

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE
CONSTANTINIAN
NEWS

No. 1 / 2020



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IN MEMORIAM

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

GOCM

His Eminence Petros

Honorary Member

1932 - 2020

KCCM

Matti Dahl

Exarchate of Finland

1929 – 2020

KCCM

Gustaf Holger Nilsson

Exarchate of Sweden

1934 – 2020

KCM

Hannu Konola

Exarchate of Finland

1943 – 2020

DCM

Alma Britt-Stin Bellung

Exarchate of Sweden

1943 - 2020

Do not be afraid;

I am the First and the Last.

I am He who lives.



Dear Dames and Chevaliers

It seems to be so that every year has really its special problems. One year back I wrote that the climate change has made many problems in all parts of the world. So it still is, but now we have one very dangerous problem. The covid 19 pandemia is raging in many countries especially in Europe, South and North America, Asia. It is furious also in other continents. Just now, first days in December, it seems to spread even in Finland, where the fight against it has been successful. I am quite sure that the only solution to this disease is vaccinations. The first vaccines are soon available. But again a question rises. Who pays the costs of the vaccination program in developing countries? It is not possible to eradicate the pandemia without vaccination in all parts of the world. It is likely that developed countries have to pay the cost of vaccination in poor countries. Although this problem will be helped, caritative work is still needed in many places.

Our Order, Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni, has during this year still been able to give economical support to the Alexandrian Patriarchate. The target to the support has been the same as before. Our help is part of the work in Africa: schools and hospitals. I want again to stress the importance of education in order to get the situation in developing countries better. Also the work in Sakai, in Lithuania continues with good results. Our vice-chancellor has done excellent work there.

It was planned that the International Convention of our Order will be arranged in September this year in Washington DC. Due to the pandemia it was cancelled. There are plans to have it one year later and we shall hope that the pandemia has vanished that time, autumn 2021.

I hope that our members with their families have been healthy in spite the corona virus. Finally I want to wish to all members of our Order and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021

Turku 7th of December, 2020

Toivo Salmi

Chancellor of OCM

His Eminence Metropolitan of Caesarea (from Aksom) Geron Petros, passed away

With great sadness, we were told that on 24th of November 2020, the Honorary Member of OCM, His Eminence Metropolitan of Caesarea (from Aksom) Geron Petros, passed away.

His Beatitude the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa, Theodoros II, being on a pastoral visit to Kenya, performed a “Trisagio” in favor of resting the soul of the late Metropolitan. Petros, in the presence of The Throne’s Hierarchs.

The funeral of the late Metropolitan was held in Athens. His Beatitude, was represented by His Eminence Metropolitan of Ptolemais Emmanuel.

Late Metropolitan Petros was born in 1932. He studied Theology at the Theological School of the University of Athens.

In 1972 he was ordained a titular Bishop of Babylon.

He served as Patriarchal Commissioner of Cairo from 1972 to 1979.

On 30 November 1979 he was elected Metropolitan of Axom.

As a member of the OCM since 1986 and, later GOCM, but also as Exarch of the Patriarchate, he was present at the events of the Hellenic Exarchate, until 2014, due to his already burdened health.

He served as Patriarchal Exarch of the Metropolitan of Kenya from 1996 to 1997. He also served as a surveyor of the Patriarchal Throne in 2004.

In 2004 he was appointed Exarch of the Patriarchate of Alexandria in Athens and awarded the title of Geron.

On 26 November 2018 he resigned and at the same day he was elected honorary Metropolitan of Caesarea of Africa.



His Em. Petros, during the investiture ceremony of the Hellenic Exarchate in 2010 and 2014.



