upon the people. They embarked upon a series of conquests which were to bring them a vast empire. In the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries they took the Holy Land where Jesus was born. The first Persian and Arab rulers made it clear that the Christians were not welcome in Palestine even if for whole centuries they exercised some form of protection for the Christians who visited Jerusalem. The first time that this protection became evident was under Charlemagne, the founder of the Holy Roman Empire and one of the greatest Christian statesmen and leaders. The pilgrims were free to travel to the holy places and there were charitable quarters to give them shelter. In 603 Pope St Gregory the Great founded in the city a Latin hospice which later had a spiritual affinity with St John's Hospital known throughout the Christian world.



All this changed in 1010 in the time of the fanatic Caliph Hakim. He not only destroyed the holy places but also persecuted the Christians in a very harsh way. He went so far as to proclaim himself god, however he vanished mysteriously in 1021. Consequently freedom returned in the east as well as the medieval pilgrimages from western Europe while the protection of the holy places was passed on to the Greek church. When in 1071 the Saracens were conquered by the Turks, the Christian pilgrimages became once more difficult and dangerous.

The Emperor Alexius Comnenus begged Pope Urbanus II to take urgent steps to defend the Holy Land. The Pope accepted to take responsibility by calling on the leaders of Christian countries to defend Palestine from Islam. In 1095 he summoned a council at Clermont in France where more than 200 bishops and many more noblemen attended. His moving words stirred them and they pledged themselves to the cause he preached. The call was answered by all ranks of society and hundreds of knights tore up red strips of linen into crosses to wear as the badge of the crusades or wars of the cross. These knights had to be noblemen and sons of well-to-do and respectable families because of the expenses involved in foreign trips and heavy armour, horses and arms.

The first crusade was led by princes and noblemen mainly from France but also from Germany, England, Italy and the Scandinavian countries. They met in Constantinople and in 1097 they had their first victory on the Turks until they arrived in Antioch. After eight months they took this city and a year later they had their first glimpse of the Holy City which they captured after a forty days siege. The crusaders wanted to establish a Christian kingdom with Godfrey de Bouillon as its first head but Godfrey declined any royal title in the city where Jesus was crowned with thorns and crucified. He only accepted to be called Defender of the Holy Sepulchre. He died in 1100 and was succeeded by his brother Baldwin I who did not hesitate to be called King of Jerusalem.

Shortly Jerusalem became like any other country in Europe with its churches, monasteries and castles. Most of the townspeople and peasants were Moslems and hardly any attempt was made to convert them to Christianity. Only a few crusaders stayed in the Holy Land as most went back to their country. Soon it was realized that there were not sufficient knights to defend the crusading states properly or to fight in open warfare.

## KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS

The most valuable soldiers or remaining knights were young men who took the three monastic vows. But instead of living in a monastery, they devoted themselves to a military life and made themselves responsible for the defence of a large part of the Christian territory. They were members of two military Orders. The older of the two was that of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem which was founded in 1070 to care for sick pilgrims in the Holy City. Fifty years later it became a military organization. Its members were called Knights Hospitallers and wore a white cross on a black ground.

The other Order was given the Temple of Solomon as its headquarters by the King of Jerusalem and from then on it became known as the Order of Solomon's Temple. It was established in 1118 to protect pilgrims on their way from the coast to Jerusalem. Its members, who wore white with a red cross, became known as Knights Templars. They soon grew into a large and powerful Order, possessing the strongest military defence which often had to fight the Muslim armies.



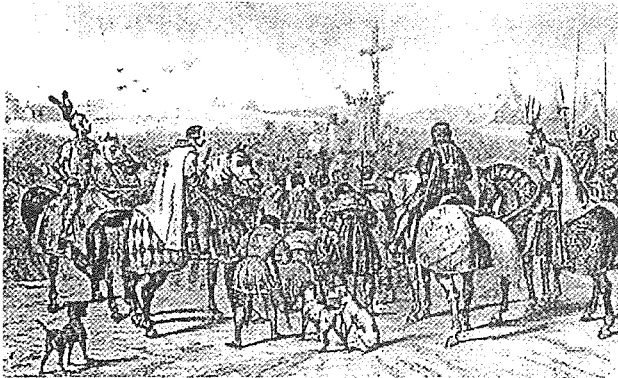
These two Orders never had enough members to protect the Holy Land in an adequate way, so that they had to erect and garrison great stone castles in strategic places. One of the most magnificent was Krak of the Knights built by the Hospitallers in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to guard the only pass from Christian territory to Tripoli and the coast. It managed to withstand successfully at least twelve sieges. For a century and a half it remained, in the words of a Muslim chronicler, "a bone stuck in the throat of the Saracens".

