

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE
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NEWS

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Dear Chevaliers and ladies

On 24th of February, 2022, the world chanced. The brutal invasion from Russia to Ukraine was something unbelievable. The war was in Europe after a peace of ca 75 years. Now, in first days of April it has lasted more than six weeks. Several cities in Ukraine have been destroyed. More than 4 million Ukrainian citizen have been forced to escape from their own country. This has caused a human disaster.

The Patron of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, Theodoros II, and the Master of Our Order, Friedrich, Duke von Beaufort-Spontin, GCCM Ch, have send their appeals to all members of OCM.

This situation shows very clearly that caritative works in needed; in this case especially urgently. I hope that all Exarchates and Bailiwick try to find possibilities to help Ukraine. All kind of help is needed, but most important is to check which help is most important. The Norwegian Exarchate has developed a well working way. They have been in contact with Ukrainian ambassador in Oslo and the Mayor of the City Kiev. They have told, what is needed most urgently. In think that this is the most effective way to help Ukraine. I suppose that the Norwegian Exarchate will help other members of the OCM to transfer their help.

Due to the Ukrainian crisis the other global problem, covid-19 disease is now in background. We have, however, to remember that this is still a real problem. The lack of vaccinations is a real danger. We must not forget it and we must promote the vaccination rate. Due to the covid-19 pandemic the organization of the International Convention has been very difficult. Fortunately we have now got the preliminary program of the Convention and also the estimate of the cost of participation. I really hope that members of our Order will take part to the International Convention in Washington DC, 19th to 21st of August 2022.

I hope that this coming spring and summer will make the world better and stops the two threats, the Ukrainian war and Covid-19 disease.

Turku 30th of April, 2022

Toivo Salmi
Chancellor of OCM

International Convention 20 – 21.8.2022

Washington DC

We have received preliminary information from the US Exarch regarding the International Convention. The information is follow:

General overview of the activities of the proposed investiture:

The following information is provided based on the attendance of the undersigned at the International Investiture in Lund, Sweden, and the attendance at many National Investitures in the USA, including participation in planning many aspects of the USA Investitures prior to and after my becoming the Exarch of the USA.

General Activities by Day:

Friday, 19 August 2022:

- * Arrival in USA (normally in afternoon from Europe)
- * Registration at the COSMOS Club (arrival and pick-up arrangements are being worked out and will be in final invitations)

- * With Exarchate of the USA and Staff
- * With Club for Rooms

- * Informal Dinner with Opening Greeting by Master

(NOTE: Some members may arrive earlier and depart later, therefore the formal invitation package will provide additional information that addresses all aspects of such arrivals. We have planned for the COSMOS Club to ensure rooms for these folks. This package will also address the current CDC requirements regarding inoculation records required and any other documents or testing requirements. Additionally, in our formal invitation package, we will provide information regarding transportation to and from the COSMOS Club and back to the airport when necessary.)

Preliminary program:

Saturday, 20 August 2022:

- * Breakfasts are included in the room rates
- * International Government Meeting in morning
- * Other Saturday morning activities regarding
- * Sightseeing (to be determined)
- * Lectures/discussions (to be determined)
- * Luncheon
- * Early afternoon lectures/meetings/rehearsals
- * International/National Investiture
- * Formal Dinner to Celebrate New Knights/Dames

About meeting program:

- * Currently, we have confirmed that Deputy Master Jürgen Schumacher shall present a 45-60 minute presentation of the Order entitled “FROM CONSTANTINIAN ASSOCIATION TO LEGAL CHRISTIAN ORDER OF SAINT CONSTANTINE, THE GREAT”. The Exarchate of the USA shall print enough copies of this document for all who are present. Together with a question-and-answer period, this will be a great way to kick off this Investiture. We have arranged for the Club to provide coffee, tea, soft drinks, and water during the presentation and discussion.
- * The next order of business will be a private tour of Dumbarton Oaks Museum just a short distance from the COSMOS Club. This is a private museum that specializes in collections of Byzantine art. The owners of the club are known to members of our Order; therefore, we should have a special tour of these facilities. This will realistically result in about a 2-hour tour with the movement of our folks to and from the museum and the tour itself.

