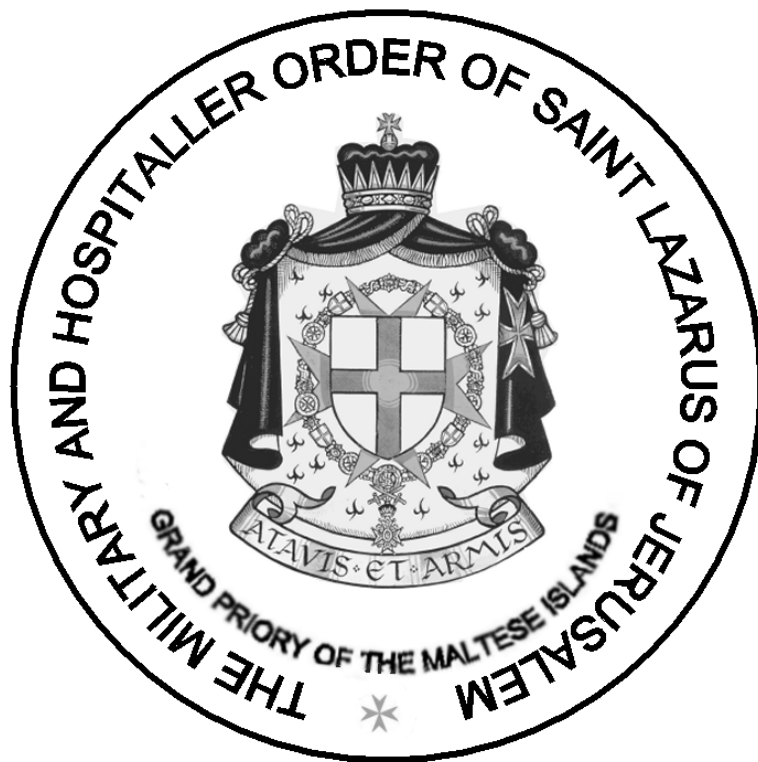


**THE GRAND PRIORY OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS
OF THE
MILITARY & HOSPITALER ORDER
OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM**

A HISTORY

by

Cher. C. Savona-Ventura K.L.J. C.M.L.J.



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Military & Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem
Malta, 2011



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LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

—

A HISTORY

by

Chev. C. Savona-Ventura KLJ, CMLJ

The Maltese Jurisdiction of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem has a relatively recent history. There are no direct references to any links between the Order of Saint Lazarus and the Islands during the Medieval period, though regulations relating to the Order in Sicily would have applied to the Islands as well. During 1268-1272, Charles I of Anjou adopted Pope Clement IV's bull of August 1265 and ordered that all the leprosaria in his domains were to be placed under the protection and government of the Order of St Lazarus. He further proposed the confinement, by force if necessary, of all lepers in the Lazarite houses, and the donation of all their property to the Order – the latter suggestion was violently resisted by the sufferers' families. This edict would have extended to the Maltese Islands so that had any lazarettos or land holdings been extant there, these would have fallen under the governance of the Order.

During the Hospitaller period, a number of 16th century Grand Masters of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem had probably spent time on the Maltese Islands having been first professed as knights of the Order of Saint John in Malta. These include: Jean de Lévis [professed Knight OSJ: 1532; elected GM OSL: 1557]; Michel de Seure de Lumigny [professed Knight OSJ: 1539; elected GM OSL: 1564/1586]; François Salviati [professed Knight OSJ: 1544; elected GM OSL: 1578]; Armand de Clermont de Chastes [professed Knight OSJ: 1566; elected GM OSL: 1593]; and Jean-Charles de Gayand de Monterolles [elected GM OSL: 1599]. Their sojourn on Malta however would probably have predated their appointment to the post of Grand Master of the Order of Saint Lazarus.¹ The inter-relationship between the Orders of Saint John and of Saint Lazarus were determined by the legal machinations that arose in the wake of the Papal Bull entitled *Cum solerti meditatione pensamus* promulgated by Pope Innocent VIII in 1489.² Relations between the Order of St Lazarus and Our Lady of Mount Carmel with the Order of St John were normalized in 1776 when a concordat was signed wherein the Order of St John formally recognized the validity of the former joint Order and abandoned all claims it entertained to the Lazarite properties.³

Similarly members of the Order of St John were admitted to the fused Order of St Lazarus and Mount Carmel during the 17th and 18th century usually after obtaining a dispensation to get married. Examples of such individuals include Louis de Bethune (admitted 1675); Claude Pottier de Novion (ad. 1681); Jacques de Rostaing de Mesangeres (ad. 1682); Annibal de Bethune (ad. 1683); Alexandre Vaultier (ad. 1684 – Commander of the Order of St John); François-Antoine Comte de Bercheny (ad. 1769); Hugues de Bar de La Garde et de Croizat (ad. 1784); and Pons-Simon de Pierre de Bernis (ad. 1788 – Grand Cross of Honour of the Order of St John).⁴ Other members of the Order of St John exiled from Malta were in 1800 admitted members of the Order of St.

¹ C. Savona-Ventura. *The Hospitaller Knights of Saint Lazarus*. Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands – MHOSLJ, Malta, 2006

² C. Savona-Ventura. The Papal Bull *Cum solerti meditatione pensamus* of 1489. *Journal of the Monastic Militant Orders*. 2009, in press

³ Volume corrispondenza sull' incorporazione dell' Ordine di S. Antonio a quello di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme: 1774. *Archives of the Order of St John No. 1375*. Manuscripts, National Library of Malta.

⁴ H.M. Langle, J.L. Tréouret de Kerstrat: *Les Ordres de Saint Lazare de Jerusalem et de Notre Dame du Mont-Carmel aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*. Publications LTK, Paris, 1992. p.128, 132, 148, 152, 154, 279, 337, 346

Lazarus. These included Baille de Flashlander, Grand Bailli baron Jean Baptiste de Pfirdt-Blumberg Karspach, General Lamb, and Comte Theodore Rostopchine.⁵

After the departure of the Order of Saint John from the Maltese Islands in 1798, the political and cultural history of the Islands became interlinked with that of the British Isles. The origins of the present Maltese jurisdiction are therefore linked to the development of the English Tongue historically based upon Scotland, England and Ireland. The Order of Saint Lazarus had been suppressed in the British Isles by King Henry VIII in 1544. It was re-established in the United Kingdom in 1960 when Lord Mowbray was appointed Grand Prior of England and Wales. This was followed by the re-institution of the English Tongue that was formally declared on the 25th November 1961 under the Presidency of the Commissioner General and Grand Bailiff for the English Tongue, Lt. Colonel Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, Laird of Lochore. Bailiwicks were soon established in the English-speaking world – not only in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales; but also in the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, Germany and Scandinavia. Original members of the Scottish Grand Bailiwick were the Maltese Sir Hannibal Publius Scicluna MBE KStJ GCM KCMM KCSG KLJ and his spouse Lady M.H. Scicluna DLJ.⁶ In 1964, Colonel Joseph Vincent Abela MBE OBE KCStJ KLJ was also admitted a knight of the Order.⁷

In 1965, steps were taken to form the *Independent Commandery of Malta* with Col. J.V. Abela as its first member.⁸ Subsequent members admitted in 1967 included Elias Zammit; Anthony Zammit; Anthony Miceli-Farrugia; Robert Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra; Prof. Canon Carmelo Muscat; Prof. J.V. Zammit-Maempel; Ms. Evelyn Abela; Major Albert Edward Abela; and J. Amato Gauci.⁹ On the 15th April 1969, the *Independent Commandery of Malta* was raised to the status of a *Priory of Malta* with a roll amounting to 17 Maltese members.¹⁰ The *Priory of Malta* hosted the Grand Magistral Council

⁵ J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon: *Armorial of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem*. van den Akker, Delft, 1983, p.234

⁶ *The Green Cross*. June 1962, 1(1):21-22

⁷ *Malta Who's Who 1965*. Progress Press, Malta, 1965, p.8-9

⁸ *Green Cross Booklets*, April 1965, 6:p.44

⁹ Algrant, J. Beaugourdon: *Armorial of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem*. van den Akker, Delft, 1983, p.408-410, 430; T.C. Cutajar: *L-Ordni ta' San Lazzaru ta' Gerusalem – The Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem*. Grand Priory of Malta – MHOSLJ, Malta, 2003, p.35.