In 1144 the town of Edessa, the northern outpost of the Christian territory, was captured by the Muslims, thus exposing the crusaders' northern flank in the Holy Land. This produced immediate alarm in Europe and Pope Eugenius III entrusted the preaching of a new crusade to the most celebrated churchman of the time, St Bernard of Clairvaux. This counsellor of Popes and Kings travelled throughout France and Germany where he aroused great enthusiasm. Thus began the second crusade which this time enjoyed the royal leadership of the Emperor Conrad III and King Louis VII of France. Nevertheless this crusade was a complete failure and many of the crusaders never even reached the Holy Land.

Thirty years later, Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, captured Damascus and Aleppo, swept down through Galilee with an immense force and, defeating the Christians, took Jerusalem which was full of pilgrims. Saladin was generous enough to grant them a safe passage back to the nearest Christian territory. He even allowed St John's hospital to remain open for a year to give time to the sick to heal. However, he slaughtered his Templar and Hospitaller prisoners and had the bells of the churches melted down. His vilest and most despicable act was to take down the great cross from the church of the Holy Sepulchre and have it dragged for two days through the mire of the city streets.

## THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

The news of this indignity and of the fall of Jerusalem in 1187 caused widespread consternation in Europe and led to the death of Pope Urban III of a broken heart. His successor, Pope Gregory VIII, issued a Bull proclaiming a new crusade to the east and at the age of 77 went personally to Pisa to launch the ships for departure. There he fainted and died only two months after becoming Pope. The Emperor Frederick Barbarossa was the first one to leave with his army and soon conquered Antioch. He was followed by King Philip of France and King Richard of England who between them took Acre, the best base from which to retake Jerusalem. They were then surrounded by Saladin and for eighteen months fought fiercely and endured hunger and disease. The two Kings quarrelled and Philip returned to France leaving Richard to continue with the third crusade. His skill in battle won him a victory over Saladin at Arnif which earned him the name of Lionheart. He captured Jaffa and Ascalon and was within a few miles of the Holy City only to have to withdraw back to the coast as he had not enough men to besiege Jerusalem.



Although enemies, Richard and Saladin greatly admired each other, establishing a remarkable understanding and even friendship between them. They even exchanged presents and when Richard's charger fell in action, Saladin sent him a new one. They made a three-year truce by which the crusaders retained the coast from Ascalon to Acre with the right of access to Jerusalem. Thus crusaders and pilgrims were able to visit the Holy Sepulchre on condition that they

went unarmed. Richard had to return to England and thus ended the third crusade while Jerusalem remained in Moslem hands. The chief result of this crusade was the possession of Acre which remained the bulwark of the Christians in the east until the very end of the crusades.

The power of Islam under Saladin seemed formidable, however Pope Innocent III decided to preach a fourth crusade. This time there was no Emperor or King to assume control of the expedition so it was left to a group of enthusiastic French noblemen led by Boniface, Marquis of Montferrat. He assembled the crusading armies in Venice in 1202 but instead of sailing towards Palestine they went to Constantinople which they conquered after removing the Byzantine Emperor. It soon became clear that these so-called crusaders were more motivated by personal ambition for wealth and power than by religious feeling. The Pope was indignant for many reasons but especially because he was against any division or differences between the western and eastern churches. Besides, the crusade ended without a single soldier reaching Palestine.

Popes, princes and the Christian world were very anxious and concerned that the Holy Land should remain in the hands of the infidel. Pope Honorius III decided to make one more effort to liberate Jerusalem. In 1217 he persuaded the King of Hungary and the Duke of Austria to assemble an army and proceed to Egypt. Some 300 German vessels took the crusaders to Acre and after a lengthy siege they took Damietta at one of the mouths of the Nile. They seemed to be in such a strong position that the Sultan of Egypt offered them all the Holy Places, the True Cross and half the kingdom of Jerusalem as far as the river Jordan if they would leave Egypt and make peace. The offer was rejected because it was hoped to conquer the whole of Egypt. The Sultan flooded the

low-lying lands of the Nile basin and the crusaders had to sue for peace. And so ended in complete failure the fifth crusade, though not in tragedy, except that nothing at all was gained, not even the True Cross.

In many ways the next crusade was the strangest of all. No Pope gave it his blessing, nor was it undertaken from religious motives. Its leader, Emperor Frederick II, grandson of Barbarossa, succeeded in regaining Jerusalem in 1229 but by treaty with the Muslim rulers of Egypt rather than as a knight of the Cross. Thus he was granted the Holy City, Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jaffa. Not only did he not keep his crusading vow, but he wanted to make himself King of Jerusalem. The Grand Masters of the military Orders forbade their members to obey him and the priests openly preached against him. He had to place the crown upon his own head in the church of the Holy Sepulchre since no priest came to the shrine for the ceremony. When he embarked at Acre for Europe, his new subjects gathered in the streets to pelt him with filth.