Sunday, 21 August 2022:

- * Breakfasts are included in the room rates
- * Sunday religious services
- * Final OCM meetings/closing of Investiture

Costs associated with 2022 Investiture

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: The venue that the Exarchate of the USA currently uses for its Investitures and other meetings is the prestigious COSMOS Club

located at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.
(WWW.COSMOSCLUB.ORG <http://WWW.COSMOSCLUB.ORG>).

Due to the fact that the Exarchate has members who belong to the COSMOS Club, this enables us to use these exquisite facilities. We are also allowed to avail ourselves of the Overnight Rooms located within the Club.

Due to the various locations of our membership throughout the USA, they also take advantage of these facilities. We expect that most of our persons who are assisting with the Investiture and escorting our guests will also be staying at the Club. By the time we are ready to request rooms, we may be able to utilize over 20 rooms which will then reduce the daily rates as demonstrated by the chart below.

Following are the room rates for these facilities:

Room Type

Fees based on 10-19 Rooms Blocked

Fees Based on 20+ Rooms Blocked

Large Rooms

\$260/night

\$245/night

Mid-Sized

\$225/night

\$210/night

Standard

\$195/night

\$185/night

Rooms are generally located in the Main Mansion. They are quite unique and are located in or in very close proximity to the main Mansion and the meeting rooms in adjacent and adjoining buildings.

As you can see by the above chart, if we get more than 20 people using these facilities, the price is reduced significantly. Persons staying at the club are also provided with breakfast at no extra charge. Additionally, guests are provided with a temporary club card that allows you to charge refreshments directly to your personal accounts.

Since members and guests will be coming from many different states and/or countries, we shall prepare a separate registration that will facilitate dealing directly with the Club for your rooms. This is also being accomplished since some will be arriving before these events and then staying after the Investiture.

CONFERENCE FEES: This fee is charged to offset the costs of the various luncheons, the informal dinner on the first night of the Investiture and the various costs to reserve the necessary rooms for the conduct of our meetings throughout the weekend. It also funds the various refreshments and snacks during these meetings. This cost is shared by all members who attend the activities during Friday-Sunday morning.

At this writing the CONFERENCE FEE is \$200.00/per member

INVESTITURE AND FORMAL DINNER: The highlight of this annual event is the Investiture of new Knights and Dames and the formality of presenting awards and decorations to those who support the Order. This is then followed by a formal dinner for all to gather together in welcoming our newly confirmed Knights and Dames.

The fee for the formal dinner is \$150/per person.

When the formal invitation is sent to all of the Exarchates/Bailiwicks around the world, there will be a specific menu to choose from that includes a meat and fish entrée as well as a vegetarian choice of dinners. Dinners include desert, coffee, tea, red and white wines and soft drinks.

The US Exarchate will issue a final official invitation as soon as possible. The invitation comes to the Exarchates and Bailiwicks.

We hope that the Exarchates and the Bailiwicks, as far as possible, will inform the International Government of the number of participants in the convention. Information about this can be sent to the Secretary General by e-mail (osj@luukku.com).

The International Government regrets that information on this event is coming so late. In this world situation, organizing such an event is not quite simple. However, we hope for a positive response to this event organized by the US Exarchate

Official invitation

The US Exarchate will send an official invitation to the Exarchates and Bailiwicks in the near future.

Rift through the Orthodox world

On February 24th, 2022 the President of Russia started an unbelievably cruel war against the brother people of the Ukraine. The entire world follows horrified the warfare supporting the resisting Ukrainians with all kind of fight material, and organizing help in an unimaginable refugee situation of millions of Ukrainians. The Patriarch of Moscow Kirill is firmly on the side of Putin. Like the President, Kirill does not use the word war, but he is preaching spiritual justification for the invasion, approving it as a conflict between good and bad, whereby the Rus is the good, and all others, who are against Russia, are the bad. This view of Patriarch Kirill's religious world is not entirely new.