¹⁰ Roll of the Order. Names and members and affiliates of the Order by Grandmaster. *Report of the Grand Magistral Council held in Malta 3rd to 5th October 1969*. MHOSLJ, Malta, 1969, p.12, 30-44.

meeting held in Malta on the 3rd-5th October 1969 during which its members participated actively. The Delegations attending the Council were received by His Grace the Archbishop and His Coadjutor Bishop Gerada at the Curia.¹¹

The Maltese members and officials of the *Priory of Malta* listed in the 1969 “Roll of Members” included:-

- Sir Hannibal P. Scicluna KCLJ [b.1880; d.1981; ad.1962]¹² serving as Bailiff
- LtCol J.V. Abela KLJ [b.1903; d.1975; ad.1964] – Prior
- Elias Zammit KLJ [ad.1967]
- Anthony Zammit CLJ [d.2009; ad.1967]
- Anthony Miceli-Farrugia KLJ [b.1914; d.2002; ad.1967] – Referendary
- Robert Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra KLJ [b.1904; d.1995; ad.1967] – Chancellor
- Prof. Canon Carmelo Muscat KLJ [b.1926; ad.1967] – Chaplain
- Prof. J.V. Zammit-Maempel KLJ [b.1912; d.2001; ad.1967]
- Ms. Evelyn Abela OLJ [ad.1967]
- Major Albert Edward Abela OLJ [b.1932; d.2007; ad.1967].
- Joseph Amato Gauci KLJ [d.1995; ad.1967]
- Prof. Arthur P. Camilleri KLJ [b.1927; d.1995; ad.1969] – Hospitaller
- Judge H. Gouder KLJ [ad.1969] – Chairman: Admissions Commission
- Joseph Tabone CLJ [ad.1969] – Secretary
- Christopher A. Marich CLJ [ad.1969] – Receiver
- Maurice Captur CLJ [ad.1969]
- Dr. Victor Captur KLJ [b.1920; d.1991; ad.1969]

The succeeding prior of the Maltese jurisdiction in 1970 was Chev. R. Basini dei Conti Stagno Navarra. Chev. Basini embarked on further organising the jurisdiction setting out the statutes for the *Priory of Malta*. The Priory had increased in strength with an augmentation in membership to a total of 28.¹³ In 1971, a ***Gozo Delegation of the Priory of Malta*** was set up in the sister island with Dr. J.R. Pace serving as the delegate.¹⁴ This coincided with the award of the Grand Cross of Merit to the Bishop of Gozo Giuseppe Pace [b.1890; d.1972; con.1944]. The *Gozo delegation* however was disbanded and amalgamated within the mother *Priory of Malta* after Dr. Pace moved residence to Malta.¹⁵

¹¹ *Report of the Grand Magistral Council held in Malta 3rd to 5th October 1969*. MHOSLJ, Malta, 1969, p.3; Order of Chivalry Council Meeting in Malta. *Times of Malta*, 2nd October 1969, p.13

¹² b. Born; d. Died; ad. Admission year

¹³ *Continuation of list of Members, Amendments, Recognitions of Meritorious Service*. MHOSLJ, Malta, 1971, p.5-10,12; *Inauguration of the Grand Chancery, Malta; Report on Chapter General held on 11th and 12th May 1973*. MHOSLJ, Malta, p.7

¹⁴ *Report of the Grand Magisterial Council held in Liege 3rd to 4th June 1972*. MHOSLJ, Malta, 1972, p.8; J.R. Pace: *personal correspondence in e-mail dated 12th January 2006*

¹⁵ *The Lazarite*, Nov 2000, p.1; *The Lazarite*, Jan-Mar 2001, p.2



Investiture of His Lordship Mons. Joseph Pace with the Ecclesiastical Grand Cross of Merit at his Palace by Chev. Lt. Col. Robert Gayre assisted by Chev. Joseph Amato Gauci and Rev. Edward Bondi



Group photograph – 1971 Investiture

(left to right) Dr. J.R. Pace CLJ; Chev. Col. J.V. Abela; Chev. Robert Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra [Prior]; Austin Camilleri CLJ [Member Gozo Delegation]; Rev. Emmanuel Galea [Delegation Chaplain]; Antoine Zammit CLJ; Chev. Lt.Col. Robert Gayre [Grand Referendary]; His Lordship Mons Joseph Pace GCMLJ; Rev. Edward Bondi [Bishop Chaplain]; Chev. Joseph Amato Gauci [Grand Chancellor]; Dr. William Grima MD, CLJ [Member Gozo Delegation]; Joseph P. Dimech B Eng, A&CE, CLJ [Member Gozo Delegation]

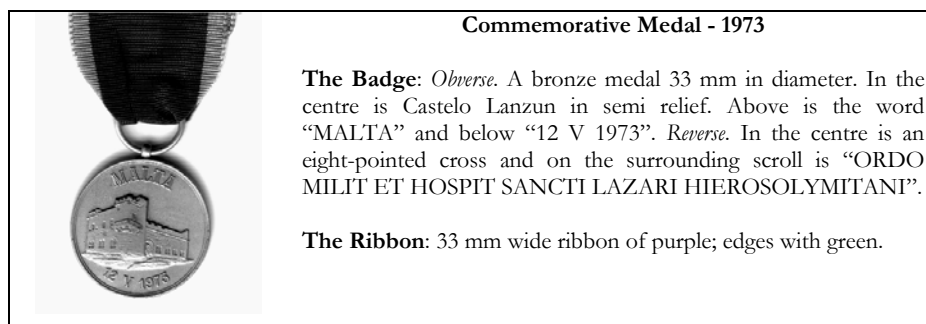
The Maltese members and officials of the *Priory of Malta* listed in the 1971 “Roll of Members”¹⁶ included:-

- Sir Hannibal P. Sciluna KGCLJ CMLJ [2nd class] [ad.1962] – Grand Capitular
- LtCol J.V. Abela KCLJ CMLJ [2nd class] [ad.1964] – Chancellor
- Elias Zammit KLJ [ad.1967]
- Anthony Zammit CLJ CMLJ [3rd class] [ad.1967] - Secretary General
- Anthony Miceli-Farrugia KLJ [ad.1967]
- Robert Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra KLJ CMLJ [2nd class][ad.1967] – Prior
- Prof. Canon Carmelo Muscat KLJ CMLJ [2nd class][ad.1967] – Late Senior Chaplain
- Prof. J.V. Zammit-Maempel KLJ CMLJ [2nd class][ad.1967] – Deputy Hospitaller
- Major Albert Abela MBE, OSt.J, OLJ [ad.1967]
- Ms. Evelyn Abela OLJ [ad.1967]
- J. Amato Gauci KLJ CMLJ [2nd class] [ad.1967] – Vice-Chancellor & Secretary General
- Prof. Arthur P. Camilleri KLJ [ad.1969]
- Judge H. Gouder KLJ [ad.1969]
- Joseph Tabone CLJ [ad.1969] – Secretary
- Christopher A. Marich CLJ GMLJ [3rd class] [ad.1969] – Receiver General
- Maurice Captur KLJ [ad.1969]
- Dr. Victor Captur KLJ [ad.1969]
- A. Vella-Gera Esq. OLJ [ad.1970]
- Dr. Leslie Grech CLJ [ad.1971]
- The Noble Giovanni Maria dei Conti Sant Manduca CLJ [ad.1971]
- Rev. Mons. Ignazio Sciberras Psaila SCLJ [ad.1971]
- Mr. J.M. Caruana CLJ [ad.1971]
- Dr. Joseph R. Pace CLJ [ad.1971]
- Dr. William Grima CLJ [ad.1971]
- Mr. Austin Camilleri CLJ [ad.1971]