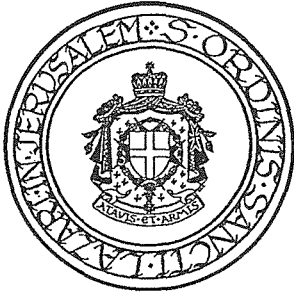
Again Jerusalem was not to remain long in Christian possession. The Sultan of Egypt in 1244 made an alliance with the Turks and recaptured the Holy City. King St Louis IX of France was desperately ill when he heard the news but vowed that if he recovered from his sickness he would himself go on a crusade to retrieve this disaster. His preparations were so thorough that the expedition was not ready to set out until 1248. Damietta was attacked and taken and it was the turn of Cairo. But the crusaders were caught in the flooded streams of the Nile delta, were surrounded and defeated at Mansurah and compelled to surrender. They paid a large ransom and most of the noblemen returned to France including the King's brothers. Louis remained in Acre with a small army. For four years he stayed in the Holy Land trying to obtain favourable conditions for the Christian prisoners in Egypt and attempting to gain support for yet another assault on Jerusalem. He could not procure fresh armies from Europe and the death of his mother, Queen Blanche, compelled him to return to his country which was also being menaced by King Henry III of England.

The military power of Egypt was steadily increasing and in 1260 the Turkish Sultan Baibars turned relentlessly upon the Christians in Syria and Palestine. He captured many of their towns including Jaffa and Antioch, slaughtering the inhabitants or selling them as slaves. He sent so many to the slave markets that the price of a young Christian girl fell to one drachma. When St Louis heard of these terrible events, he resolved to go on another crusade. But no sooner had his force landed in North Africa than they were blockaded inside Carthage, were short of water and plague began to spread among them. A large number of knights and Louis himself died in consequence and the rest of the French crusaders returned home.

Baibars sequestered the properties of the military Orders and in 1271 he besieged Krak of the Knights Hospitallers even though they were experienced soldiers and fought with tenacity. The Muslims now ruled over what had been for over a thousand years eastern Christendom, the very cradle of the religion and the region of its earliest growth. While the Knights Templars were eventually completely suppressed, the Hospitallers managed to continue to be a bulwark against Turkish advance in the Mediterranean first at Rhodes and afterwards at Malta. The results and importance of all these crusades in the world's history are not to be estimated by what they accomplished in Palestine. Their effects on Europe are felt to the present day. By means of their joint enterprises, the European nations became closer to each other, the human mind expanded and a number of arts and sciences were introduced. It can be said that the present civilization of the European world is, in a great degree, the result of these crusades.



# THE ORDER OF ST LAZARUS



## EARLY ORIGINS

As one of the oldest Orders, the origin of the history of the Order of St Lazarus is based on ancient tradition. According to this tradition, the birthplace of this Order was a leper hospital constructed outside the walls of Jerusalem to look after those afflicted by leprosy – a common disease in those days believed to be contagious and extremely dangerous. From biblical times it was considered as a punishment from God for the sins of man. The hospital was built by the High Priest John Hyrcan Maccabeus, leader of the Jewish people between the years 135 and 105 BC.

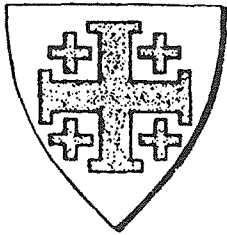
The Duke of Normandy, who later became King of France under the name of John II or Jean le Bon, issued a brevet in 1343 which corresponded with the tradition that the Order of St Lazarus had been founded in the year 72 AD. Most historians do agree with the affirmation by Pope Pius IV in his Bull *Inter Assiduas* that the Order existed in 369 AD when St Basil the Great was Archbishop of Caesarea. This sainted Archbishop is considered the legendary Father of the Order by virtue of his founding a large hospital for lepers near Caesarea.

Although there are those who maintain that the origin of the Order was after the 7<sup>th</sup> century, it is strongly believed that it was established in the 5<sup>th</sup> century at Acre and Caesarea and founded their principal hospital at Jerusalem in 530 AD. Here they cared for and protected pilgrims to the Holy Land and especially directed their efforts to the comfort and treatment of lepers. Their leprosarium or Leper House was located near the postern of St Ladre or St Lazarus, believed to be the site of the ancient hospital founded by John Hyrcan. No wonder that the Maltese isolation hospital is called Lazzaretto where up to this very day people suffering from infectious diseases are completely isolated.

