

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE
CONSTANTINIAN
NEWS

No. 1 / 2014

IN MEMORIAM

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

His Eminence Antonios Varthalidis

Emeritus (cath.) Archbishop of Korfu

Honorary knightcommander

1924 – 2007

KCCM

Hans von Leden

Archon of the Order

Exarchate of USA

1918 – 2014

KCM

Pentti Pesari

Exarchate of Finland

1930 – 2013

KCM

Kjell Claesson

Exarchate of Sweden

1935 – 2013

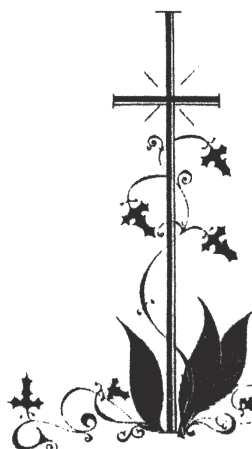
KCM

Bo-Göran Persson

Exarchate of Sweden

1948 - 2014

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



Annual Report 2013

The most important event of the OCM in the year 2013 was the international convention and 60 years Anniversary of the Order in Salzburg/Austria 6.-8.9. Under the leadership of the Master H.S.H Friedrich von Beaufort-Spontin more than 80 official guests, knights and spouses gathered, becoming engrossed in several topics of actuality and in the field of ecumenish and additionally deepening the knightly friendship. The High Patron of the OCM, H.B. Theodoros II Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, was represented by H.E. George Haramis, Exarch of the Exarchate of Greece.

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

Besides the donation to the Patriarchate, the OCM coincided with the Anniversary Convention in Salzburg gave a financial support of 2.000 € to the help organization “Ma hilf”, which is working for people in immediate need in the region of Vorarlberg in Western Austria. Also at the end of the year due to catastrophic taifun in Philippines the OCM donated through International Red Cross 1.500 €.

The Master promoted five officers to **knightcommanders** of the Order.

The **Council of the Order** 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; one of those in Salzburg.

The **Executive Committee**, seated in Finland/Sweden, undertook most of the daily work.

The Master and the Government were represented by one member at the national meetings and investitures of the Exarchates of Finland, Greece, Sweden and United States.

The chancellor awarded, with authorization of the Master, 11 **cross of merit** and different ranks of the **medal of merit** to 27 merited knights and 4 to persons outside the OCM for their remarkable support to the Order.

The chancellor nominated former vice chancellor and grandofficer Hans-Olof Kvist archon of the Order.

The structure of the **membership of the Order** shows moderate positive improvement on the whole. Yet only the Exarchates of Finland and USA and the Bailiwick of Czeck Rebuplic increased their membership number.

Five members including Prelate, His Eminence Eirinaios Metropolitan of Kissamou and Selynou, passed away and 24 members resigned.

The Master admitted 29 new members to the Order from Finland, Sweden, U.S.A, Austria and Czech Republic.

Members in the Order as of 31.12.2014: 540

By January 1st, 2014 the number of honorary members of the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni was 39, and the number of paying members 501.

OCM membership, state 01.01.2014:

	1.12013	1.1.2014
Finland	242	253
Greece	81	73
U.S.A	53	61
Sweden	60	56
Austria	19	19
Czech R.	7	9
Germany	13	12
Oslo	16	14
Diaspora	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	495	501
Honorary		
members	41	39
	536	540

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.

A notable task of the exarchate of Finland was to bring the internet homepage to a state of readiness. The contents of the website was developed to a communication channel serving the whole community with a actively maintained activity calender.

The website is also very good tool of recruiting new members. The exarchate and some bailiwicks also organized several concerts for charity.

Two issues of **The Constantinian News**, were edited, containing topical issues of the Order. The CN 2/2013 was sent to all members by mail and contained information about the International, 60 year's Jubileum Convention. The vice chancellor sent five circulars, fixed to the OCM website, containing mostly notes and actual information from the Government.

Finances.

The year 2013 was the 60 years' anniversary year with great expectations for good memories and joyful celebrations. Fortunately a buffer fund had already for several years ago been started in order to tackle the jubilee costs.

The phenomenon of opt-out from membership of an unforeseeable number of members noticed during the past years continued also in 2013. In a few cases delayed or indistinct payments towards the government caused some additional concern and work.

The financial outcome of the international convention was successful from the point of the government and, as far as we know, also from the point of the arranging bailiwick.