On the 11-15th May 1973, the Priory of Malta hosted a Chapter General and official visit of the 47th Grandmaster Prince Francesco Enrique de Borbón who inaugurated *Torri ta'*

¹⁶ *Continuation of List of Members, Amendments, recognitions of Meritorious Service.* MHOSLJ, Malta, 1971, p.3, 8-12

Lanzun as the Grand Chancery of the Order establishing Malta as the Administrative seat of the Malta Obedience fraction of the Order. The original purchase of *Torri ta' Lanzun* was made possible through the generosity of the late LtCol Robert Gayre.¹⁷ A Commemorative medal was struck to commemorate the occasion. The legal transfer and restoration of *Torri ta' Lanzun* was carried out under the professional expertise of notary Dr. J.R. Grech LL.D. BA CLJ and architect Chev Maurice Captur BE&A ArCE KLJ. The restoration was made possible through donation made by various members of the Order, overseas and from Malta.¹⁸



During this visit, on the 13th May 1973, the Priory donated an ambulance to the Hospital of St Catherine of Siena at Attard. This ambulance had been obtained from the Commandery of Lochore, Scotland through the agency of Messrs. Chalmers and Hardie. The Grandmaster made the formal presentation and further invested the Rev. Mothers Columba Camilleri and Clelia Bye as officer and member of the Companiate of Merit respectively. A plaque to commemorate the event was unveiled; while the hospital undertook to fly the Flag of St Lazarus on St Lazarus Day (17th December) and name a new wing of the hospital after the patron saint of the Order.¹⁹ The hospital, now functioning as a home for the elderly, was again visited by HRH Don Francisco de Borbón y Escasany, Duke of Seville, 48th Grandmaster-elect in September 2001.²⁰ The transfer of the Grand Chancery to Malta gave the opportunity for many Maltese

¹⁷ *Inauguration of the Grand Chancery, Malta; Report on Chapter General held on 11th and 12th May 1973.* MHOSLJ, Malta, p.7; Order of St Lazarus headquarters to be inaugurated. *Times of Malta*, 12th May 1973, p.20

¹⁸ *Inauguration of the Grand Chancery, Malta; Report on Chapter General held on 11th and 12th May 1973.* MHOSLJ, Malta, p.3, 10-11

¹⁹ *Inauguration of the Grand Chancery, Malta; Report on Chapter General held on 11th and 12th May 1973.* MHOSLJ, Malta, p.8; Order of St Lazarus headquarters to be inaugurated. *Times of Malta*, 12th May 1973, p.20

²⁰ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter.* November 2001, p.3-4

members of the order to involve themselves in the general international management of the Order often occupying foremost administrative positions.





The Malta Priory and its members have been particularly active in the general affairs of the Order with Maltese members holding high posts in the central government. In 1969, Sir Hannibal Publius Scicluna was appointed Grand Chancellor of the Order assisted by Elias Zammit as Secretary General and Anthony Zammit as Secretary.²¹ In 1972, Sir H.P. Scicluna occupied the post of Grand Capitulator. In 1973, Chev. Joseph Amato Gauci was occupying the post of Chancellor & Secretary General and acted as Grand Custodian. He also served as Keeper of the Seal. Chev. Amato Gauci held these posts until 1986 after which he served as Grand Commander & Grand Inquisitor until his demise.²² Other Maltese high dignitaries of the Order in 1994 included: Chev. R.S. Attard (Grand Chancellor); Chev. Dr. Jaime H. Cremona (Grand Hospitaller and Vice-Chancellor & Secretary General) and Chev. R. Flores Martin (Grand Cross Bearer, subsequently served as Vice-Grand Chancellor). Anthony Buttigieg de Piro also previously served as a Member of the Supreme Council. Even after the 2004 split, Maltese members continued to contribute towards the central administration of the splinter fraction. H.E. Reginald Saviour Attard occupied the post of President of the

²¹ *Constitution Decrees issued by Order of the Grandmaster by the Grand Referendary 15th April 1969*. MHOSLJ, Malta, 1969, p.32-36

²² *Report of the Grand Magistral Council held in Leige 3rd and 4th June 1972*. MHOSLJ, Malta, 1972, p.6-7; *Inauguration of the Grand Chancery, Malta; Report on Chapter General held on 11th and 12th May 1973*. MHOSLJ, Malta, p.6-7

Supreme Council & Grand Vicar; while H.E. Helen Meli Attard occupied the post of Grand Custodian, Administrator & Advisor to Grand Chancellor.²³

By 1983, the *Priory of Malta* was elevated to the status of **Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands** with Judge W.D. Harding serving as Grand Prior. The *Grand Priory of Malta* was now represented by 55 members. Besides Judge W.D. Harding serving as Grand Prior, the officers included Robert Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra as Prior, Major F.E. Critien – Vice Chancellor; R.S. Attard – Receiver General; A. Miceli-Farrugia – Convener Admissions Ceremony; Prof. J.V. Zammit-Maempel – Hospitaller. Senior Chaplains included Rev. Mons. I. Sciberras-Psaila, Rev. Canon E. Ghigo, and Rev. Canon F. Perici; while Rev. Canon E. Galea served as Chaplain. A further five Maltese individuals were registered as “*in gremio religionis*” members of the Order.²⁴ The Grand Priory was legally registered in the “Industrial Property Registrations Directorate” in February 2006²⁵, and as a Non-Governmental Organization in 2010.

|  Heads of the Maltese Jurisdiction 1969-2009 |  Heads of the Gozo Jurisdiction 1972-2009 |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sir Hannibal Publius Scicluna [<i>Bailiff, 1967</i>] ➤ Col. Joseph Vincent Abela [<i>Prior, 1969</i>] ➤ R. Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra [<i>Prior, 1970</i>] ➤ Judge William D. Harding [<i>Grand Prior, 1983</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ R. Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra [<i>Prior</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ Antoine Zammit [<i>Prior, 1985</i>] ➤ Antoine Zammit [<i>Prior, 1985</i>] ➤ Jamie H. Cremona [<i>Grand Prior, 1993</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ Antoine Zammit [<i>Prior, 1985</i>] ➤ Antoine. Zammit [<i>Grand Prior, 1997</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ Josie R. Pace [<i>Prior, 1985</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ H. Messina Ferrante [<i>acting Prior, 2004</i>] ➤ Josie R. Pace [<i>Grand Prior, 2004</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ G.A. Said Zammit [<i>Prior, 2004</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ Michael Ciavola [<i>Prior, 2006</i>] ➤ Josie R. Pace [<i>Grand Prior, 2007</i>] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Josie R. Pace [<i>Delegate, 1972</i>] <li style="padding-left: 20px;">➤ Paul Peter Banavage [<i>Commander, 2005</i>] |

²³ *Malta Year Book*. De La Salle Brothers Publ., Malta, 1994, p.379-380; <http://www.oslj-international.org/> (accessed 7th December 2005).