After the fall of Jerusalem to the Crusaders in 1098, the leprous knights of the Orders of St John, of the Temple and of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as other sufferers of similar dread diseases, were placed under the care of the Hospitallers of St Lazarus. Because in most patients the disease progressed very slowly and because the hospitals required protection against the infidels, brigands and marauding bands, it was inevitable that the warriors of St Lazarus should sooner or later convert the Order into a knightly militia as well as a hospitaller brotherhood. For this reason the year 1098 AD has been considered the official birth date of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem as a chivalric Order.

However, it is also recorded that during the time of the first crusade when Gerard Tonque, who was responsible for the hospital in Jerusalem, died in 1120, that part of the hospital which dealt with skin diseases and which was under Roger Boyant branched off to become the Order of St Lazarus with him as its Master.

## THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

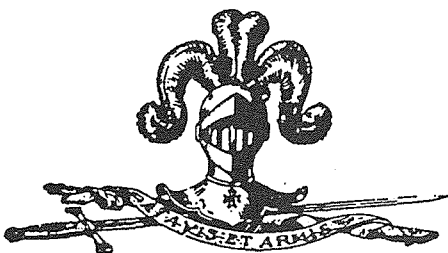


The Order was greatly respected by the Christian Kings of Jerusalem and by all those who came in touch with the knights' work of charity and protection. Baldwin IV, the leper King of Jerusalem, was especially generous to the Order but gifts of lands and kind were received from men and women of all ranks. So great was the military reputation of the leper knights that they were entrusted with the defence of the castles of Kharbet el Zeitha and Madjel el Djemeriah. But whenever there was fighting between Christians and infidels, knights of the Order rallied to the support of the Holy Cross.

So renowned was the Order of St Lazarus and its work of mercy that after the fall of Jerusalem in 1187, Saladin the Great took the hospital of the Order under his personal protection. This Moslem conqueror permitted the poor of the city who could not pay ransom to leave the walls of the Holy City by the Gate of St Ladre and take refuge in the hospital of the Order. In 1191, during the peace between Saladin and the crusaders, the Order established itself at the coastal city of St Jean d'Acre, just north of Haifa. Its members built a fortress-hospice and a church called l'Eglise de St Lazare des Chevaliers and established themselves with sovereign jurisdiction. The Popes and other temporal rulers recognized the Order of St Lazarus as a sovereign power and as one of the four principal Orders of Chivalry.

With the renewal of the war between the Christians and the Moslems, the Order gained added laurels even if at a sad price. After sustaining severe losses in many engagements, most of the leper knights of the Order were slain in the Battle of Gaza in 1244 where they played an important part with the Templars, the Teutonic knights and the knights of St John. Those knights who were not present at that ill-fated battle joined the crusaders who remained to fight a forlorn hope. They accompanied St Louis IX of France in his Egyptian crusade and took part in his expeditions against Syria from 1250 to 1254. When St Jean d'Acre finally fell to the Mohammedans in 1291, the existence of the Order in the Holy Land ceased and the knights were obliged to seek refuge in Europe.

## THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD – EUROPE



Before the loss of their last stronghold in the Latin Kingdom, a group of knights of St Lazarus had already established themselves in Europe. They founded hospitals, country houses, preceptories or commanderies throughout the continent of Europe and in Britain. As the administrator of the Order, King Louis VII of France had in 1154 given the Order the royal castle of Boigny, near

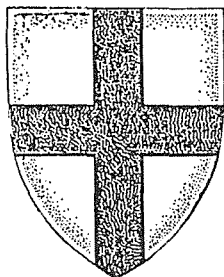
Orleans, which was soon converted into the headquarters of the knights of St Lazarus of the East, the Grand Priory of the Order in France and the residence of the Grand Masters of the Order. After the fall of St Jean d'Acres its commanders were recognized as "Grand Masters of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, Upon and Beyond the Seas". The sovereign character of the Order was recognized by the Kings of France and under their protection St Lazarus continued to perform its sovereign functions. In fact, the Order became dependent on the French Kings from 1308 until 1830 when King Charles X was forced to escape the "bourgeois revolution" and flee to England.

Another group of knights of St Lazarus who in 1211 had established themselves in Capua soon became famous throughout the Kingdom of Sicily. They established a Priory which gradually became independent of Boigny and Pope Leo X granted them extraordinary privileges. From 1517 onwards the leader of this branch called himself "Grand Master of the Order within the Kingdom of Sicily and elsewhere". In 1572 Pope Gregory XIII united this branch in perpetuity with the House of Savoy. This Bull specifically excluded the Spanish branch of the Order which remained under the control of the Spanish Crown. The reigning Duke of Savoy, Philibert III, hastened to fuse the Priory of Capua with the recently founded Savoyard Order of St Maurice and henceforth the title "Grand Master of the Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus" has been hereditary in the Ducal House of Savoy and the Royal House of Italy. This Order has been conferred by the King of Italy without restrictions of birth to both civilians and military.

