

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



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Dear Dames and Chevaliers

Last summer I wrote in the Constantinian News of the two terrible catastrophes in the world. The coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine. I was optimistic and hoped that both of them would be gone away during the next months. Unfortunately I was wrong. The virus is still with us, but now it seems not to be so serious anymore. Vaccinations have shown their effect and the natural immunity has also changed the picture of the disease. However we have to be prepared to continue the vaccinations at least once a year. There are still some vaccination negative persons, and I believe that we members of the Ordo Constantini Magni should be good examples and support the vaccination procedures.

Even more serious disappointment was that the Ukrainian war still continues. Ukrainian people have been able to resist the war crimes and all brutal behavior of the Russian army. It is necessary that the civilized countries helps Ukraine in all possible ways. They really need our help. Again I will stress the excellent work the OCM in Norway has done. All other OCM members shall continue in a way or other to support Ukraine. We have to remember that this war jeopardizes all other civilized countries.

There are, however, also good news. The International Convention was organized in Washington DC. It was a sign that there are still possibilities to return to normal, interesting world. Usually the IC will be every third year, but this time there are some exceptions. Next year will be the 30 years Jubileum of the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni. It will be celebrated as an International Convention. It is likely that we will have this event in September 2023 in Vienna. I really hope that our members are very active to participate this celebration.

Finally I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to OCM Dames and Chevaliers with their families.

Toivo Salmi
Chancellor

IN MEMORIAM

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

KCCM

Jokinen Veli P.

Exarchate of Finland

1941 – 2022

KCM

Kannelmaa Juhani

Exarchate of Finland

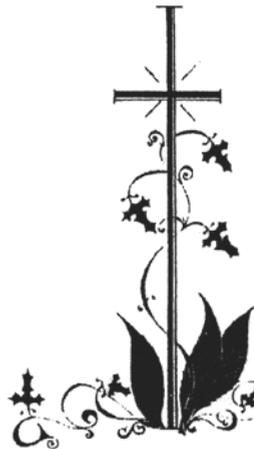
1952 - 2022

KCM

Kuusisto Jaakko

Exarchate of Finland

1974 - 2022



Do not be afraid;

I am the First and the Last.

I am He who lives.

INAUGURATION of the INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION of the OCM in WASHINGTON AUG 19, 2022

Esteemed dames and knights of the Order,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In the Middle Ages, knights went into battle with their visor down, so they couldn't see their enemy clearly. Nowadays our worst enemy doesn't even need a visor, because he is invisible anyway. For more than two years the COVID virus has caused much human misfortune and immense economic damage worldwide, and besides has also caused a two-years delay of this international OCM convention, what has never happened before in the history of our Order. The battle against COVID is not won yet, but fortunately we can get together again.

It has been a long time since the Order of Saint Constantine the Great has taken its first chivalric steps on the floor of the United States of America until today, when we are going to celebrate the first international convention of the OCM here in Washington, DC.

According to the archives of the Order, in 1964 two Americans, first Mr. Rodney Hartwell and still in the same year Mr. Robert Formhals were accepted members of the OCM by the then chancellor, the Swiss Richard Guyer-Frey. Both were undoubtedly very well connected, to speak in modern terms. Anyway, in the 1960ies Hartwell and Formhals together recruited most of the new members to the Exarchate of the United States. That both had already disappeared from the Order in 1977, for what ever reason, is an other question. I think, however, it is appropriate to mention Hartwell and Formhals on this occasion as the starters of the activities of the OCM in the United States of America.

Over the decades the US-Exarchate has seen phases of progression, but temporarily had also to come through some kind of stagnation, at least with regard to recruitment of new valuable members. Actually, we also know this phenomenon from different European units of the Order. Today I am happy to notice, that during the past years the membership of the Exarchate of the United States is increasing again. The often heard explanation, that "times have changed; medieval knighthood and Christian aims don't fit well into our world today" – I am not ready to accept. The OCM was founded soon after the disastrous World War II, with the loss of almost all Christian charity, on the premises to

cherish the Christian values of the Western civilization and to help and support poor human beings, who are in need through no fault of their own. The OCM was founded as an international Christian, ecumenical charity Order. Unfortunately, our organization is still weak, but nevertheless strong enough to do good deeds here and there.