²⁴ J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon, 1983: *op. cit.*, p.408-410, 430

²⁵ *Registration of Trademarks: Industrial Property Registration Directorate*. Malta Government Gazette, 8th February 2006, 17877:p.1150-1154

The Maltese members and officials of the *Grand Priory of Malta* listed in the 1983 “Roll of Members”²⁶ included:-

- H.E. the Chevalier Sir Hannibal P. Scicluna GCMM, KStJ, MBE, MALLD, GCLJ [ad.1962]
- Major Albert Abela MBE, OStJ, OLJ [ad.1967]
- Chevalier Biasini dei Conti Stagno Navarra KCLJ, KMLJ, Prior [ad.1967]
- Chevalier Anthony Miceli-Farrugia KM, KLJ, Convener Admissions Commission [ad.1967]
- Chevalier Antoine Zammit CStJ, KCLJ, KMLJ [ad.1967]
- Professor the Chevalier J.V. Zammit-Maempel MD, FRCP (Lond), KCLJ, KMLJ, Hospitaller [ad.1967]
- Professor the Chevalier A.P. Camilleri MD, FRCOG, KLJ [ad.1969]
- Chevalier M. Captur BE&A, ArCE, KLJ [ad.1969]
- Dr. the Chevalier V. Captur MD, BSc, FACC, KLJ [ad.1969]
- A. Vella-Gera Esq. OLJ [ad.1970]
- The Rev. Mons Ignazio Sciberras-Psaila JUD, KLJ, Senior Chaplain [ad.1971]
- Dr. the Chevalier Joseph R. Pace LLD, KLJ, Editor St. Lazarus Newsletter [ad.1971]
- Chevalier Austin Camilleri KLJ [ad.1971]
- Dr. William Grima BSc, MD, CLJ [ad.1971]
- E. Barbara Esq. CLJ [ad.1971]
- V.S. Bianchi Esq. CLJ [ad.1971]
- D.P. Cremona Esq. MA (Oxon) MLJ [ad.1971]
- J.P. Dimech Esq. BARCH, AECE, CLJ [ad.1971]
- Rev. Canon E. Galea CLJ, Chaplain [ad.1971]
- Rev. Canon E. Ghigo KLJ, Senior Chaplain [ad.1971]
- Dame B. Zammit DLJ, MMLJ [ad.1971]
- Mrs. R. Agius OLJ [ad.1971]
- Mrs. B. Bianchi MLJ [ad.1971]
- Mrs. E. Biasini MLJ [ad.1971]
- A. Farrugia Esq. CPA, OLJ [ad.1972]
- Mrs. A. Grech MLJ [ad.1972]
- Mrs. L. Miceli-Farrugia MLJ [ad.1972]
- Dr. the Chevalier J. Rizzo-Naudi MD, FRCP, KLJ [ad.1972]
- Chevalier G. Ransley KN, FCIS, KLJ [ad.1972]
- Mrs. J.M. Zammit MLJ [ad.1972]
- Mrs. V. Zammit-Maempel MLJ [ad.1972]
- Chevalier Reginald S. Attard CPA, KCLJ, OMLJ, Receiver General [b.1925; d.2007; ad.1973]
- Major the Chevalier F.E. Critien ED, CStJ, KCLJ, Vice Chancellor [ad.1973]
- J. Critien Esq. BA, OLJ [ad.1973]
- Chevalier L. Dato FEAA, KCLJ, OMLJ [ad.1973]
- Mrs. E. Dato MLJ [ad.1973]
- Chevalier R.M. Demajo MLJ [ad.1973]
- Mrs. M. Demajo MLJ [ad.1973]
- Mrs. M. Tabone MLJ [ad.1973]
- Dr. J.R. Grech LLD, BA, CLJ [ad.1973]
- H.E. Judge the Chevalier W.D. Harding, CBE, KM, KGG, OSTJ, GCLJ, KMLJ, BMLJ, Grand Prior [ad.1975]
- J. Saydon Esq. OLJ [ad.1975]
- Mrs. M. Hughes CLJ, CMLJ, BMLJ [ad.1976]
- Judge the Chevalier E. Magri KGG, LLD, KCLJ [ad.1976]
- P. Amato-Gauci Esq. OLJ [ad.1977]
- Chevalier S.C. Mifsud KM, KCLJ [ad.1977]
- Rev. Canon F. Perici KLJ, Senior Chaplain [ad.1978]
- Major G. Amato-Gauci MC, ATAI, OLJ [ad.1980]
- W. Castillo Esq. OLJ [ad.1980]
- O.P. Caruana-Montaldo Esq. OLJ [ad.1980]

²⁶ J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon, 1983: *op. cit.*, p.408-409

Judge Harding died in 1985, and the Grand Priory was managed by the serving Prior H.A. Consul Chev Antoine Zammit, Marquis of Tiana. In 1993, a new Grand Prior, Chev. Dr. J. Cremona, was appointed, with Chev A. Zammit being re-appointed Prior.²⁷ Chev. Zammit was subsequently appointed Grand Prior in 1997 after the resignation of Chev Cremona. He was assisted by Chev J.R. Pace as Prior.²⁸

The Maltese members of the Order "*In Gremio Religionis*" listed in the 1983 "Roll of Members"²⁹ included:-

- H.E. Chevalier Joseph Amato-Gauci, GCLJ, KMLJ, KCN, KSS, CL, Grand Chancellor of the Order [ad.1967]
- H.E. Chevalier Richard Flores-Martin, GCLJ, KMLJ, CL, Vice-Chancellor [ad.1970]
- Chevalier John Sant Manduca, KLJ [ad.1970]
- Dame the Noble Beatrice Amato-Gauci, GCLJ [ad.1971]
- Dame Adelina Flores-Martin, GCLJ, CMLJ [ad.1981]

In 1967, Lt. Colonel Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg [b.1907; d.1996] established the *Hereditary Commandery of Lochore*³⁰ with a branch in Malta known as the ***Hereditary Commandery of Lochore in Malta***. The *Hereditary Commandery of Lochore in Malta* established its headquarters in Torri Lanza in 1973. In 1983, the Malta branch of this commandery was represented by only nine members resident in Malta. The Commander was Chev George Merredew.³¹

The members of the *Hereditary Commandery of Lochore* resident in the Maltese Islands listed in the 1983 "Roll of Members"³² included:-

- Dr. the Chevalier Kenneth Biddis, KLJ [ad.1973]
- Chevalier H.F. John Lloyd, KCLJ, CMLJ [ad.1973]
- Dame Pamela Lloyd, DLJ [ad.1973]
- Commander the Chevalier George Merredew, KLJ [ad.D/U]
- Chevalier Robert Bauld, KLJ [ad.1976]
- Dame Rosilla Vernon-Lawrence, DLJ [ad.1976]
- Mrs. Janatha Srubbs, OLJ [ad.1979]
- Patrick Stubbs, Esq. CLJ [ad.1979]
- Rev. Colin Westmarland, Chaplain [ad.1980]

²⁷ Prior to Jan 1994, Jamie Cremona served as Vice-Chancellor, Secretary to Supreme Council and Vice-Custodian. He was appointed Grand Prior of the Maltese Islands and Grand Hospitaller. *St. Lazarus Newsletter*, Malta, Jan 1994, 1:p8

²⁸ J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon, 1983: *op. cit.*, p.408-410; *St. Lazarus News Letter*, Malta, 01/1991, p.2; Circular No. 2/1993 – July 1. In: *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*, Jan 1994, 1:p.8-9; *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*. Apr 1999, 14:p.2

²⁹ J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon, 1983: *op. cit.*, p. 430

³⁰ *The Hereditary Commandery of Lockore*. MHOSLJ, Edinburgh, [1971].