Two attempts were made in 1459 and in 1489 by Pope Pius II and Pope Innocent VIII to amalgamate several Orders, including the Order of St Lazarus, but this could not come about owing to the sovereign tradition of these Orders. However, this action resulted in splitting the Order into two major branches, that under the rule of Boigny and the other under the authority of the Priory at Capua.

In 1578 the Commander of Boigny and Grand Master of the Order ruled that the surrendering of the Priory of Capua and the Order in Italy to the House of Savoy did not affect the Commandery and the Order in Boigny. This ruling was affirmed by Henry IV of France in 1604 when he declared himself by letters patent to be the Supreme Sovereign of the Order. Eventually the principal European branches of the Order were grouped around the Grand Magistracy of Boigny. Thus Boigny assured the perpetuation of the sovereign existence of St Lazarus. In fact, since 1608 it continued its existence independently, being governed without interruption by its Grand Masters, some of whom were Princes of France and two of whom also came to occupy the throne of St Louis.

## THE ORDER AND FRANCE



However, the Order in France lost its independence when in 1547 the Parlement de Paris declared that the Grand Master of the Order was subordinate to the Order of St John and went on to

proclaim that St Lazarus was the senior bailiwick or priory of the Order of St John in that country. This union of the two Orders could not affect St Lazarus in any other country as this was the act of a French parliament. However, the result was that St Lazarus was once more divided into several parts: the Order in Capua, the Order in France, which was now a part of the Order of Malta, the Order in Spain and elsewhere.

Following this, Pope Leo X in 1565 appointed Giannoto Castiglione as Grand Master even though the Order based in Capua had its independence restored in 1517 with the right to appoint the Grand Masters vested in the Kings of Spain. Castiglione resigned his office to the Duke of Savoy and this was followed by Papal confirmation in 1572. Two months later the Pope proclaimed the unification of the Order of St Lazarus with the newly formed Order of St Maurice of which the Dukes of Savoy, now Kings of Italy, were to be the hereditary Grand Masters. Soon St Lazarus came to exist in three parts: that sanctioned by the Pope in the form of St Maurice and St Lazarus, the Order in Spain exempt from amalgamation with St Maurice and the part of the Order in France which asserted itself as an independent Order.

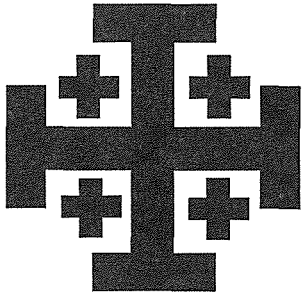
In 1604 King Henry IV of France declared himself the Supreme Sovereign of the Order of St Lazarus in his country. He obtained from the Pope the right to institute the new Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel which he promptly amalgamated with the Order of St Lazarus by making one Grand Master for both without losing their sovereign identity. This organization of the Order continued up to the French Revolution. The lazarettes for the care of lepers expanded and a naval flotilla maintained its active duty in the Mediterranean. Membership was recruited from the Catholic aristocracy of Europe while the Order was officially protected by the Kings of France. The Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel became dormant after 1787, thus restoring the Order of St Lazarus to its original condition and so it remained in France till 1830 on the fall of Charles X.

As expected, the French Revolution suppressed all royal and knightly Orders and confiscated all the properties of the Order. St Lazarus was saved for posterity when its Grand Master, the Duke of Provence, escaped and fulfilled the duties of his office from abroad. During this period, the Emperor Paul I of Russia and members of his family and staff were admitted into the Order. The King of Sweden was also honoured in this fashion and the hereditary commandery of Gothland was established.

With the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte, the Count of Provence resigned as Grand Master and became King Louis XVIII. One of his ministers of state, the Duke de la Chatre, was elected Grand Master and undertook the reorganization of the Order. In view of his major contribution, he can be considered the Father of the modern St Lazarus.

Following the revolution of 1830 and the exile of King Charles X, the Order lost the temporal protection of the French Crown. In order to assure the continuation of their historic mission, the knights turned their activities towards the Christian Middle East. The Council of Officers which governed the Order sought the spiritual protection of the Catholic Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem. The Patriarch willingly agreed to the request and declared himself spiritual protector of the Order so that for the next seventy years it was administered by the Patriarchate and knights continued to be created by the Order. St Lazarus had been spiritually dependent on the Greek Patriarchs of Jerusalem from 629 until 1504. From 1098 till 1187 the Order came under the Latin Patriarchs and in temporal matters it was subject to the Kings of the Holy City.

