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IN MEMORIAM

Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants

KCM

Kalle Juntunen

Exarchate of Finland

1940 – 2018

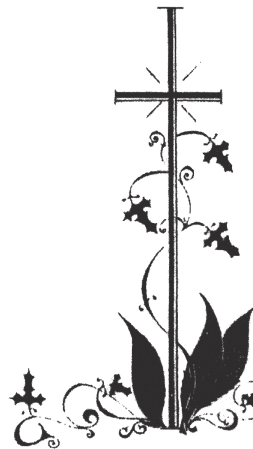
KCM

David T Ulmer

Exarchate of USA

1941 - 2018

*Do not be afraid;
I am the First and the Last.
I am He who lives.*



HB the PATRIARCH'S VISITS



*HB the Patriarch together with
school children in His visit to
Cameroon in November.*

HB is starting the operation of a well of drinking water in the same suburb.

HB inaugurates the church of St Virgin Mary in a suburb of Yaounde (Capital city of Cameroon).



EXARCHE'S SPEECH DURING THECUTTING OF THE NEW YEAR'S CAKE (VASSILOPITA) EVENT.

(YACHT CLUB OF GREECE, SATURDAY, 27 JANUARY 2018)

**Your Eminence, representative of His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria,
Theodoros II, Bishop of Ptolemy, Emmanuel,**

**Mr President of the Archons of the Patriarchate of Alexandria, Professor Theodore
Panagopoulos**

**Dear members of the Hellenic Exarchate of the Order, Knights and Ladies of the
Order**

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Patriarch of Alexandria has the great privilege of being the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christians of the great continent of Africa, where inhabit millions of people who have the need to become partakers of the Christian teaching, but who have to work intensively for the development of their standard of living.

The presence of Hellenism in the region of Egypt begins with the creation of the Great City of Alexandria, in 331 BC, by the Macedonian military leader Alexander the Great and then with the appearance of Christianity by the first Bishop and founder of the Throne of Alexandria, the Apostle and Evangelist Markos in 68 AD

Hellenism and Christianity are the two pillars on which the presence of the Patriarchate in the region is based.

In most countries of the African continent, where the Patriarchate operates, it's objectives are not inapplicable, but they are implemented

His Beatitude, is constantly moving from end to end throughout Africa.

Apart from promoting the Gospel discourse, has, as a parallel activity, the financial assistance of the weakest, either with humanitarian aid to relieve the afflicted Africans, or by creating the conditions for improving education and health, by building schools, hospitals or health centers, respectively. All this are very vital for the people of Africa.

The work is clearly difficult, especially now with the current international crisis.

Our Exarchate contributes, unto the measure of its potential, in achieving the objectives of the Patriarchate with the subscriptions of its members through the Order.

But we can act autonomously, but always within the framework of the current Constitution of the Order, whose objectives are also achieved, by helping the Patriarchate of Alexandria.



Monitoring of the Christmas message, of His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, Theodoros II.



His Eminence Bishop of "Ptolemy" Emmanuel (Representative of the Patriarch) – The President of the Archons of the Patriarchate of Alexandria, Professor Theodore Panagopoulos – Mrs Irene Moustafellou



His Eminence, blessing the New Year's Cake (Vassilopita) – The Exarche – The Master of ceremonies

Some days ago, fell into my hands the appeal of a Holy Metropolis of Africa.

They need our prayers, they need our moral support, but also our material support.

I will briefly tell you the needs of that Mission, which are in many ways the needs of every African Holy Metropolis

Costs of preparing Native Catechists for the teaching of the Orthodox Faith to hundreds of natives, young and adults who want to become Orthodox in several distant regions.

- Costs of preparation of preachy material in local dialects and relevant editions of functional and theological booklets and books
- Costs of transporting Catechists to areas that ask us to become Orthodox
- Costs of preparing native local clergy from the local population
- Expenses of the sacrament of Baptism
- Expenses for Purchase of land and construction a small Chapel and school in areas that developed the Orthodox Missionary
- Granting scholarships to orphans and needy children to attend school



The Exarche giving a piece of "Vassilopita" to His Eminence

- Purchase of food, medicines, clothing and footwear for orphans and needy children
- Support of our effort to operate orphanage and Church Seminar for preparing permanent Mission staff.

The needs seem exorbitant, but as our wise countrymen say: "One bean after the other, you can easily fill the sack"

Let us therefore set as Hellenic Exarchate a goal: To help AS MUCH AS WE CAN, the Mission of a Metropolis that we will choose.

Finally, I wish that we and our families are healthy and have a good and fruitful year

Thank you for your attention.

Exarch Vassilis Yannakakos

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The year 2017 was Order's 64th operational year. International Convention took place in Lund Sweden. About 80 participants from all Exarchates and Autonomous Bailiwicks attended. The program contained among other things sightseeing trip and several interesting presentations.