Since the 4th until the 16th century there were only the ancient orthodox Patriarchates of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antiochia and Jerusalem. Later also others were established, patriarchates and autocephalous orthodox churches. In Kiev, Ukraine, was a metropolitan in 1437, the Patriarchate of Moscow was established in 1548. At the begin of the Soviet Union the Ukrainian Orthodox Church enjoyed an autonomous position, which it completely lost under Stalin. When the Ukraine became an independent state in 1990, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (so-called Patriarchate of Kiev) resigned from the Patriarchate of Moscow and declared autocephaly. However, the majority of Ukrainian people are Russian Orthodox and belong to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Moscow Patriarchate. Following the annexation of the Krim by the Russians in 2014 the Ukrainian Metropolitan Epiphanius again demanded independence, what the Patriarch of Moscow Kirill refused. In 2018 the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople has recognized the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as an autocephalous church. As a result, Patriarch Kirill stopped all connections to orthodox churches, which recognize Patriarch Bartholomew I as ecumenical patriarch. Last year also Patriarch Theodoros II of the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria recognized the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as an autocephalous church. Thus the rift through the orthodox world was completed, for the time being.

However, this is only one side of Kirill's attempt of clerical power, as you can see below from Patriarch Theodoros' II encyclical to the holy clergy of the Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa. For a long time, Russia has not only expanded its sphere of influence in Africa economically and militarily (the 'Wagner Group' is active in several African countries!), but also the Russian Orthodox Church has started to expand its clerical power in Africa.

The Master of the Order, HSH Friedrich, Duke von Beaufort-Spontin has already sent an appeal to all members of the OCM: the Constantinian knights and dames see themselves as knights of the Patriarchate of Alexandria, whose spiritual protection they have the honor to enjoy.

TO ALL DAMES AND KNIGHTS OF THE OCM

Dear Members of the OCM!

At the same time as the Russian President has started an aggressive war against the neighboring state Ukraine putting the entire European Union into a state of alert, we have received information that, in Europe almost unnoticed, the Russian Orthodox Church has begun to expand its clerical power in Africa on the territory of the Patriarchate of Alexandria. At the end of the year 2021 Patriarch Kirill of Moscow personally undertook a spiritual journey through several countries of the African continent. In the meantime, and with disregard of all canons of the Ecumenical Councils, which forbid one Church from violating the borders of another, the Orthodox Church of Russia has established its own exarchate in Africa. The following quotations from the encyclical of Patriarch Theodoros II make it clear that the Patriarchate of Alexandria is now confronted with a very serious situation:

ENCYCLICAL TO THE HOLY CLERGY AND PIOUS PEOPLE OF OUR ANCIENT PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA AND ALL AFRICA

My dear Children, Priests, Deacons, Readers, Monks, Nuns, my brothers and sisters in all the blessed countries of the African land, rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

With this letter I want to communicate with all of you and to share with you as your Spiritual Father, to whom all of you have come and approached willingly because through my lips, from the lips of my blessed predecessors Patriarchs of Alexandria and from the lips of the Metropolitans and Bishops and Shepherds you heard the words of Christ: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).....

....., we have formed in many places the life-giving Body of Christ, for the World as always constituted, sacrificed and spent "For the life and salvation of the World" that is, our Holy Church. All this effort to this day has never been easy, nor is it easy now, but the Lord has been, is and will always be with us until the end and our entry into the Kingdom of Heaven.

But, my dear children, unfortunately, lately, I observe and find that some others are "false prophets" "savagely wolves that come in among you and will not spare the flock" (Acts 20:29), and without blessing and permission from the Patriarch they approach some Spiritual Folds of Africa sowing weeds of division, which they watered with accusations against our Patriarchate and with dirty money and these weeds grew and festered and they threaten to drown the humble Evangelical work of our Apostolic Patriarchate.....