³¹ J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon, 1983: *op. cit.*, p.405

³² J.J. Algrant, J. Beaugourdon, 1983: *op. cit.*, p. 405



Heads of the Grand Commandery of the Castello 1973-2009

- 1973: Lt Col. Chev Robert Gayre [b.1907; d.1996]
- c.1983: Chev. George Merredew
- 1994: Chev. J. Amato Gauci [d.1995]
- 1996: Chev. Major Stuart Hamilton [b.1916; d.2002]
- 2001: H.R.H. don Francisco de Borbón y Escasany, Duke of Seville [b.1943]
 - 2001-04: Deputy Commander: Chev. Count Reginald S.R. Attard [b.1925; d.2006]
 - 2004-09: Deputy Commander: Chev. Geoffrey Fosbery
- 2009: H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis of Almazan [b.1947]
 - 2009---: Deputy Grand Commander: Chev. Geoffrey Fosbery

The jurisdiction was renamed *Commandery of the Castello* in 1986.³³ On the 14th-16th September 2001, after the retirement of the Commander H.E. Major Chev. Stuart Hamilton GCLJ, the leadership of this jurisdiction was taken over by the Grandmaster H.R.H. Don Francisco de Borbón y Escasany Duke of Seville; with the Deputy Commander being Chev Reginald Attard.³⁴ The latter was replaced from this post by Chev Geoffrey Fosberry GCLJ in 2004 after Chev Attard led the split in the Order to form a splinter group. The Commandery was renamed *Grand Commandery of the Castello* in 2009. On the 9th September 2009, the newly elected Grandmaster H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis of Almazan assumed the post of Commander with the serving Deputy Commander being Chev Geoffrey Fosberry GCLJ.



Grandmaster Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón assuming office of
Grand Commander of the Castello
Torri Lanzun, 9th September 2009

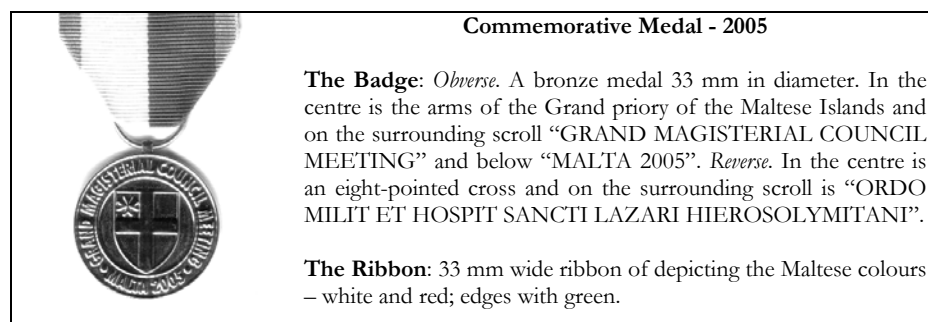
³³ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*. May 2001,18: p.9

³⁴ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*. Nov 2001, 19:p.3-4,5-6

In 14-16th September 2001, the *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* co-hosted together with the *Commandery of the Castello* a visit by the 48th Grandmaster-elect, H.R.H. the Duke of Seville who had taken over the leadership of the latter Jurisdiction. During the visit the Grandmaster-elect visited the site, St Catherine of Siena Home for the Elderly (previously a general private hospital where his father had unveiled a plaque during his visit in May 1973) and made a courtesy visit to the H.E. Guido de Marco President of the Republic of Malta.³⁵

The Maltese jurisdiction was embroiled in the turbulence generated by the administrative turmoil that occurred in 2004. This led to a division of the jurisdiction into two fractions under the direction of Chev Antione Zammit on one side and Chev J.R. Pace on the other. During the division, a recruitment drive by the splinter group led to the establishment of the subsidiary *Commandery of Gozo* under Chev Paul Peter Banavage as Commander.³⁶

In November 2005, the splinter group of the *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* hosted the Grand Magisterial Meeting presided by the Grand Vicar H.E. Chev Count R.S.R. Attard. A Commemorative medal was struck to commemorate the occasion.³⁷







Following the demise of the Vicar General Chev Attard, the same group in November 2006 hosted the Supreme Council Meeting and an International Investiture to discuss the future options for the group. For this occasion, the *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* commissioned from MaltaPost Ltd a limited edition commemorative stamp issue


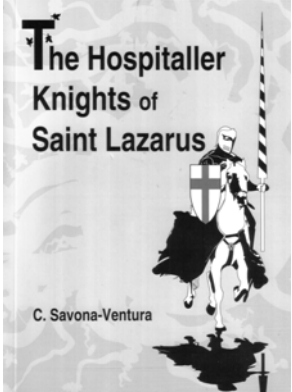
³⁵ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*. November 2001, p.3-4,5-6

³⁶ Grand Magistral Decree no. 02/05, 9th March 2005: *Establishment of the Commandery of Gozo within the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands and appointment of Chevalier Paul Peter Banavage to its first Commander*

³⁷ Order of St Lazarus grand investiture. *The Sunday Times [Malta]*, 27th November 2005, p.104

depicting two past personalities of the Order who had both served as Vicar Generals with grand magisterial privileges – H.E. Francois Michel le Tellier [served 1673-1691] and H.E. Count R.S.R. Attard [served 2004-2006]. Following this meeting, the *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* unilaterally decided to rejoin the Order led by Grandmaster H.R.H. Don Francisco de Borbón y Escasany Duke of Seville. Reunification of the two fractions of the *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* was eventually achieved in 2007, with Chev Josie R. Pace being appointed Grand Prior of the reunified jurisdiction. A delegation of the Grand Priory joined the rest of the Order in Manchester, U.K. on the 13th September 2008 to participate in the installation of the 49th Grandmaster H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Marquis of Almazan. Two commemorative stamps were commissioned from MaltaPost Ltd depicting the outgoing 48th Grandmaster and the new 49th Grandmaster. During this meeting the delegation led by the Grand Prior had the opportunity to meet with the newly installed Grandmaster and present him with the historical publication entitled “*The Hospitaller Knights of Saint Lazarus*” authored by Chev. Charles Savona-Ventura and published by the Grand Priory in 2006.

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| <p>H.E. Francois Michel le Tellier</p> | <p>H.E. Count R.S.R. Attard</p> | <p>H.R.H. Don Francisco de Borbón y Escasany</p> | <p>H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón</p> |
| <p>Commemorative Stamps 9th November 2006 Supreme Council Meeting</p> | | <p>Commemorative Stamps 13th September 2008 Installation of the 49th Grandmaster</p> | |

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| <p>Book presentation to Grandmaster Grand Prior Chev J.R. Pace presenting a copy of the book about the history of the Order to the GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón.. Chev. Michael Chiavola is onlooking.</p> | <p>Book presentation C. Savona-Ventura. <i>The Hospitaller Knights of Saint Lazarus</i>. Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands – MHOSLJ, Malta, 2006, +244p. ISBN: paperback 978-99932-0-460-2; hardback 998-99932-0-461-9</p> |

On the 9-10th September 2009, the *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* co-hosted, with the *Grand Commandery of the Castello*, the Grandmaster H.E. Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón during his visit to the Maltese Islands undertaken with the aim of assuming the leadership of the Grand Commandery. The official ceremony, attended by a representative delegation³⁸ of the Grand Priory led by the Grand Prior Chev. J.R. Pace, took place at *Torri Lanzun* on the 9th September. The Grand Priory council members had the opportunity to meet with the Grandmaster during a lunch organised on the 10th September. For the occasion, the Grand Priory presented the Grandmaster with a reproduction of the 1673 *Ode à la gloire des chevaliers de l'ordre de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem* by Jacques de Coras published by Sebastien Cramoisy of Paris. The reproduction also carried a historical note relating to the *Ode* and the author Jacques de Coras prepared by the historian of the Grand Priory Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura. In addition, the Grandmaster was presented with a set of stamps commemorating his installation as Grandmaster of the Order in September 2008.