## THE MODERN PERIOD



This spiritual protection ceased in 1930 when the Patriarch resigned the charge and the Order regained the plenitude of its independence, thus permitting the re-establishment of the Grand Magistracy. A Chapter of knights asked Don Francisco de Borbon y de la Torre, Duke of Seville and Grand Bailiff of the Order for Spain, to assume the governance of the Order. It was quite natural for the Order of St Lazarus to turn to a prince of the House of Bourbon as its long history demonstrates the ties which unite them.

The Duke of Seville obtained the sanction of his second cousin King Alonso XIII to accept the office of Lieutenant General of the Order. Don Francisco, a direct descendant of the Kings of Spain and France, became the 44<sup>th</sup> Grand Master, thus reviving the Spanish branch. While the seat of the Order was now located in Madrid, the administration of St Lazarus was based in Paris under the Duke of Brissac as Administrator General. The new Grand Master worked energetically and successfully for the expansion and modernization of the Order and its humanitarian activities, while the Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem resumed his role as spiritual protector.

The Duke of Seville died in 1952 and was succeeded by his son Prince Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon, first as Coadjutor and Lieutenant General of the Order and later, in 1960 as the 45<sup>th</sup> Grand Master. Because he was an active military officer in the Spanish army and resided in Spain, he was unable to dedicate himself to the Order as much as he would have liked. As a result, the administration in Paris in 1967 summoned a Chapter General which removed the Duke of Seville, made him Grand Master Emeritus and elected Prince Charles Philippe d'Orleans, Duke of Nemours and First Prince of the House of France, as the 46<sup>th</sup> Grand Master.

In the meantime, there was an important development in the history of the Order. In 1961 Lt. Col. Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, Baron of Lochoreshyre, was invited to expand St Lazarus in the English-speaking countries. As a result of his appointment as Knight Grand Cross of Justice, the Priors of England, Scotland, Ireland and Canada were founded, as well as the Commandery of Lochore and a number of bailiwicks in New Zealand, South Africa and other parts of the Commonwealth. Add to this the remarkable expansion of the Order in the United States and it becomes evident that the Anglo-Saxon jurisdictions form a considerable constituency, the majority of whose members belong to Protestant denominations.

Consequently, the new Grand Master set about reforming the Order and in line with the Second Vatican Council and Pope John XXIII, he abolished the sectarian differences between the knights and opened the ranks of St. Lazarus to all Christian denominations. He also insisted upon performing his office without being dictated to by the Paris group which had created difficulties with his predecessor. The French group resisted these reforms and created a schism in the Order by electing the Duke of Brissac as the supreme head. There were now two branches but a great

number of jurisdictions continued to view the Duke of Nemours as the only legitimate Grand Master. To guarantee the Order international status and independence, the Duke of Nemours decided that its headquarters should not remain in any large European city where undue influence could be brought to bear upon it. The Grand Chancery of the Order was transferred to Malta and a rule of law was established instead of the arbitrary acts of a small junta in Paris.

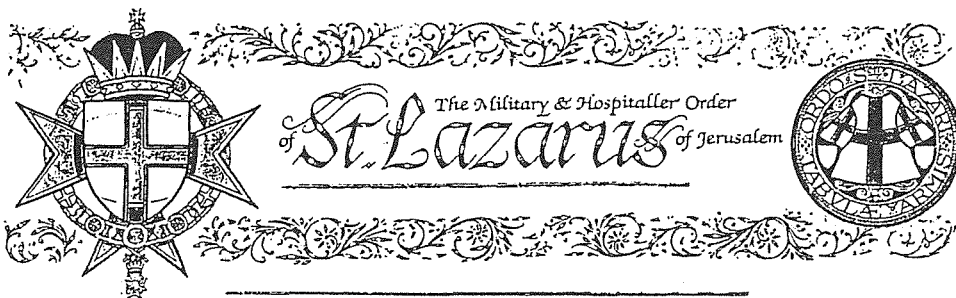
Prince Michael of France associated himself with the actions of the Grand Master and was made his Coadjutor with rights of succession while the 45<sup>th</sup> Grand Master was made Grand Commander, Lieutenant General and Grand Prior of Spain. This ensured the complete legitimacy of the Order and was recognized by the International Orders' Commission which recorded it in its official Register of Orders of Chivalry in 1970. Delegations were formed in Australia and New Zealand and activities started in Ethiopia, Tanzania, India and Thailand as well as in the Scandinavian countries.

In the midst of these activities the Duke of Nemours died in 1970. Prince Michael of France as Coadjutor assumed the interim Grand Magistracy but declined to the succession. Consequently Don Francisco de Borbon y Borbon consented to reassume the Grand Magistracy as the 47<sup>th</sup> Grand Master in 1973.

