



MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

MAGISTRAL SEAT ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM, RESTORED MMXII
SPIRITUAL PROTECTOR: HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL LÁSZLÓ PASKAI OFM

JERUSALEM DECLARATION

In the name of God, the Virgin Mary and Saint Lazarus

We, the members of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, are men and women from many different cultures and Christian communities, called by God to live out our common baptism according to a particular chivalric tradition.

We recognize the twelfth century Hospitallers of Saint Lazarus, a community of leper knights and Armenian monks residing outside the walls of the Holy City of Jerusalem, as the foundation of our military and hospitaller tradition. From the time of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem continuously to the present day, our brother-knights have pursued their spiritual, charitable and traditional activities, spreading across Europe and, eventually, the New World, always under the symbol of the green cross.

We recognize that the vicissitudes of nine centuries of history, lived in many different societies, have brought to the Order of Saint Lazarus privileges associated with ecclesiastical and royal patronage as well as less happy times of discord and disparagement.

We recognize with gratitude the protection on many occasions in our history, while we have been based within their realm, of the Kings of France – from the gift to the Order of the Château Royal de Boigny by Louis VII in 1154 to the public expression in 2004 by his descendant, Henri d'Orléans, Comte de Paris, in support of our 49th Grand Master.

The Order of Saint Lazarus in our time is not defined by its protection but by the fact that it protects others, strengthened by its three pillars of spirituality, charity and tradition. In many lands our noble vocation continues to receive the support of prelates, princes and the public, and our contribution to society enjoys official recognition in a number of states. It is, however, clear to us that our legitimacy as an institution is derived not from the opinions of others but from ongoing obedience to our Constitutional Charter and to the gospel of Jesus Christ, our unseen captain.

The Order of Saint Lazarus in our time has come home to Jerusalem, where the Church was founded at Pentecost following Our Lord's Resurrection and Ascension in glory, and has restored its magistral seat to the city where it too began. We return not as crusaders but as servants of Our Lord, going beyond man-made boundaries, as he did, to care for the poor and the sick of any race or creed. For the duty of a knight is to protect what is sacred – not only the holy places but the living stones which make up the Body of Christ.

The Order of Saint Lazarus in our time is a truly ecumenical fellowship rooted once more in Jerusalem. When our forefathers first came here, the conquering knight Godfrey de Bouillon refused to wear a crown in the city where his Master wore a crown of thorns. And so, as we begin a new era, we put aside the temporal powers of kings and princes and "seek first the Kingdom of God". After the example of Lazarus, we commit ourselves to be signs of the new life brought by the King of Kings.

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
so that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
Isaiah 2:3 and Micah 4:2



Richard Garwood

Signed by the Administrator General on behalf of the Chapter General assembled in Jerusalem, Pentecost 2012