In the Investiture, which took place in the old Cathedral of Lund Honorary Member His Eminence Leo and Chancellor Toivo Salmi were decorated Grand Cross Constantini Magni and Exarch Erkki Kajander promoted Grand Officer of the OCM by the Master. His Eminence George Haramis as a representative of the Patriarchate delivered St. Mark of Alexandria 1st Cross to Chairman of the Council Rune Rydén, Chancellor Toivo Salmi, Vice Chancellor Leif Syrstad, Exarch Vassilis Yannakakos and Secretary General Jorma Ahonen. The Patriarch had promoted former Chancellor Jürgen Schumacher Grand Officer St. Alexandria.

The OCM stood for its responsibility of keeping good contacts and fulfilling the annual charitable support to the **Patriarchate of Alexandria**.

In addition to the donation to the Patriarchate the International Government supported the children's hospice in Lahore to obtain a mobile clinic.

The Master promoted Bailie Christian Fock Grand Officer of the OCM.

The Master promoted three officers to Knight Commanders of the Order.

The Council took responsibility in approving the budget proposal of the Government and accepting the accounting of the Order.

The **Government** steered the international work of the Order with the support of the Master. The Government held 5 meetings.

The **Executive Committee**, seated in Finland/Sweden, undertook most of the daily work. Chev Ari Karttunen was appointed Assistant Secretary General from the beginning of 2018.

The Master and the Government were represented at the national meetings and investitures of the Exarchates of Finland, Greece and Sweden, and Bailiwicks of Germany and Austria.

Coinciding with the International Convention in Sweden the International Government had a meeting chaired by the Master.

The Chancellor awarded, with authorization of the Master , 7 **Cross of Merit** and different ranks of the **Medal of Merit** to 16 merited Knights for their remarkable support to the Order.

The structure of the membership of the Order shows stability. The changes in membership figures were minor. The total number decreased 5 members.

Three members passed away and 5 members resigned.

The Master admitted new members to the Order from Finland, Greece, U.S.A, Austria, Oslo and Sweden.

Members in the Order as of 31.12.2017:

By January 1st, 2018 the number of honorary members of the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni was 38, and the number of paying members 491.

OCM membership, state 01.01.2018:

| | 1.12.2016 | 1.1.2017 | 1.1.2018 |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Finland | 250 | 254 | 248 |
| Greece | 70 | 32 | 34 |
| U.S.A | 67 | 79 | 79 |
| Sweden | 57 | 65 | 63 |
| Austria | 23 | 27 | 29 |
| Czech R. | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Germany | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Oslo | 16 | 16 | 15 |
| Diaspora | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | 506 | 496 | 491 |
| Honorary members | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| | 544 | 534 | 529 |

As far as reports of the **Exarchates and Bailiwicks of the Order** were received, they enable the Government to survey the activities of the different organizations. The number of meetings and subject matter of the gatherings differs considerable in the different national units. Many of them run charitable projects. Unfortunately most units do not deliver detailed reports.

Two issues of **The Constantinian News**, were edited, containing topical issues of the Order. The Vice Chancellor sent four **circulars**, fixed to the OCM website, containing mostly notes and actual information from the Government.

Finances

The year 2017 was financially satisfactory. The annual accounts of the OCM for 2017 showed an excess of 17.842,80 €. The yearly income was steady, and the expences did not increase unexpectedly.

During the fiscal year 2017 the Order continued the financial aid to the Lahore project. A donation 8.000,00 € was granted to strenghten the possibilities to both collect more donations and to realize the planned chancer center work.

We all have the continous assigment to increase the number of valuable members in order to strenghten the financial basis of the OCM. Only strong basis and commitment to our values would allow us to do even more and diversified charitable work as today.

Helsinki 26.4.2018

The Government of the OCM

Toivo Salmi
Chancellor

Jorma Ahonen
Secretary General

Richard Flahaven
Member

Leif Syrstad
Vice Chancellor

Mika Pynnönen
Treasurer

Eleftherios Fonazakis
Member



*Burg Hornberg
(former home of Knight
Götz von Berlichingen).*

Bailiwick of Germany

Report of National meeting at Burg Hornberg (BW) from 25.-27.05.2017

After arriving on Friday at our Hotel Burg Hornberg (region of Baden-Württemberg, former home of Götz von Berlichingen) we enjoyed spending time together as well like our Dinner at the terrace of the Hotel's restaurant with a beautiful view to the region.

Saturday morning we drove to the wonderful city of Bad Wimpfen where we enjoyed passing through medieval streets and having lunch as well.

In the afternoon, investiture of our new brother **Martin Dahle** took place in the lovely small chapel a little outside of castle-area.

We finished Saturday with dinner by beautiful weather and view (again at Hotel's restaurant).