The year 2013 was financially satisfactory. The annual accounts of the OCM for 2013 showed a balance of 2.105,31 €.

For the responsible officers remains the continuous assignment to increase the number of valuable members in order to strengthen and to stabilize the financial basis of the OCM , which would allow more and diversified charitable work as today.

Helsinki 6th March 2014.

The Government of the OCM

Jürgen Schumacher
chancellor

Jorma Ahonen
secretary general

Richard Flahaven
member

Leif Syrstadt
vice chancellor

Reino Koskinen
treasurer

Eleftherios Fonazakis
member

Fresh Vitaly within The OCM Government

The 5-years period of the present government is coming to its end. The Master has appointed **Toivo Salmi** next chancellor and **Mika Pynnönen** next treasurer of the OCM. Vice chancellor **Leif Syrstad** and secretary general **Jorma Ahonen** fortunately will continue in office allowing the management of the Order in a way a continuity. The executive committee will start the 5-years office on the 23rd May 2014 at the meeting in Mariehamn on the Isles of Åland (Finland). According to demand the government may be increased later by two or three members.



Toivo Salmi was born 1945 in Helsinki. He is member of a known family of doctors in Finland. His father was professor in paediatrics and head of the children's clinic of the University of Turku. His mother's sister was a paediatrician. His wife is gynaecologist, his daughter is a physician.

Toivo Salmi completed secondary school education 1962 in Turku, and then studied at the medical faculty of the University of Turku. He got his doctor degree in 1969, specialized in paediatrics in 1977 and in paediatric haematology and oncology in 1980. Salmi performed advanced training and scientific studies in Cleveland/Ohio and at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London. 2004 he was awarded professor h.c. in paediat-

rics. 2008 he retired from the position of head of the haematological-oncologic department of the children's clinic of the University of Turku.

Toivo is married to **Tuula Salmi**, they have three adult children. His main hobbies are apparatus gymnastics and orienteering, a typical Finnish sport.

Close to his professional career Toivo Salmi is strongly involved as member of the national council of the Mannerheim League of Child Protection, and as chairman of the board of the Finnish Children's Cancer Foundation, which was founded by him in 2012.

Toivo Salmi is a longstanding Constantinian knight having joined the OCM in 1978. He has served as bailie of the Bailiwick of Turku and vice exarch of the Exarchate of Finland.

Toivo Salmi stresses that a Constantinian knight should respect valuable chivalric traditions in an ecumenical sense. The members should use much energy to increase OCM membership in order to defend fairness and humanity in the present strongly shaken world.



Mika Pynnönen was born 1961 in Orimattila, Central Finland, where his father was bank director. He went to school in Helsinki and completed secondary school education at the known Finnish Real Lyceum in Helsinki. Mika Pynnönen studied mathematics at the University of Helsinki and graduated in 1994. Already during the years of study he started working in banking business in which attaining an experience of 20 years. Nowadays he is managing director and partner of a middle-size company in audio-visual equipment.

Mika Pynnönen is married to Mrs. **Ulla Rosenquist**, who is vicar in the parish of Tuusula, a little north from Helsinki. They have two daughters and two sons. Mika's hobby of sailing keeps him and his family in summer-time as much as possible on the Gulf of Finland.

Beside his extended business affairs Mika Pynnönen is also involved in the work of the Mannerheim League of Child Protection being member of the council and chairman of the Helsinki association.

As founding member of the Bailiwick of the Gulf of Finland Pynnönen is member of the Order since 1997. He served two periods as bailie of his

bailiwick taking among others much responsibility for the arrangements of the international convention of the OCM in Porvoo in 2011. Until now he was treasurer of the Exarchate of Finland.

Mika Pynnönen expects Constantinian knights to be honest and true to themselves and their fellow men. The values and traditions of a chivalric Order should be respected and the goals of the OCM international should be clearly in mind.

It is of primary concern to express superb thanks to the Master of the OCM **His Serene Highness Friedrich** and to the Deputy Master **Raimo Ilaskivi** for everlasting support to the government.

I wish to express thanks to my colleagues of the government, especially to **Reino Koskinen**, who successfully has taken responsibility of the economy of the OCM over the long period of 18 years, to vice chancellor **Leif Syrstad** and secretary general **Jorma Ahonen** for much valuable cooperation and for their willingness to continue another five years period, and to the members of the government **Richard Flahavan** from the USA and **Eleftherios Fonazakis** from Greece. I wish the new government much success in heading the management of the Order under a good fortune. It was a knightly obligation and a pleasure for me to serve the Master, the government and the Order over a period of 15 years.