Ladies and gentlemen, we do our charity work as engaged dames and knights of the Order of Saint Constantine the Great under the spiritual protection of the greek-orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria, which ensures the OCM the unique legal status of an international Christian and ecumenical chivalric Order with strong obligations to the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to express thanks to Exarch Dr. Orfeo Trombetta and other responsible persons of the US-Exarchate for having made great preparations for this chivalric meeting. I welcome the dames and knights of the Order and their accompanying spouses to this first international convention of the Order of Saint Constantine the Great in the United States of America. I wish you all a festive chivalric event. With these words I proclaim the international convention of the OCM opened.

Friedrich, Duke and Prince von Beaufort-Spontin

FIRST INTERNATIONAL OCM CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON DC, AUG 19-21, 2022

The first Americans were accepted into the Order of Saint Constantine the Great in 1964-65, and already in 1969 the then called 'Commandery of California' was founded. Following a longer period of changing models of associations from Grand Priory to different Exarchates – meanwhile even Grand Exarchate of North America (USA+Canada) – , the OCM government with support of the Master established the current Exarchate of the United States of America 1.1.1992. Now, thirty years later the US-Exarchate had the great opportunity to arrange an international meeting of the Order of Saint Constantine the Great for the first time in the USA.

The opening party, as well as the entire program of the memorable gathering, took place at the famous Cosmosclub in Washington DC, where Exarch Dr. Orfeo Trombetta jr. and his spouse Elizabeth very warmly welcomed the Master of the OCM, H.S.H. Friedrich von Beaufort-Spontin and Lady Eleonora from Austria, Chairman of the Council Rune Rydèn from Sweden, Treasurer Mika Pynnönen and Deputy Master Jürgen Schumacher from Finland (opening words of the Master published in this CN).

Next morning the Anderson house was visited, headquarters and museum at the same time of the 'Society of the Cincinnati', which is the oldest patriotic organization of the United States, founded in 1783. Regarding to the official program, the deputy master reported based on OCM archive material about 'FROM CONSTANTINIAN ASSOCIATION TO LEGAL CHRISTIAN ORDER OF SAINT CONSTANTINE THE GREAT' (published in the CN, Special Issue 2022).

The highlight of the entire event was the investiture and dubbing ceremony on Saturday night, excellently led by Exarch Orfeo Trombetta, Archbishop Andrew McMenamin and the Bailies Robert Meyer and Mark Hartell, and followed by a festive dinner party with Austrian music in the grandiose ballroom of the Cosmosclub – an international event worthy of being remembered for a long time.

Jürgen Schumacher



Participants in Washington. The Master and Lady Eleonora in the middle, Exarch O. Trombetta and Dame Elisabeth (l.), Archbishop A. McMenamin (r.)

Ukraine Project in Exarchate of Norway

UkrainasFrihetshjelp (UFH) “UkrainianFreedomhelp” was started on the initiative of Kristen Tinius Torp and Mikkel Dobloug, the day after the Russian invasion of Ukraine 24. February 2022. The initiative sought to fill a void in humanitarian aid where the fate of thousands of men and women who had to remain in Ukraine for their country, did not receive the necessary help to dress properly, or have equipment that could keep them warm, dry, and motivated.

Those who fled out of the country were taken care of by the large organizations as Red Cross, doctors without borders etc. Chaos reigned on the border with Poland with un-coordinated and chaotic efforts eventually became a problem instead of help. Instead of throwing ourselves on the refugee wave, we wanted to help Ukraine where they actually need the help most.

They needed help to survive the attack, organize civil society and rapidly increase resilience in the local population. Experience from wars shows that a local population that resists is more difficult to occupy than a civil society that has given up. In other words, the freedom aid was there to support freedom, support resilience so that those who fled could have a country to return home to.

The idea of active resistance is a concept that lives well in the Norwegian people’s soul. Norwegian local heroes from World War II such as Max Manus, Gunnar Sønsteby and everyone who served in the epic “Kompani Linge” give associations to the civilian resistance against occupiers. It was this idea that caused so many Norwegians to open their wallets, to help a people fight the superpower.

One of those who really liked the idea and who jumped on board was businessman and multibillionaire Christen Sveaas. He donated one million NOK to the initiative, so did the the Ulrichsen family followed up by Jan Petter Sissener owner of Sissener Capital who donated a substantial amount as well. It became clear for Torp and Dobloug that they needed help to implement the efforts if it was going to be a success. The initiative that had started as a small grassroot movement suddenly became too big to handle alone. It was clear that it was not possible to run a humanitarian aid action with private accounts, and no staff.