And Sunday morning, unfortunately, it was already time to say goodbye to our brothers, sisters and friends of the OCM-Germany.

We are looking forward to meet again soon (13th to 14th of October in Weinsberg (Rappenhof).

Members of other countries / Bailiwicks of OCM are welcome!

*André Lienhard
Bailie*



Inside the Chapel, new Knight Martin Dahle, 2nd from the right in front.



Group photo in front of the winery.

RENEWING MEMORIES WITH METROPOLITAN EIRINAIOS AND YRJÖ von GRÖNHAGEN

Late autumn 2017 a young lady from the isle of Crete contacted me with a request, which soon proved to be of interest not only for her, but also for the history of the OCM. She told me to be the grandniece of the late metropolitan Eirinaios, bishop of Kissamou and Selynou, western part of the isle of Crete, who was honorary member and prelate of the OCM for many decades. Her father, nephew of Eirinaios, is

studying their family's history, the entire archives of his uncle being part of his research. Among those papers he also had found my letters sent to the metropolitan at the time myself was secretary general and chancellor of the OCM. Moreover the archives of Eirinaios includes many letters sent to the metropolitan by the late Yrjö von Grönhausen in earlier days of the OCM, when von Grönhausen was secre-



Schumacher at the tomb of bishop Eirinaios in front of the cathedral of Kisamos, Crete

tary general (1963-1976) and chancellor (1970-1990) of the Order. So, the point of the request of the metropolitan's nephew was: would there be any possibility to find letters sent by the metropolitan Eirinaios to von Grönhagen, and perhaps to get copies of these letters.

At this point it might be of interest for younger members of the Order to insert some information about the relevance of these personalities to the early history of the OCM. The Finnish nobleman Yrjö von Grönhagen joined the OCM as early as 1959. At that time OCM actually did not have the status of a chivalric Order. However, von Grönhagen was aware, how to conceive a contemporary Order on the lines of the traditional Orders of the Middle Ages (Order of Malta, Order of St. John).

From the beginning of the 1960ies he assisted the then leaders of the new 'Constantinian Association' and soon established contact with the Duke Frederick von Beaufort-Spontin, head of an old Austrian-Belgian aristocratic family. In June 1962 the Duke, father of the present Master, was elected Master of the association.

In 1963 the OCM (the name 'Ordo Constantini Magni' was already in use) held an international meeting in Crete. Then the Metropolitan Eirinaios, bishop of Kissamou and Selynou, joined the Order. Over time von Grönhagen became a close friend with Eirinaios, and when von Grönhagen was nominated secretary general of the OCM in 1964, he moved with his family from Finland to Crete. From there he took care of the daily business of the OCM for many years. In those days von Grönhagen also started to have close ties to the highest orthodox clergy of Crete appealing



Scumacher handing over the letters to Mr. Michalis Galanakis in front of the Bishop Erinaios museum in Kisamos Crete.

on their support for the intention of bringing the OCM under spiritual protection of one of the Ancient Churches of the Pentarchy. With continuous support of his good friend the metropolitan Eirinaios, Yrjö von Grönhagen finally approached the self-imposed mission: on 12th May 1970 Nicolas VI, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa took the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni under His protection proclaiming so OCM's legal status as an international Ecumenical and Christian Order.

Getting back to the correspondence of von Grönghagen and Eirinaios as well as Eirinaios nephew's studies on this subject, it was easy for me to offer assistance. The entire archive from the very begin of the OCM until the year 2005 is stored at the NATIONAL ARCHIVES of FINLAND in Helsinki (section: Private Archives) reviewed and organized by experts. The archive of the former secretary general and chancellor Yrjö von Grönghagen is part of the OCM archive. Looking over his intense correspondence in the nineteen sixties, seventies and eighties with officials and members of the OCM and individuals outside of the Order, I was surprised how polyglot he was: a lot of letters were written in German, French (both the Order's official languages in the begin of the OCM), but also in Greek, English and Finnish. And I know, that von Grönghagen spoke fluently Russian, Swedish and Norwegian, too. The perusal of the archive showed even 40 letters sent by Metropolitan Eirinaios to Yrjö von Grönghagen, which were copied to be delivered to Eirinaios' nephew Michalis Galanakis.

When looking over the large correspondence, I accidentally made an other interesting find. Formerly when having met Yrjö von Grönghagen in Helsinki several times, I had learnt from himself, that in the nineteen sixties he had attempted primarily to bring the OCM under the spiritual protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Together with the then archbishop Eugenios of Crete, whom von Grönghagen knew well, they approached the Patriarchate in Istanbul with the sub-

lime request. And right now, when looking over von Grönghagen's correspondence, I found the letter, which comprehensibly explains, why he did not succeed with this first attempt. The letter is dated 14th April 1969 and the substance shortly: "...unfortunately the Ecumenical Patriarchate has to stop the concern. The only reason is, in my opinion, the sensibility of the Turkish authorities and the suspicion, that with the Order of Saint Constantine could be connected some 'Constantinian' or national ambitions. One must understand the extreme dangerous situation, which consequently would follow for the Patriarchate....."

signed by the Metropolitan Emilianos, who then was representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland.