Jürgen Schumacher
chancellor
(resigned 23.5.2014)



Thinking about Tolerance

When looking around and listening to the news one cannot be able to avoid thinking that we are not living in a very tolerant world. Repeatedly Christian minorities have been cruelly attacked during the last months, in many parts of Africa, in the Iraq, in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. In Egypt the Brotherhood of the Muslims recently was declared a terrorist organization. In the Middle East the Islamist groups of Shiites and Sunnites act with utmost

brutality against each other. Despite much ambiguity and uncertainty of the development in those regions of the world, there has been, and may be still is tentative hope of a slowly upward movement of equality and social freedom on the unsteady way to a functioning democracy. The question, of course, is: do democracy really need religion? Can freedom dispense with religion? What about religious tolerance in the society of the 21st century?

Tolerance – what does it mean? In the Roman Empire the religions of subjugated peoples were tolerated, provided that they enshrined and accepted the emperor as the highest authority. As Christians did not do so, they could not expect tolerance. Only the first Edict of tolerance of Galerius in 311 and the Edict in Milan of Constantine and Licinius in 313 stopped the persecution of Christians (see in *The Constantinian News* no. 2/2013: Merja Merras: **FREEDOM OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTIANS WAS DECLARED 1700 YEARS AGO**). So far, and very shortly, the religious claim for tolerance.

However, the concept of tolerance can be found also in other meanings: in the teachings of law, in politics, in sociology and in ethics, the point at issue is mostly dealing with the handling and solution of conflicts in social systems. In those connections tolerance is sometimes used as forbearance of alien habits and customs, comparing it in everyday usage often with equality. That, however, already surpasses the real term of tolerance.

According to Wolfgang Thierse, since 1998 president and vice president of the German Bundestag and member of the central committee of German Catholics, tolerance means

- sanction of formal allowance from top-down or generously granted by a majority,
- coexistence of almost equal groups for pragmatic reasons, often in order to avoid conflicts,

- respect in relationship of individuals who have equal rights but different opinions, and
- estimation in relationship of individuals, who accept the being different of another without willing to become different themselves.

In some way tolerance is a paradox. How shall I tolerate something I do not feel certain about? How can I morally deem right to tolerate something, what I personally do not endorse?

Indeed, tolerance is a rare quality, which presumes to accept what one not necessarily agrees on.

At Easter 2014

Jürgen Schumacher
chancellor

I have met the concept of tolerance in different meanings during 15 years of my work for the benefit of the OCM. An article in *DIE ZEIT* no. 1/2.1.2014, affirmed my thinking about tolerance.

His Beatitude Appeals for Unity in Diversity

On the afternoon of Monday 30th September 2013, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, responding to an invitation from the Community of St Egidio, took part in a discussion on the topic Christian Brotherhood and Unity, which took place in the Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere in Rome. This event is included in the meeting organized by the Community of St Egidio in Rome, under the title of The Courage of Hope, the opening of the deliberations of which the Primate of the Roman Catholic Church Francis I declared earlier that same day.

In his address His Beatitude noted the following:

“A city with nothing holy and with godless people.....does not exist and you can never find one” (Plutarch, To Kolotis Epicure 31). In the twilight of the second millennium there were many who predicted the end of religion and the entry of humanity into an age of no religion. However, today at the dawn of the third millennium, in support of Plutarch’s principle and in refutation of the prophecy concerning the end of the

religious phase of humanity, religion comes forward again as a constant in human existence.....

.....However, if religious pluralism flourishes on the ground of a broader evaluative consensus between religions, then we will avoid both the oblivion of truth as well as the fanaticism of truth.

It is time to teach our faithful not only to remain true to their tradition and to preserve their constitutive identity, but also to be open to what is different and to nourish respect for another’s religion, firstly because they themselves have a religion. It is time to teach our faithful that absolutism of specificity does not constitute preservation of truth, but rather distorts truth and slides towards an exclusivity neurosis born of religion.

This is the message which I bring you from the Middle East, where for two millennia, between a rock and a hard place, we experience faith in the God of Love as a resurrectional hope and ministry, a struggle for justice and peace.