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| <p>Council delegation lunching with GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón 10th September 2009 <i>(left to right)</i> Fr. T. Moore, Mr. G. Sammut, GP Chev. J.R. Pace, Mr. J. Grixti, GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón, Chev. T. Cutajar, Chev. M. Ciavola, Mr. C. Cilia, Chev. J. Spiteri Audibert</p> | <p>Book presentation <i>Ode à la gloire des chevaliers de l'ordre de Saint-Lazare de Jérusalem.</i> Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands – MHOSLJ, Malta, 2009.</p> | <p>Grand Prior presenting gifts to GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón 10th September 2009 Chev. T. Cutajar onlooking</p> |

The Grand Priory members had the opportunity to meet with the Grandmaster during a gala dinner organised jointly with the *Grand Commandery of the Castello* on the 10th September. For the occasion, the two jurisdictions presented the Grandmaster with a model of a Maltese fishing boat in silver.

³⁸ Delegation included: Chev. Dr. J.R. Pace, Chev. M. Ciavola, Chev. Prof. C. Savona-Ventura, and Mr. C. Cilia.



Gala Dinner
 Villa Arrigo, 10th September 2009
 GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón with Grand Prior Chev. J.R. Pace
 – Grand Priory members in opposite table.



Gala Dinner
 Villa Arrigo, 10th September 2009
 GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón making dinner speech.
 Grand Prior Chev. J.R. Pace onlooking and Grand Priory members in
 opposite table.






Gala Dinner
 Villa Arrigo, 10th September 2009
 Main table with GM Don Carlos Gereda de Borbón flanked by Grand
 Prior Chev. J.R. Pace and Deputy Grand commander Chev. J. Fosberry



Gala Dinner
 Villa Arrigo, 10th September 2009
 Tables hosting Grand Priory members

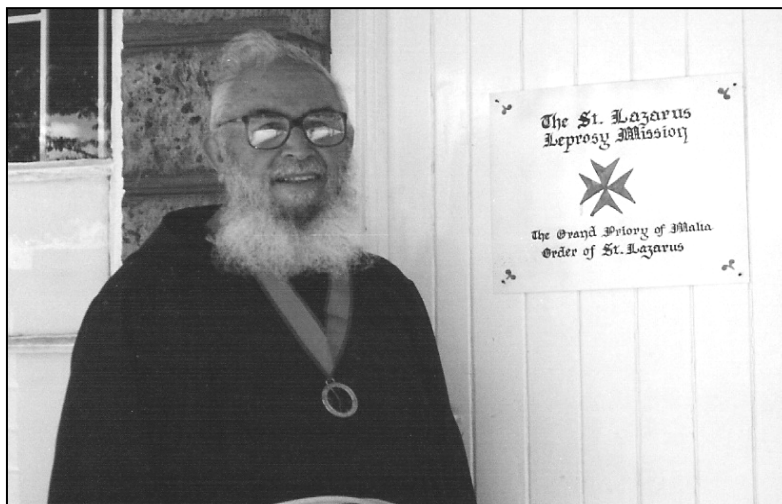
On the 16-19th April 2010, the Grand Priory was happy to host the Order's Spiritual Protector Patriarch Gregory III Laham during his stay on the Islands that coincided with Pope Benedict XVI's weekend visit to the Islands on the occasion of the 1950th anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck in Malta.. The three-day programme covering the visit to the Islands of Malta was a very intensive one with a mix of a true pilgrimage to the traditional Pauline sites in Malta; visits to shrines dedicated to Our Lady; visits to the Co-Cathedral of St. John in Valletta; and the celebration of the Eucharist in the Melkite rite in Our Lady of Damascus Church in Valletta and concelebrating with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on the Floriana Granaries. In addition the Patriarch and his entourage—the Most Reverend Archbishop Joseph Absi and Archimandrite Mtanios Haddad—had courtesy visits with His Holiness the Pope and His Excellency

Archbishop Cremona. A Gala Dinner was given in the Patriarch's honour by the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands and the Commandery of Gozo. Two commemorative stamps were prepared depicting the Patriarch Gregory III Laham and His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. For the occasion, the Grand Priory presented the Grandmaster with a reproduction of the 17th century handbill *Virtu della Pietra di San Paolo* published in Messina with a note relating to the Maltese folklore associated with St. Paul's shipwreck prepared by the historian of the Grand Priory Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura. Another gift included a fossilized shark's tooth or St. Paul's tongue.³⁹

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| <p align="center">Patriarch's visit to Malta Hotel Excelsior, 17th April 2010 Group photo of Grand Priory and Commandery of Gozo members with Patriarch Gregory III Laham and his entourage.</p> | <p align="center">Patriarch's visit to Malta Our Lady of Damascus Church, 16th April 2010 Group photo of Grand Priory members with Patriarch Gregory III Laham and his entourage.</p> |
|  |  |
| <p align="center">Patriarch's visit to Malta St. Paul's Grotto, 19th April 2010 Group photo of Grand Priory and Commandery of Gozo members with Patriarch Gregory III Laham and his entourage.</p> | <p align="center">Commemorative Stamps 19th April 2010 <i>On the footsteps of St. Paul – 1950th anniversary</i> Patriarch's visit to Malta</p> |

³⁹ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2010, 5(2):p.2-5

During its near forty-five years of existence, the Maltese Jurisdiction has striven to assist the poor and needy particularly those suffering from leprosy [Hansen’s disease] both in Malta and overseas. In Malta, support was given to the resident inmate lepers of the local leprosarium at *Hal Ferba Estate* at Gharghur. Besides regular visits to these individuals, the jurisdiction helped organise an annual Christmas Party when gifts and monetary donations were made to the inmates. These activities continued on an annual basis until the closure of the leprosarium in 2004. Hansen’s disease is now considered extinct on the islands, though an imported case was reported in 2008. In addition, the Maltese jurisdiction has regularly supported various philanthropic organisations working with sufferers of Hansen Disease. Together with the *Commandery of the Castello*, the Maltese jurisdiction set up a Leprosy Fund in 1994. This was used to support the lepers at the Abu Zabaal Leprosy Mission run by Caritas in Egypt and the St. Lazarus Leprosy Mission in Pumwani, Kenya. It also donated funds to the Order of Charity, the Malta branch of the Raoul Follereau Foundation, to assist lepers in Ethiopia and Madras.⁴⁰



**Fr. Cassar at the St. Lazarus Leprosy Mission
set up by the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands in Kenya, 1996**

In recent years, the jurisdiction has also supported the Missionary Movement “*Gesu fil-Proximi*” to build a school for children affected by leprosy in Ethiopia. It has also supported the work of a Malta-born hand-plastic surgeon with his annual philanthropic

⁴⁰ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*, May 1997, 10:p.14; Leprosy fund donates money to Caritas Egypt. *Gallarija - The Malta Independent*, 14th January 1996, p.20

work with lepers in India and Nepal.⁴¹ On the international front, the jurisdiction continued with the fund-raising efforts of U.K.-based agency *Lepra* and in the documentation efforts of the Oxford-based International Leprosy Association's Global Project on the History of Leprosy funded by the Nippon Foundation.⁴² In 2009, the Maltese jurisdiction took over the management of the **Order of Charity**, thus assuming a more national role in fund-raising for the benefit of lepers worldwide. The appointed principal administrator of the *Order of Charity* was Chev. Tony Cutajar assisted by Dr. Joseph Galea OLJ as treasurer.