Mikkel Dobloug as a member of OCM contacted the Exarch of Norway Nils Jørgen Sørli, to see if OCM could be of any assistance. Nils Jørgen immediately understood the urgency and importance of the initiative and offered that OCM could be the patron and help. Nils Jørgen quickly mobilized the organisation and after only few hours OCM was fully mobilized. Throughout the OCM system it became efficient and easy to organise the humanitarian effort. Already on the 26th february the web page, account numbers, VIPPS etc was in place, and the donations started to flow onto the humanitarian account of OCM, managed by Kjetil Ambrusios Johansen.

Trough contacts UFH established secure lines to Kyiv and directly to the city administration, directly to the brother of Kyivs mayor, Vitali Klitsjko. We had all together several video conferences with him and the chief of the local civil defence. Lists of needed equipment was sent to UFH, then put in order of priority. Within 7 days UFH collected approximately 4 million NOK, and managed to bargain and collect donations on equipment. This was then sorted and packed on to two lorries, totally of 120 euro pallets equivalent to 140 cubic meters of space, which is an impressive 75% filling rate on each lorry.

Equipment to dress and help over 1000 persons in the local defence of Kyiv was on this shipment. The first 14 days after the war had started the lorries drove into Ukraine and delivered the cargo in Liviv under a tense and uncertain situation. It was great uncertainty as to whether Russian forces would go towards Liviv, and rocket attacks occurred in the area. There first shipment had a total value of NOK 8 million, and arrived just in time to equip and help the civil defence of Kyiv.

All in all we have now sent more than 5 shipments with lorries and over 7 minor shipments with smaller lorries. Since March OCM has continued to send supplies to Ukraine, and we have now passed supplies worth 13 MNOK passing 55 tonnes. We have delivered clothes that has been distributed to over 3000 persons. We have sent diesel- and petrol-powered electrical power generators, surveillance drones, first aid equipment, thermal vision binoculars, dry tec food, chocolate, sleeping bags, tents, powerbanks, torch lights and tons of equipment needed to rebuild damaged buildings.

In april OCM was contacted by one of the largest Sporting goods stores in Norway called XXL. XXL had several lorries with humanitarian aid for children which they did not manage to get into Ukraine. OCM off course wanted to help XXL and managed within two weeks to pack, drive, and distribute all the aid from XXL-foundation into Ukraine. We have now facilitated two big shipments for XXL, and we still continue to organize and coordinate with them.

OCM are now working closely together with the Ukrainian embassy in Oslo, where they have asked OCM for help to transport goods they have received from the Norwegian public. OCM now acts as the Ukrainian embassys logistical partner. Together with the embassy we identify needs make prioritized lists of what should be purchased. For the moment we are focusing on locating and buying used Norwegian ambulances which we will drive down to Ukraine equipped with emergency and intensive care equipment. We are also prioritizing electrical generators, ovens, lighting and things needed to rebuild infrastructure and keep people warm and with power throughout the winter.

At the time of writing this report, there is still considerable uncertainty about the war and the times ahead. But what is certain is that OCM is one of the most effective and targeted organizations supplying the necessary equipment to Ukraine. We will continue to do this in the future, and when the war is hopefully over. Going forward, we will turn our aid more towards helping communities rebuild, with an emphasis on agriculture and entrepreneurship.

A huge problem reported to us is that the humanitarian efforts are flooded with things that unfortunately can be described as garbage. People sometimes see this as an opportunity to get ridd of old clothes, furniture and toys who is broken and send this to Ukraina instead of throwing it in the skipp. All this “garbage” sendt to Ukraina ends up in the land fillings after being sorted out. It is a waste of money and resources to transport unnecessary and unwanted equipment to Ukraina. This is why it is so important to coordinate all efforts with the Ukrainian authorities, so that we only send things that they actually need.

We urge all members to donate to us, and to use their contacts to find used ambulances, and power generators. If OCM in the Nordic countries manage to coordinate a push to send this equipment it would be highly apriciated. We can provide lists with equipment needed which is urgent.