Teo Pittaras

secretary of the Greek Exarchate



Ninth Anniversary of The Election of His Beatitude

On 9th October 2013, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa officiated at the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Patriarchal Cathedral of St Savvas the Sanctified in Alexandria, on the occasion of the completion of nine years since his election and elevation to the Apostolic and Patriarchal throne of St Mark.

His Beatitude was addressed by the Hegumen of the Holy Patriarchal Monastery of St Savvas the Sanctified, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Meletios Koumanis. He said specifically:

“You are the successor to the Throne of Mark, and although you are many years after him, you do not fall behind his way of life and his virtue”

With these words from the ingenious life of your holy predecessor, John the Almsgiver, Patriarch of Alexandria, allow me Your Beatitude, Father and Master, to express the pride and jubilant emotions in the Lord of us all, for today's ninth anniversary of your election to the resplendent throne of the Apostle and Evangelist Mark.

Besides it is this power of love which you proclaimed a few days ago in Rome, paraphrasing, or rather correcting, the Cartesian principle “I think therefore I am” to “I LOVE therefore I am”. I exist through love and in love, which has

the power to renew the World and to transform it by making it better.

Your Beatitude, forgive me because I was not able to convey the accuracy of your charismatic image as exactly as I wished and should have. Besides, everyone knows that the more important the person, so much more difficult is the work of the artist.

Despite all this, what is required is not only the recognition of the “prototype” and its fruitless admiration, but that which is prescribed by St Chrysostom in one of his homilies:

“We admire what you have achieved, we aspire to your qualities, and we praise to others your gallantry”

Most Divine and Most Holy Master, you are the inspirer of love and the example of kindness to us all. We are grateful to you for this, and we pray to our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ that you will continue your excellent piloting of the Alexandrian ship and your glorious tenure as Patriarch, in robust health, for many and good years. Amen.

After the Liturgical synaxis His Beatitude received the wishes of the Hierarchs, the holy clergy and the pious flock of the city of Alexander in the guest hall of the Holy Monastery.

Teo Pittaras
secretary of the Greek Exarchate

Η ΕΝΑΤΗ ΕΠΕΤΕΙΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΛΟΓΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΑΝΑΡΡΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΜΑΚΑΡΙΩΤΑΤΟΥ ΠΑΠΑ
ΚΑΙ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΑΦΡΙΚΗΣ
Κ.Κ. ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ Κ'
ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΛΛΙΦΑΤΟΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΙΝΟΝ
ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΙΚΟΝ ΘΡΟΝΟΝ



The letter of the High Patron of the OCM Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa to appoint Toivo Salmi as the next Chancellor of the OCM.

✠ Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa

Prot. No. 333/2013

Your Excellency Duke and Prince Friedrich von Beaufort-Spontin,
Master of the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni,

In my capacity as High Patron of the OCM and having taken under consideration your proposal concerning the appointment of the next Chancellor of the OCM for the five-year office, starting on 23. May 2014, through the present Patriarchal Letter and in accordance to the constitution of the Order (§ 5-3), I would like to approve the appointment of Professor Toivo Salmi as the next Chancellor of the OCM, granting him with my cordial patriarchal wishes for every success to his new high office to the benefit of the Constantinian Order.

Fervently praying to God

✠ Theodoros II

✠THEODOROS II

Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa

Alexandria, December 30, 2013

The Master organized 23.-25.4.2014 planning meeting in Kainach for the new executive committee.



Mika Pynnönen, Toivo Salmi, the Master, Leif Syrstad and Jorma Ahonen.

Coming OCM Events

23.-25.05.2014 Exarchate of Finland, meeting and investiture in Åland

23.-25.05.2014 Bailiwick of St. Halvard of Oslo, meeting and investiture in Oslo

23.-25.05.2014 Bailiwick of Germany, meeting in Berlin

06.09.2014 Bailiwick of Austria, meeting and investiture at the convent Reichersberg

03.-05.10.2014 Bailiwick of Germany, meeting in Kanstanz

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

Teppo Korte 12.7.

85

The Reverend Lossing,
Lawrence Duren 4.6.

Matti Dahl 14.9.

Erkki Pystynen 2.11.

Harri Heikkilä 29.12.

80

Jorma Haarni 20.7.

Jerry Korstadt 23.7.