The two branches of the Order signed a Protocol of Agreement in 1979 and promised to work towards reunification. It was agreed that each side would retain its structure and identity. That governed by Don Francisco de Borbon y Borbon would be known as the "Malta Obedience" while that of the Duke of Brissac would be known as the "Paris Obedience". The spiritual unity of the Order was to be assured by Patriarch Maximos V Hakim. In 1986 a meeting was called in Oxford, England, by the Malta Obedience in view of reunification. However, the United States jurisdictions had a hidden agenda of their own and the Order was split once again.

Don Francisco de Borbon y Borbon died in 1995 and was succeeded by his son Don Francisco de Borbon y de Escasany, Duke of Seville, as the 48<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of the Order.

## HUMANITARIAN WORK



The Order of St Lazarus, with 4,500 members spread in many parts of the world, is well-known as a charitable and philanthropic organization. Its humanitarian activities have taken a new direction although it has kept its original character of dedication to the care and assistance of the poor and the sick. It dedicates itself especially to lepers, always mindful of its origin in the Holy Land in the early centuries following the life of Christ, and to the supporting of the Christian faith. Thus its members contribute to the achievement of the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Statute of the Council of Europe. At the meeting of the Grand Master's Council in 1992 the basis was laid for the constitution of an international foundation for the fight against Aids and

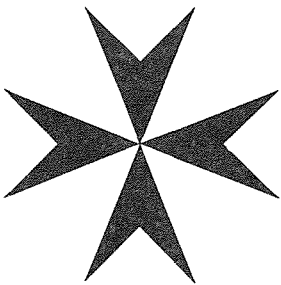
the recognition of the Order as a non-governmental organization interested in humanitarian works and social assistance.

In New Zealand the Order is directly involved in Pacific area programmes against leprosy and donates medical supplies to various island leprosaria while land has been purchased to establish two St Lazarus Villages for old people. The grand Priory of Finland operates a special volunteer ambulance corps for young drug addicts in the Helsinki and the Turku areas and directly supports a medical and religious mission in Mugaea in Kenya. The Grand Priory of Alsace operates and supports various dispensaries in the Cameroons as well as a leprosarium. The Hungary Priory supports a Mission hospital in Taiwan together with a school for handicapped children. In the early 1980's the German and Luxembourg jurisdictions organized weekly transports to Poland of basic food and medical supplies in the Order's own 38-ton trucks. More recently these trucks have been delivering badly needed supplies to refugees of the Balkan conflicts.

Members of the Order in different countries are helping persons with disabilities in Turkey, Portugal, Morocco, Spain, Cyprus and the United States. Financial help is being given to Croatia, Kosovo, Czechoslovakia and to a secondary school in Haiti. Germany sends medicines in Russia, Hungary and Croatia as well as to the lepers in Benin. The Avalon Commandery in the south-west of England has established a foundation to help sick children in a variety of ways. The Grand Priory of Italy gives medical assistance and supports the building of a medical school. Another foundation was established by the German knights for orphan children and handicapped persons who live on their own.

The Order in Malta too has always been helping the local lepers whose number is now very negligible. So in 1994 a fund was established to send regular contributions, food and medicine to lepers and their families in other countries particularly in Kenya. Financial help is given too to the Dar tal-Providenza, Razzett ta' Hbiberija and the Youth Institution at St Francis Ravelin. For years, the Commandery of the Castello has been seeing to the maintenance of the Kenya leprosarium and supports a medical clinic in Bethlehem

## **SYMBOLS OF THE ORDER**



Originally the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus was a Catholic Order but in modern times it followed the ecumenical spirit of the Church. It now accepts in its fold practicing members of the Christian faith who are in good standing within their particular denomination. All members of the Order shall be committed to the upholding with their lives, fortunes and honour, of the principles of Christianity, and shall stand united before all people in their determination to live and die following the teachings of Christ and His Holy Church.

The Cross of the Order is the eight-pointed cross, commonly known as the Maltese cross. The four arms of the cross symbolize the four Christian virtues of prudence, temperance, justice and

fortitude. The eight points represent the eight beatitudes or the virtues upheld by the Order: spiritual tranquility, life without malice, contrition, patience in adversity, love of justice, mercy, sincerity and purity of heart, and endurance under persecution.

For centuries the Maltese cross has been the distinctive emblem of Orders of knighthood established in the Holy Land as the oldest institutions in the world and whose mission was to provide humanitarian assistance in war and peace. It was Raymond du Puy, the first Grand Master of the Order of St John, who in 1120 decreed that all knights should wear a white cross, later changed to the eight-pointed cross, on the left side where the heart is, to indicate love. That of the knights of St Lazarus is green in colour to distinguish them from the other Orders.