General Assembly and Nights Day

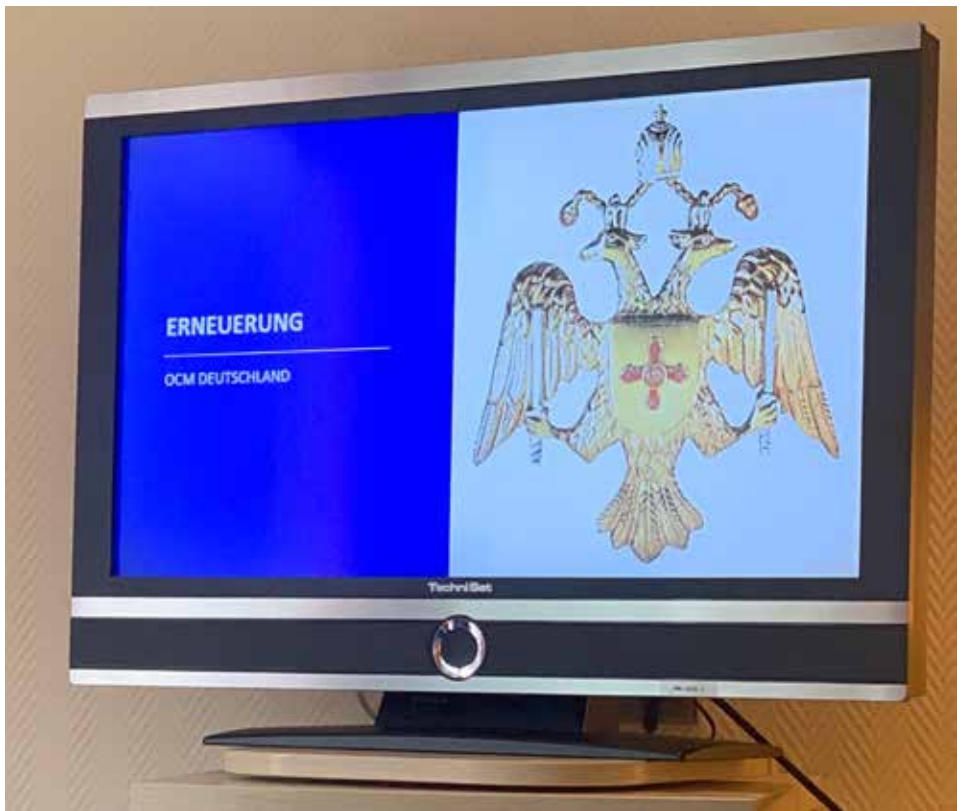
Pictures from "General Assembly and Nights Day" which has been held on Saturday, 12 September 2020 at Stift Reichersberg in Upper Austria.





OCM-Deutschland Treffen im Spessart

Some pictures from our only meeting in 2020 which has been held on Saturday, 15th of August 2020 at Heimbuchenthal in Spessart/Germany. As have just one meeting there has been many tasks to discuss for just one weekend, including renewal of OCM-Germany (Internet- and Social Media presence) as well as a short detour to the Mespelbrunn-castle as well as to the Sonderzug of Pankow whereof more details can be found in internet (Udo Lindenberg singer / Amorbach / Sonderzug nach Pankow).





The new Secretary-General introduces himself

At its meeting on 14 August 2020, the International Government has elected the undersigned as the new Secretary General of the Order. Thank you very much for the great trust I have received.



I'm 60 years old and I have been a member of the Order since 2004. Last 14 years I have worked in favor of Finnish war veterans served by Southwest Finnish War Veterans District's executive director. In the past I have worked with the Finnish building materials industry sales tasks. My main products were bricks and everything which related to them.

In addition to OCM activities, I have three other hobbies.

The first is voluntary national defense work. I have worked for a long time (11 years) as a Vice President of Finnish Reserve Association and 10 years as a President of areal Reservist district. These gains have conspired Honorary Member of the association and Honorary President of the district. In addition, I have also been for a long time (30 years) included in my brigade-level unit (Pori Brigade) with the guild activities. My military rank is Chief Warrant Officer in reserve.

Another hobby is history. I'm (so says my spouse) reasonably diligent reader. Reading boils down to three parts of history, military history, personal history, and political history. My home library comprises about 2000 books.

The third hobby is physical training, mainly orienteering. I don't compete, I move to stay fit. Over the past year I have been a little more than 100 times in the woods with a map and compass. In addition, of course, I run regularly.