Vesa Suonperä 3.11.

Hans von Wimpffen 13.11.

75

His Beatitude Irineos I 19.4.

Wilfred Ebel 31.5.

Lajos Garam 10.6.

Constantine 28.8.

Papandreou 2.9.

Rune Rydén 9.9.

Stig Göran Dreijer 4.10.

Thomas Westgaard 27.10.

Pertti Hartikainen 7.11.

Arto Kähkönen 16.11.

Mikko Reijonen

70

The Reverend
Canon Roberts, Harold
Frederik 8.3.

Lars Block 20.5.

Jorma Kohonen 21.5.

Klaus Hartman 19.6.

Fritz Stiegler 14.6.

Heikki Hiltula 4.8.

Gustaf Holger-Nilsson 10.9.

Hannu Nieminen 12.9.

Timo Joutsamo 25.9.

Karl Alvmarker 28.9.

Olli Ollila 14.10.

Nikolaos Katzolas 27.10.

Ronald Magnum 14.11.

Vladimir Yakovlev 25.11.

Friedrich

Beaufort-Spontin,
Master of the Order 5.12.

Mauri Reunanen 13.12.

65

His Eminence
Panteleimon 17.5.

Mikko Paatero 1.6.

Erkko Kajander 18.6.

Gert Lindell 5.7.

Juhani von Grönghagen 7.7.

Markku Huvinen 31.7.

Rauno Jussila 14.8.

Veikko Lisitsin 30.8.

Per-Olof Lindsäter 14.9.

Mirko Lännpää 22.10.

His Eminence

Anders Pöder 22.11.

60

Alexandros Gardikiotis 13.1.

Athanassios

Kokkinopoulos 17.7.

Jussi Pekka Nuorteva 22.7.

Matti Terho 27.7.

Basil Critikos 18.10.

Spyridon Mpalaskas 1.12.

50

Werner Braun 29.5.

Martin Glier 12.6.

Jouni T. Laine 9.7.

Benjamin Morril 13.11.

Harald Wiik 22.12.



CONTENTS

In Memoriam	2
Annual Report 2013	3
Fresh Vitaly within The OCM Government	6
Thinking about Tolerance	7
His Beatitude Appeals for Unity in Diversity	10
Ninth Anniversary of The Election of His Beatitude	12
The letter of the High Patron of the OCM Theodoros II	14
The Master organized 23.-25.4.2014 planning meeting	
15Coming Events	15
We congratulate	16



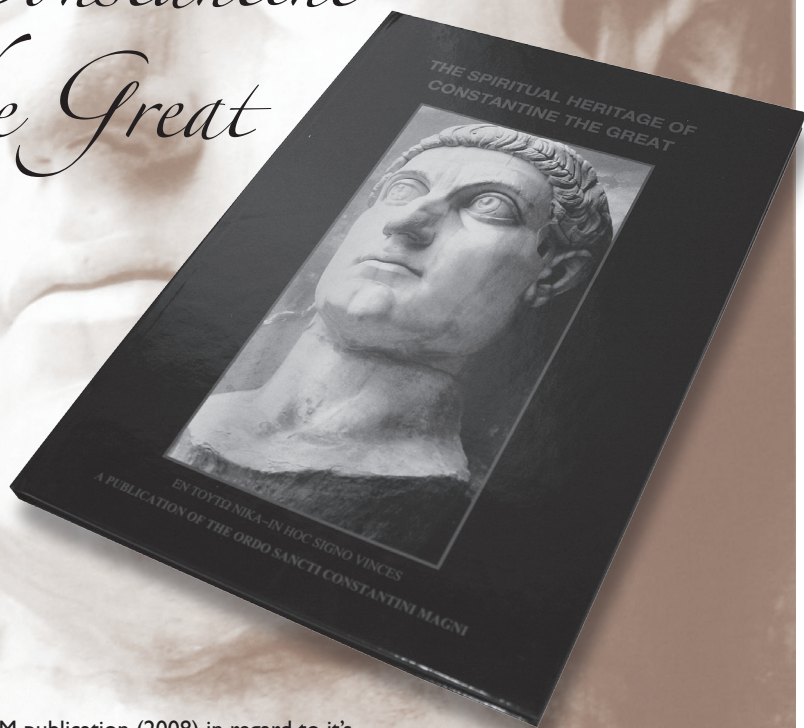
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