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|  <p>Presentation of Cheque to Fr. G. Grima founder of the Moviment Missjunarju "Gesu fil-Proxxmu" in support of his work with lepers in Ethiopia - 16th December 2007</p> |  <p>Presentation of Cheque to Order of Charity Catholic Institute - 12th September 2008 during talk delivered by UK-based Consultant Hand surgeon Mr Donald Sammut describing his work among lepers in India and Nepal. (right to left) Mr. Donald Sammut, Chev Michael Chivola, Chev. Tony Cutajar</p> |
|  <p>World Leprosy Day Lecture Dolmen Resort Hotel – 19th February 2005</p> |  <p>World Leprosy Day Lecture Coastline Hotel – 19th February 2006</p> |

⁴¹ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2008, 3(3):p.2

⁴² C. Savona-Ventura: *Leprosy Archives - The Maltese Islands*. Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSIJ, Malta, 2006, +16p. [updated 2007] This e-publication details the history of leprosy in the Maltese Islands and includes an annotated bibliography, a biographical profile of a prominent leprologist, a short history of the various leprosaria, a history of the Order of St. Lazarus in Malta, statistical tables about leprosy in Malta, and finally the legal code that pertains to leprosy. Available at <http://www.stlazarusmalta.org/publications.html>

In addition the jurisdiction attempts to arouse awareness for the disease by commemorating World Leprosy Day with a public historical lecture. These lectures have become an annual feature being combined with the Grand Priory's Annual General meeting.⁴³ The topics presented included:

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| <p>World Leprosy Day Lecture <i>"The Origins of the Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem"</i> Dolmen Resort Hotel – 19th February 2006</p> | <p>World Leprosy Day Lecture <i>"Kings, Knights and Lepers"</i> Coastline Hotel – 19th February 2007</p> |
| <p>World Leprosy Day Lecture <i>"History of Leprosy in the Maltese Islands"</i> Topax Hotel – 27th January 2008</p> | <p>World Leprosy Day Lecture <i>"The Maltese 'Welfare State' during the Hospitaller Period"</i> Topax Hotel – January 2009</p> |

Other socio-cultural events aimed at promoting fund-raising to assist victims of leprosy have also been regularly organised in the last years. These include:

- Musical-Literary Soiree with an illustrated lecture entitled *"The Order of St. Lazarus in the Holy Land"* by Chev. Prof. C. Savona-Ventura, followed by a selection of hit-songs *"Evergreens from the fifties & sixties"* sung by Mrs MarieTherese Vassallo O.L.J and artistes from Voice Studio held at Torri Lanzun on the 7th June 2007.⁴⁴
- Film-showing entitled *"Molokai – The Story of Fr. Damien"* held as part of a social gathering in Gozo on the 20th April 2008. This film by Paul Cox depicts the story of Fr. Damien who relentlessly gave of himself and served the lepers who had been exiled to the barred island, at the cost of his life.⁴⁵

The Maltese jurisdiction has also supported other philanthropic causes. On a number of occasions it helped support the care of the elderly by financial support to purchase necessary equipment in religious-managed "old people" homes such as support to the institutions run by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Hamrun [1994: assistance and provision of equipment⁴⁶; 2009: donation of funds⁴⁷] and the Dominican Sisters' St. Catherine Home for the Elderly at Attard [2009: donation of gifts to inmates⁴⁸]. The latter institution was on the 13th May 1973 donated an ambulance that had been obtained from the *Commandery of Lochore*, Scotland. The hospital undertook to fly the Flag of St

⁴³ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2006-2009, 1(1):p.2, 2(2):p.2, 2(3):p.2, 3(1):p.2, 3(3):p.2

⁴⁴ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2007, 2(2):p.2

⁴⁵ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2008, 3(2):p.2

⁴⁶ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*, May 1994, 2:p.5

⁴⁷ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2010, 5(1):p.2

⁴⁸ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2010, 5(1):p.2

Lazarus on St Lazarus Day (17th December) and name a new wing of the hospital after the patron saint of the Order.⁴⁹

The Maltese jurisdiction has also in the 1990s supported youth institutions such as the St. Joseph Orphanage at Zabbar, and the St Francis Ravelin Youth Institution.⁵⁰ It has also supported cancer victims by monetary donations to the Hospice Movement. In 2005, though the help of the Canadian jurisdiction, the Grand Priory distributed to relevant institutions and libraries a number of copies of the publication “*A Caregiver’s Guide – A handbook about end-of-life care*” published by the Canadian jurisdiction. During the 1990s, the Grand Priory also was in the forefront for offering support to HIV-AIDS care initiatives supporting the National Advisory Committee for AIDS and the Caritas initiative for these individuals.⁵¹ Support was also made available in 2008 to aid children orphaned HIV-AIDS in Tanzania.⁵²



It also has supported institutions that service persons with special needs such as the Dar tal-Providenza at Siggiewi, and the Razzett tal-Hiberija at Marsascula.⁵³ Since 2004, the Grand Priory has affiliated the ***Step-by-Step Foundation*** which is a non-profit organisation, with the goal of assisting brain injured children to reach their full potential. The Grand Priory on the Maltese Islands and the Commandery of Gozo have strongly supported the activities of the Step-by-Step Foundation, assisting the Foundation to obtain and refurbish premises with clinic facilities at Hamrun in Malta [named *Centru Kavallier Vincent J. Bugeja* opened officially by Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina on the 16th December 2005] and at Gharb in Gozo [named *Centru Nikolai Nappa* opened officially by Hon. Minister Giovanna Debono on the 10th September 2005].⁵⁴ On the 4th December 2005, a delegation of the Grand Priory led by H.E. Chev. Josie Pace Grand Prior and Confr. Kenneth Cremona Caruana for the *Step-by-Step Foundation* participated in the Commemorative Mass for the occasion of the "International Day for

⁴⁹ *Inauguration of the Grand Chancery, Malta; Report on Chapter General held on 11th and 12th May 1973*. MHOSLJ, Malta, p.8; Order of St Lazarus headquarters to be inaugurated. *Times of Malta*, 12th May 1973, p.20

⁵⁰ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*, September 1994, 3:p.2

⁵¹ J. Calvert: Maltese youths have no 'special protections against AIDS'. *The Sunday Times [of Malta]*, 30th December 1994, p.2

⁵² *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2008, 3(3):p.2

⁵³ *Saint Lazarus Newsletter*, September 1994, 3:p.2

⁵⁴ Brain injured children's centre launched in Gozo. *Galleria - The Malta Independent on Sunday*, 25th September 2005, p.4

the Disabled" organised by the Health & Special Needs Subcommittee of the Mosta Local Council.