Only one year later, on 12th May 1970, Nicolas VI, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, took the OCM under His protection.

Jürgen Schumacher

We Congratulate

Many members of our Order will, in the near future, celebrate their birthday.

We congratulate them and wish them many happy years to come.

90

Kyösti Jäppinen 11.8.

85

Lauri Palva 28.11.

80

Anthony Yonkers 17.6.

Stylianos Vlachopoulos 19.7.

Knut Grenhov 22.7.

Jorma Wartiovaara 28.7.

Ella Brucker 18.11.

Panagiotis Apostolopoulos 27.11.

Eleftherios Fonazakis 15.12.

Heikki Puhakka 31.12.

75

John Hallberg Jones 17.6.

Ilpo Siro 1.7.

Olavi Kangas 25.7.

Olavi Merras 26.7.

Ingemar Olsson 10.8.

Per Wramner 17.8.

Bror Erik Gammals 21.10.

Jaakko Marttila 31.10.

70

Jan Zahradnik 21.7.

Juhani Elo 30.7.

Heikki Patrikainen 27.8.

John Manios 7.9.

Martti Hirvonen 20.10.

Juha Vainikka 8.11.

Herbert Zech 9.11.

Juha Toivonen 9.11.

Nils-Gustaf Eriksson 13.12.

65

Pentti Alaperä 17.6.

Heikki Linrodht 19.6.

Ari Karttunen 30.6.

Pekka Rajala 30.6.

Matti Pikkarainen 2.7.

Tuomas Kinberg 24.8.

Elizabeth Trombetta 22.9.

Michael Swisher 26.10.

60

Anders Granath 23.6.

Kalevi Kiviniemi 30.6.

Eben Trevino Nectarios 12.8.

Pertti Saarinen 2.10.

Keijo Suominen 25.10.

Seppo Lehto 24.12.

Juha Ekman 27.12.

50

Peter Kritsch 25.6.

Apostolos Papalois 22.7.

Terje Surdal 11.12.

Kathryn Barattini 20.12.

Coming OCM events

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 15.9.2018 | meeting of the Bailiwick of Austria |
| 21-23.9.2018 | meeting and Investiture of Exarchate of Sweden |
| 2020 | International Convention, Exarchate of USA |
| 2023 | International Convention (70 year's Jubilee) |



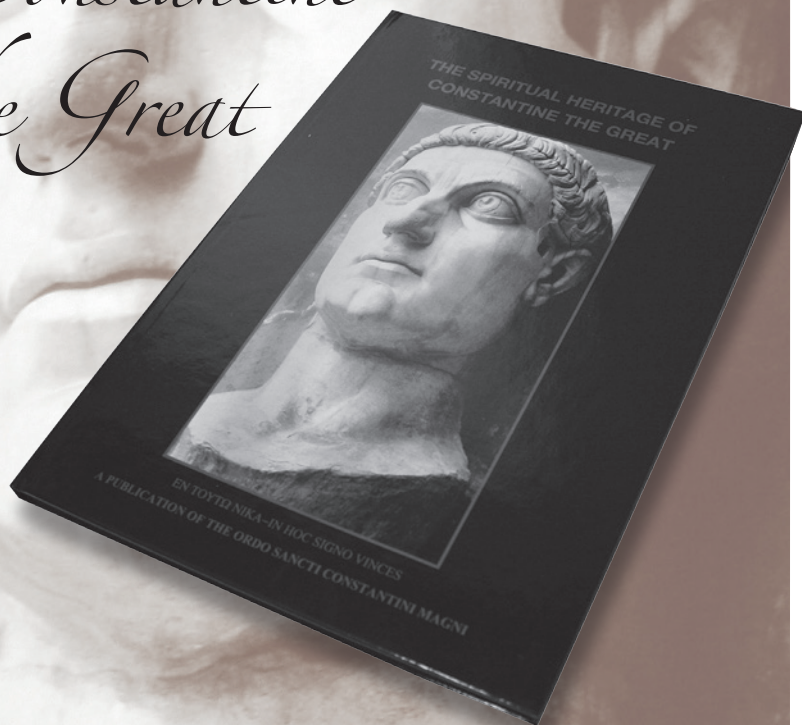
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e-mail: government@ocmonline.org

www.ocmonline.org

The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great



is an OCM publication (2008) in regard to it's editorial content well estimated by several experts.

Every OCM member should read the book, which is also worth to be presented to many of your friends.

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