Dear CN readers

I feel privileged to be able to serve in the Order as its Secretary General. I hope I can be worthy of the trust I have had. My esteemed predecessor, long-term Secretary General Jorma Ahonen, has promised to guide the beginning. This is more than necessary, and Jorma has a lot of know-how about how to do things.

I wish all the members of the Order a Peaceful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.

Osmo Suominen

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The year 2019 was the 66th operational year of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni with its responsibility of keeping good contacts to the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

The OCM fulfilled the annual charitable support to the Patriarchate of Alexandria. In addition the Government has continued to support the Orphanage in Sakiai in Lithuania and it constantly looks for good charity targets for the coming years.

The Chairman of the **Council of the Order** Rune Ryden was reelected for five year's period. **The Council** took responsibility in approving the budget proposal of the Government and accepting the accounting of the Order.

The Government, Chancellor Toivo Salmi, vice Chancellor Leif Syrstad, members Richard Flahaven and Elefherios Fonazakis, Secretary General Jorma Ahonen and Treasurer Mika Pynnönen were re-elected for five year's period. Member of the Government Richard Flahavan GOCM passed away. Chev Osmo Suominen was elected Assistant Secretary General. The Executive Committee will consist of the Chancellor, vice Chancellor, Secretary General and Treasurer.

Government steered the international work of the Order with support of the Master. The Government held four meetings in Helsinki, one e-mail meeting and one in Kainach and undertook most of the daily work.

The Master was present at the Investiture in Finland, Sweden and Austria. National meetings and Investitures were held in Austria, Germany, Sweden, Greece and USA.

The Master promoted Exarch Vassilis Yannakakos and Exarch Orfeo Trombetta jr. Grand Officers of the OCM.

The Master promoted one Knight to Knight Commander Constantini Magni.

The Master appointed Vassilis Yannakakos Ambassador of OCM to the Patriarchate.

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

The Master admitted new members to the Order from Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Sweden USA and Norway. The net reduction of the members was two members.

The membership state as of January 1st 2020:

By January 1st, 2020 the number of all the members was 520, of which 39 were honorary members and 481 paying members.

	1.1.2017	1.1.2018	1.1.2019	1.1.2020
Honorary members	38	38	38	39
Exarchate of Finland	254	248	232	229
Exarchate of USA	79	79	79	79
Exarchate of Sweden	65	63	65	63
Hellenic Exarchate	32	34	36	42
Bailiwick of Austria	27	29	33	32
Bailiwick of St. Hallvard of Oslo	16	15	14	15
Bailiwick of Germany	10	10	11	10
Bailiwick of Czech Republic	9	9	9	9
Diaspora	4	4	4	2
	534	529	522	520

The Government paid attention that the number of resigned members is increasing. It has been discussed about ways to find out reasons to resign. The international government emphasizes that the new member has to be sufficiently aware about the obligations and activities of the Order and that the membership is lifelong. The basic activities of the Order originate from bailiwicks and they include national and international activities. An essential part of the membership is the obligatory annual fee.

Annual reports of the Exarchates and Bailiwicks of the Order were received. Unfortunately most units do not deliver detailed reports. The number of meetings and other activities differs considerable in the different national units. Charitable projects are running.

Financially the year 2019 was somewhat challenging. The annual accounts of the OCM for 2019 showed a profit of 8 168,79 €. That was a result of little higher expenses but also lower income level. Especially the level of decoration sales was on a lower level than on previous year. During the fiscal year 2019 the Order continued the annual 20.000 € financial donation to the Patriarchate of Alexandria and 10.000 € to Sakiai project in Lithuania.

Two issues of The Constantianian News were edited, containing topical issues of the Order. The vice Chancellor sent three circulars, fixed to the OCM website, containing notes and actual information from the Government.

We all have the continuous assignment and challenge to increase the number of committed members in order to create an ever more functional and socially valuable Order. Only a strong basis and commitment to our values and goals will allow us to do even more and diversified charitable work today and in the future.