Mikkel Bobloug

Bailie of Bailiwick of St. Olof

ANNUAL KNIGHTS MEETING 2022 IN AUSTRIA



Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Selbständige Komturei Österreich
Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich
ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140

Kaltenleutgeben, 7 October 2022

FINAL PROGRAM of the ANNUAL KNIGHTS CONVENTION 2022

Saturday, 8 October 2022

1130 hrs. Facultative Lunch at **Hotel Schloss Weikersdorf** (Baden near Vienna)
www.hotelschlossweikersdorf.at



1330 hrs. **General Assembly** at the “large knights meeting room”
(*Dark blue blazer, black OCM tie, dark grey trousers*)



1315 hrs. **Historic City Tour of Baden** for **Spouses** and **Candidates** (to be knighted later on) by Dr. Christine Triebnig - Löffler (elegant leisure cloths or Austrian traditional attire)
Meeting point: Lobby - back to lobby by 1445 hrs.



14:45 hrs. **Changing** of knights (tailcoat, OCM insignia and knight coat), Candidates (tailcoat) and Spouses (elevated evening attire)



1530 hrs. **Departure** and approximately 15 min **Bus Transfer** to Gumpoldskirchen and ca. 200m walk to the local premises of the German Order.

1555 hrs. **Ceremony Rehearsal at Marienkirche of the German Order**
(Duration ca. 25 min; only Knights and Candidates)



1600 hrs. **Function** at the inner courtyard of the German Order
 (Knights and Candidates join after Ceremony Rehearsal)

1700 hrs. **Ceremony** at the local church of the German Order, investiture as well as honoring of distinguished knights.



1745 hrs. ca. 15 min **Bus Transfer** back to Hotel Schloss Weikersdorf

1830 hrs. **Personal Introduction at the Arcade Courtyard** (Arkadenhoferrasse)
 Each knight as well as their accompanying spouse provide 2-3 sentences of personal short introduction to all others. There, also present: Prince Schönburg (son-in-law and designated successor of the Master).

1900 hrs. **Gala Dinner at Restaurant** Hotel Schloss Weikersdorf, adjacent Bar, Terrace viewing the Rose Gardens (smokers).



Arkadenhofterrasse

Menu Gala Dinner

Surprise from the Kitchen
(Tuna | Sesame | Papaya)

Goose Liver Parfait
Port Wine Gelee | Homemade Brioche

Potato Cream Soup
Yeast pastry filled with greaves

Venison Filet Steak
Potato Gratin | Braised Vegetables | Rosemarie Jus

Earl-Grey-Tea Mousse
Orange | Hazelnut Nougat

Sunday, 9 October 2022

0700 hrs. Possible individual Breakfast at Restaurant.

1000 hrs. Presentation by **Dr. Jürgen Schumacher** (Deputy Master) at **Knights Meeting Room**: „From the Constantine Association to a legal Christian Order of Constantine the Great“ (40 min plus Q&A)

Individual departures.



Two new knights just before the ceremony in the church of the German Order in Gumpoldskirchen near Baden



Bailie speaks



Group photo of the participants, Master in the middle in the front row



The Deputy Master in the company of the Austrians



The Deputy Master lectured



The knights set the mood



Moods at dinner

60th Anniversary Seminar of the Helsinki Bailiwick

Around 50 people; dames and knights with their spouses were gathered to celebrate the Helsinki Bailiwick's 60th anniversary in the Crypt of the Helsinki Cathedral the 25th of September.

The oldest Finnish bailiwick was founded 1960, but because of the pandemic the Anniversary Seminar could be organized first now.

The Bailie of the Helsinki Bailiwick Harri Palmu welcomed the guests and after that the seminar started with an Ecumenical Time of Prayer. The prayer was held by the Vicar of the Helsinki Orthodoxian Church, Father Markku Salminen, Father Gabriel Salmela OP, from the Saint Henry's Cathedral Parish and Vicar, Dame Marja Heltelä from the Helsinki Cathedral Parish.

The Exarch Erkko Kajander brought greetings from the Exarchate of Finland. One of the lectures explained the clarification of the different chivalrous terms and was held by Professor of Theology, Chev. Jyrki Knuutila. Deputy Master of the Order Jürgen Schumacher, GCCM, told the story of the Helsinki Bailiwick from the very beginning of the early years.

The topic of the ceremonial lecture was "From the twilight of the history to the modern challenges. Where are the 2000th century knights?" The presentation was held by Professor of Church History Tuomas Heikkilä.

In between the lectures the audience could enjoy the music played by Violonist, Chev. Erkki Palola and Pianist Ilmo Peitso.