The motto of St Lazarus is *Atavis et Armis*, the Latin for the original invocation of inspiration of the noble ancestors of the Order to defend religion. Today this motto is given a modern meaning that members have to imitate the example of those who came before them by resisting evil, sickness and hunger. There is a vast biography of the Order particularly in many European countries. The Saint Lazarus Internet Commission has a website/homepage on <http://www.st-lazarus.@maltao/malta.htm>

## TORRI LANZUN

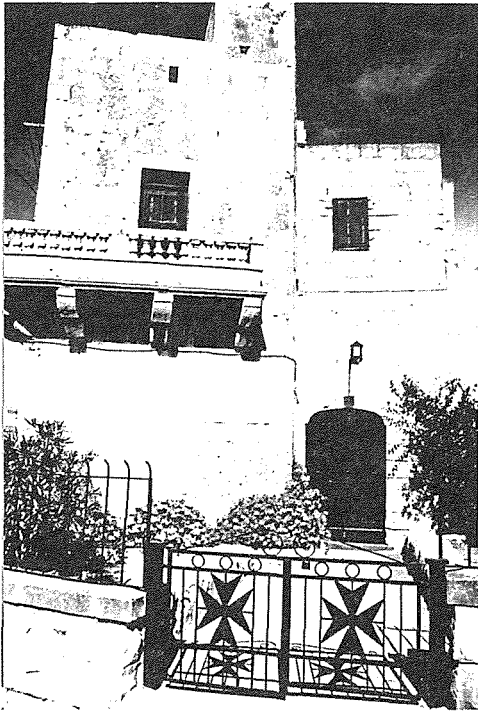
According to tradition, this tower started as a simple farmhouse in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is known as Lanzun because a certain Wenzu Lanzun from Birgu, who had lost his family during the time of the plague of 1676, came to live here. In 1713 more rooms were added for the animals as well as a spacious yard and the building was improved and strongly fortified, becoming like the little fortress it is today. This was mainly due to the great fear that the local inhabitants had of the Turks. These pirates often attacked Malta by coming up the valley from Spinola Bay to Mensija plundering and stealing whatever they found. Not only did they abduct the locals and carry them into slavery, but they also burnt and destroyed the farmers' crops and animals. At one time the valley was known to be covered with juniper trees – the national Maltese tree. Curiously enough, the Mensija Sanctuary, opposite the tower, is dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady and to St Leonard who is the patron saint of pirates. In Malta there are four churches dedicated to St Leonard.

This tower changed many hands throughout the years. It is believed that one of the Grand Masters of the Order of St John made use of it every time he came hunting in this area. At the end of the last war of 1939-45 it served as an observation post against advancing enemy airplanes. Consequently, it was attacked and severely damaged.

In 1972 it was bought by Lt. Col. Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg who generously handed it over to the Order of St Lazarus as its headquarters and office of the Grand Chancery after it was restored. It was formally inaugurated by Grand Master Don Francisco de Borbon y de Borbon in 1973 as the Commandery of Lochore in Malta which in 1968 became known as the Commandery of the Castello. In spring 2001 the Commander, Major Chev. Stuart Hamilton, retired and Grand Master, the Duke of Seville, himself took over the leadership of the jurisdiction. The Deputy Commander and Grand Chancellor is Chev. Reginald S Attard.

The building is in a very good state and was scheduled as Grade 1 by the Planning Authority as





one of the local heritage sites after being asked by the San Gwann Local Council in 1994. The former stables have been converted into a large Knights' Hall with evidence where the animals used to be tied many years ago. Then there are a small chapel, a cloakroom, kitchen, a big courtyard with trees and bushes and other rooms used by the members every time they meet. This property is open to the public once a year on the occasion of the feast of St John, patron saint of the locality, which is organized by the Local Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

The Commandery of the Castello formerly formed part of the Commandery of Lochore in Scotland under the Commandership of Chev. Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg. The other section of the Order of Malta is the Grand Priory which was established in 1966 by the same Commander. The first members of the Order of Malta included Sir Hannibal Scicluna, Col. J V Abela, Chev. Elias Zammit, Chev. Anthony Miceli-Farrugia, Prof. Dr.

J V Zammit Maempel and Chev. Robert Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra. Eventually Chev. Joseph Amato Gauci, former Grand Chancellor of the Order, also became a member. The present Grand Prior is Consul Antoine Zammit, Marquis of Tiana, who joined the Order in 1967.

For the Constitution, Statutes and General Regulations of the Order see <http://www.st-lazarus.net/mal tao/malta.htm>

For further information please contact the Grand Chancery at Villa Attard, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur NXR 07. Tel: 2143 1060 - 2141 8923



*His Excellency Consul Chevalier Antoine Zammit  
Marquis of Tiana, Grand Prior of the Maltese Islands.*