**Presentation of financial support
10th September 2005**
from the Chev. Banavage – Commandery of Gozo to Ms. Marisa Xwereb Step-by-Step



**Opening of the Step-by-Step Clinic –
Centru Nikolai Nappa
at Gharb, Gozo – 10th September 2005**
Opening address by Chev. Paul Banavage Commandery of Gozo with Hon. Minister of Gozo Ms Giovanna Debono and Major of Gharb onlooking



**Launching of training courses by Step-by-Step
at Centru Nikolai Nappa
at Gharb, Gozo – 4th March 2006**
Kenneth Cremona Caruana with Chev Banavage onlooking



**Step-by-Step activity at Splash & Fun Park
2nd July 2005**

In 2004, the Grand Priory also acquired links with the *St. Lazarus Corps – Special Rescue Group* which functions as a voluntary relief movement whose purpose is to protect human life and health and to ensure respect for the human being thus developing the Body, the Mind and the Spirit. The Grand Priory has supported the SRG-SLC by purchasing a new ambulance for use during the public activities of the group. In addition it has financially supported the group to upgrade its training programme and its first aid support equipment. The Grand Priory was also instrumental in organising a day *Trauma – BLS Seminar “Dealing with an emergency situation”* for the group’s volunteer members and other suitable members of the



Grand Priory. The seminar, run by the Emergency Response Team [Malta] was based on a series of talks and hands-on practical experience.⁵⁵



Group Photo of Officials – SRG-SLC 15 years commemoration event – 16th June 2006

(right to left) Chev. Col. Joseph M. Spiteri Audibert - Marshall & Operations Officer SRG-SLC; Chev. Dr Joseph R. Pace - Grand Prior of the Maltese Islands; Chev. Paul Banavage - Commander of Gozo Commandery; Chev. Field Marshal David John Zammit - Commander SRG-SLC; Major Carmel Mangion – Unit Officer SRG-SLC



Saluting the Flags – Investiture Ceremony – 12th November 2005



SRG-SLC volunteers on public event duty



SRG-SLC volunteers on public event duty



Donation of Ambulance by Grand Priory and Commandery of Gozo to SRG-SLC – Gala Dinner, Hotel Hilton – 24th November 2006



SRG-SLC Ambulance on public event duty

The Grand Priory also responds to appeals for philanthropic support from various organisations in need. In 2007-08, it responded to the general appeals by the Mission Fund as part of the project *Progett TAMA* which was set up to equip a school for orphan

⁵⁵ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2008, 3(3):p.2

children in Guatemala.⁵⁶ Support in the form of clothes and goods were regularly made in 2007 to the refugees and irregular immigrants housed at the Hal Far Centre.⁵⁷ In 2009-2010, the Grand Priory undertook to support and organise fund-raising activities for the *Angels Children's Home Programme* in Ethiopia that helps abandoned children. This mission is led by Monica Tonna Barthet.⁵⁸

Besides philanthropic work with the needy, the Grand Priory has also supported cultural and social philanthropy. The ethos of these activities is to upgrade the profile of the jurisdiction and thus enable it in its fund-raising endeavours. On the 3rd July 2005, a delegation of the Grand Priory, led by H.E. Chevalier Dr. Joseph R. Pace, GCLJ, Grand Prior, and Chevalier Paul P. Banavage, KCLJ, Commander of Gozo, participated in the traditional feast of "The Visitation" in Gharb, Gozo at the invitation of the Gharb Local Council attending the solemn High Mass at the Gharb basilica church. The Bishop of Gozo, H.E. Mons. Nikol Joseph Cauchi, officiated mass with the help of another 14 members which included Archpriests and other important clergy members.

On the 23rd June 2007, the Grand Priory commissioned the restoration of the 17th century painting of the *Raising of St. Lazarus* held at the Basilica of St George Martyr, Victoria, Gozo. The restoration had been commissioned by the Priory and carried out by the Gozitan art restorer Mr. Godwin Cutajar. The presentation was preceded by the Celebration of Holy Mass with accompanying hymns by members of the Laudate Pueri Choir. The Event was held under the distinguished patronage of H.E. Mons. Mario Grech – Bishop of Gozo and the Hon. Giovanna Debono – Minister for Gozo. On that occasion, a copy of the Grand Priory's publication about the history of the Order was presented to the Bishop and the Honorary Minister.⁵⁹ In 2007, the Grand Priory served as a go-between between DISCERN: Institute for Research on the Signs of the Times and the Commandery of the Castello to help arrange for the Seminar "*Confidence Building Strategies*" to be held at Torri Lanzun. The seminar run by Prof. Richard Rubenstein with introductory talks by Rev. Dr. Rene Camilleri and Rev. Dr. Joe Inguanez was attended by H.E. Mons. Mario Grech – Bishop of Gozo besides a number of parish priests. In


⁵⁶ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2007, 2(2):p.2; *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2008, 3(2):p.2

⁵⁷ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2007, 2(2):p.2

⁵⁸ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2010, 5(1):p.2; 5(2):p.2

⁵⁹ *The painting "Raising of Lazarus" held at the Basilica of St. George Martyr in Victoria, Gozo. On the occasion of the formal presentation and blessing of the restored painting commissioned by the Priory of the Maltese Islands of the Military & Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem on the 23rd June 2007.* Priory of the Maltese Islands - MHOSLJ, Malta, 2007, +12p.; *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2007, 2(2):p.2

March 2009, on the initiative of the Commandery of Gozo, a set of three paintings were donated to the Addolorata Cemetery Chapel to adorn parts of the chapel and sacristy.⁶⁰

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| <p>Participation during the feast at Gharb, Gozo 3rd July 2005</p> | <p>Blessing of the restored 16th century painting of St. Lazarus – 23rd June 2007 (right to left) Mgr. Joseph Farrugia, H.E. Mons. M. Gauci, Chev. J. Pace</p> |
|  |  |
| <p>Donation of paintings to adorn Addolorata Cemetery Chapel – March 2009 (right to left) Chev. J. Grixti, Chev P. Banavage, Fr. Lucian, Chev. J. Pace, Chev. M. Chiavola</p> | <p>Seminar: "Confidence Building Strategies" (right to left) Rev. Dr. Joe Inguanez, Prof. Richard Rubenstein chairing a session at Torri Lanzun</p> |

To also increase its public profile, the Grand Priory has encouraged its members to submit articles in the local media⁶¹ and has repeatedly participated in radio/television programmes discussing the Order and the work of the Grand Priory.⁶² In 2010, it started organising public lectures of a general interest at the Grand Hotel Excelsior to increase

⁶⁰ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2009, 4(3):p.2

⁶¹ T.C. Cutajar: *Knights caring for lepers*. The Sunday Times [Malta], 5th November 2006, p.35; T.C. Cutajar: *St. Lazarus - who was he?* The Sunday Times (Malta), 18 June 2006, p.68-69; C. Savona-Ventura: *L-Ordni Militari u Hospitaljer ta' San Lazzeru ta' Gerusalem vs Torri Lanzun*. Il-Huggiega ta' San Gwann, June-August 2006, 1(12):p9; C. Savona-Ventura: *Medieval Dermatological Hospitaler Orders*. Synapse: The Medical Professionals' Network, 2006, January:p.8-9

⁶² 31st July 2005 – Bay Radio Interview; 7th October 2005 – Super one Television; 15th October 2005 – Smash Television; June-July 2006 – series of programmes about the Order and the SRG-SLC on Channel Education 22 Television

its profile in Maltese society.⁶³ In addition, the Grand Priory set up its dedicated webpage in 2005 [<http://www.stlazarusmalta.org>]. The *Grand Commandery of the Castello* followed suit in 2009 [<http://www.stlazarus-mt.org/>]. On the occasion of the Grand Magisterial Meeting held in November 2005, the splinter *Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands* organised a public exhibition about the origins of the Monastic Military Orders in the Holy Land at the Topax Hotel at Bugibba. This exhibition was kindly hosted throughout the subsequent year.

Throughout the years, the Grand Priory has felt the need to keep in touch with its local members, updating on the various activities occurring in the local jurisdiction and also to events overseas. There have been a number of attempts at disseminating this information through the use of newsletters supplementing regular circular letters – *St. Lazarus Newsletter Malta* [editor: A. Zammit, 1991]; *The Lazarite* [editor: A. Barbara, 1999; J. Pace, 2000-01]; and *Ordo Sancti Lazari - Newsletter of the Grand Priory of the Maltese Islands and the Commandery of Gozo* [editor: C. Savona-Ventura, 2006 et seq].

⁶³ *Ordo Sancti Lazari*. 2010, 5(2):p.2; 5(3):p.2