The Crypt of the Helsinki Cathedral



From left: Professor Tuomas Heikkilä, professor, Chev. Antti Räsänen and the Deputy Master of the Order Jürgen Schumacher

3)



From left: Vicar, Chev. Marja Heltelä, Father Markku Salminen and Father Gabriel Salmela.



Exach Erko Kajander





From left: Exarch Erkkko Kajander, Deputy Master of the Order, Jürgen Schumacher and the Bailieof the Helsinki Baliwic, Harri Palmu



Professor of Theology, Chev. Jyrki Knuutila

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

Ilaskivi Raimo 26.5

90 v

Koivurinta Antti 14.1

85v

Bentley Steward 9.6

Younkers Anthony 17.6

80 v

Andersson Nils 26.2

Ignatenco Albert 4.3

Humbler Egon 24.3

Jones John 17.6

75 v

Havbrandt Pekka 19.1

Humphreys Frederick 17.2

Hohenthal Sam 17.2

Wilhelmsson Håkan 4.4

Merilampi Pekka 6.4

Diakovassili Despina 20.4

Arrefalk Leif 20.4

Merras Herman 26.5

Adams Phillip 31.5

His Eminence Leo 4.6

70 v

Knuutila Jyrki 7.1

Öström Lars 11.2

Dickey Dean 21.2

Niemi Olli 13.3

Swanlung Jukka Tapani 26.5

Mäntyharju Erkki 4.6

Lindroth Heikki 19.6

Karttunen Ari 30.6

Rajala Pekka 30.6

65 v

Laatu Tuomas 23.2

Karileet Urmas 1.3

Sahlström Stig 17.3

Andbo Bo Stefan 31.3

Rösner Hans Herman 9.5

Waldstein - Wartenberg Carl 13.6

Granath Anders 23.6

Kiviniemi Kalevi 30.6

60 v

Wenstob Bengt 26.2

Papaevangelu Serafim 27.3

Räisänen Pekka 21.4

Kirchner Karl 14.5

Keskinen Timo 20.5

50 v

Pozdech Oldrich 9.3



COMING OCM EVENTS

- 26 – 28.5.2023 National Knights' Day of Exarchate of Finland in the city of Oulu
- 1 – 3.9.2023 International Convention in Vienna
- May 2023 Investiture of Exarchate of Norway
- 22 – 24.9.2023 Investiture of Exarchate of Sweden in the area of Stockholm
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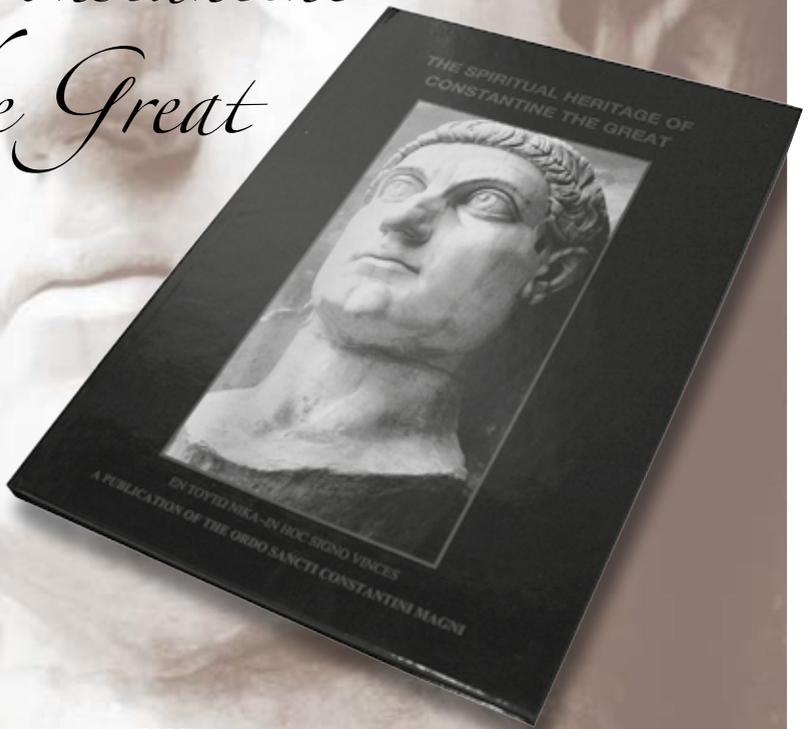
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The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great



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