Helsinki 29.5.2020

The Government of the OCM

Toivo Salmi
Chancellor

Leif Syrstad
Vice Chancellor

Jorma Ahonen
Secretary General

Mika Pynnönen
Treasurer

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.

95 v

Larpes Kurt 24.2

93 v

Ilaskivi Raimo 26.5

90 v

Sklivaniotis Anargyros 17.3

Elonheimo Matti 11.5

Selby Beverly 3.6

85 v

Jaskari Matti 13.3

Pietilä Seppo 2.4

Pöyhönen Veikko 20.5

80 v

Alhonen Tuukka 16.2

Jokinen Veli P. 5.3

Pulkkinen Heikki 16.3

Mörn Christer 7.4

Grikorakou Potitsa 18.4

Tuomikoski Seppo 3.5

Schwerdtfeger Burkhard 13.5

Eklund Kari 1.6

Andersson Göran 14.6

75 v

Pyysalo Risto 14.1

Heschung Raimo 31.1

Turja Juha 16.2

Junttila Risto 18.3

Neva Martti 23.5

de Borchave Alexandra 2.6

Kaila Jorma 7.6

Ennevaara Mikko 27.6

70 v

Saura Juha 5.2

Bolanowski Wladyslav 5.2

Heiskanen Kari 21.2

Lingserius Bo 5.3

Salmi Samuel 19.3

Fidler Jan 22.3

Ronkainen Raimo 21.4

Skare Knut 16.5

Langenfeld David 2.6

Karlström Paul 23.6

60 v

Majer Miroslav 11.1

Pittaras Theodore 30.3

Rantala Tapani 16.4

Westman Ulf 13.6

Heltelä Marja Riitta 29.6

50 v

Vilkevuori John 4.1

Westman Tatjana 18.2

Rantanen Jukka 11.3

Merras Tero 16.4

Schernhorst Gert 27.4

St Victor de Pinho Ghristopher 29.4



COMING OCM EVENTS

15 – 16.5.2021 Meeting and Investiture of the Bailiwick of Finland in Kouvola
20 – 22.8.2021 International Convention, Exarchate of USA



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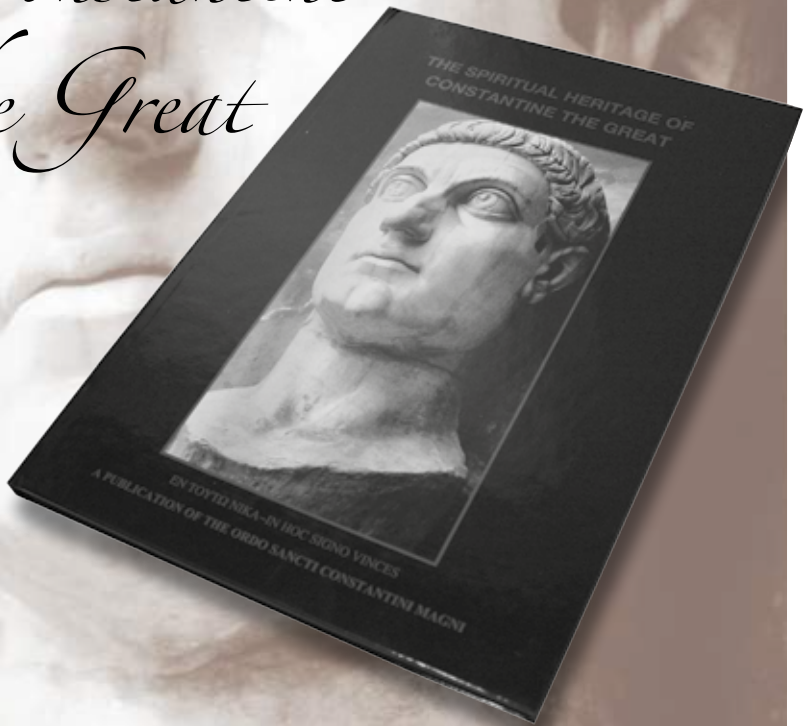
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The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great



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.

Price now: 10 Euro.

Available by treasurer Mika Pynnönen: treasurer@ocmonline.org