.....One of them is the Russian Church (Moscow Patriarchate) which became Autocephalous only in 1589, which due to the State in which it was located (Russian Empire) gained great economic power and strength and this created many problems as to how it perceived its role and mission.....

.....Unfortunately, the Church of Russia, in retaliation, violated the tradition of Ecumenical Councils, which were respected by all the Patriarchs of Russia until today, and hastened to establish here, in blessed Africa, its own Church (Exarchate), as an act and practice purely inspired by "Colonialism" and tries to "steal" priests and Christians from our Patriarchate, using impermissible means.....

*With pain and paternal love
your Father and Patriarch*

† THEODOROS II
Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa

In the Great City of Alexandria
13th January 2022

Dear Members of the OCM under the Auspices of the Patriarchate of Alexandria!

These words of deep dismay and the appeal to the holy clergy and all pious people of the Patriarchate of Alexandria show disappointment and concern of His Beatitude Theodoros II, the High Patron of our Christian and Ecumenical Order of Saint Constantine the Great.

In order to assure His Beatitude Theodoros II and the Holy Clergy of the compassion and everlasting support of our Order, I do kindly request all Constantinian Dames and Knight to unite in a silent prayer for the blessing of the ancient Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.

Friedrich Beaufort

Friedrich, Duke von Beaufort-Spontin GCCM ch
Master of the Order

Kainach, Austria
2nd March 2022

COMING OCM EVENTS

- 14-15.5.2022 National Knights' Day of Exarchate of Finland in the city of Kouvola
- 21-22.5.2022 Annual meeting of Exarchate of Sweden in the city of Motala
- 10.9.2022 General Assembly and Knights Day of Bailiwick of Austria
- 23-25.9.2022 Scandinavian Investiture in the, city of Nyköping
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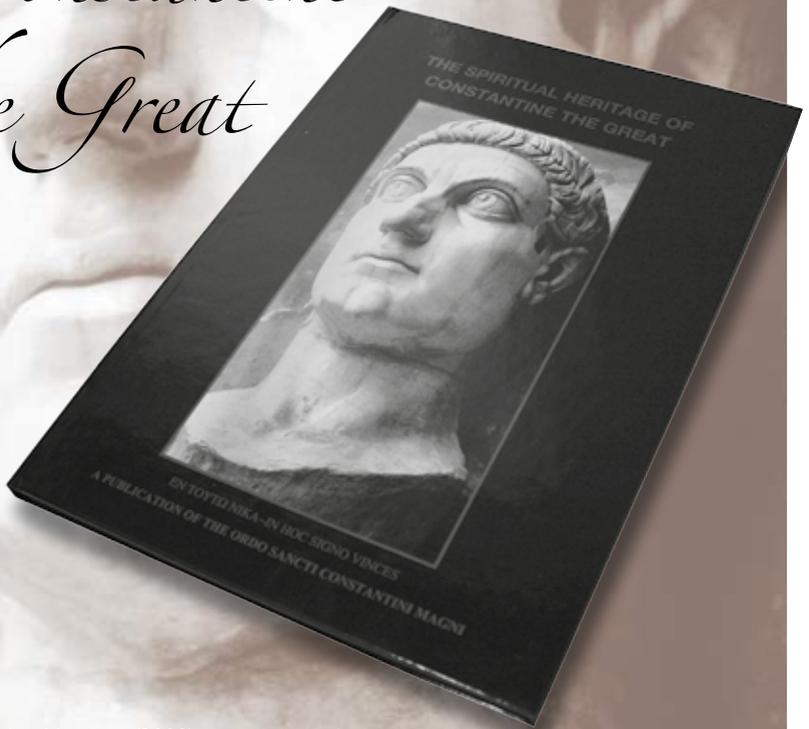
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Editor-in-chief and
Executive office:

Secretary General Osmo Suominen
Tupatie 1 as 4, FIN-21500 Piikkiö, FINLAND
e-mail: government@ocmonline.org

www.ocmonline.org

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