

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE
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NEWS

No. 1 / 2025



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IN MEMORIAM

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

KCM

Arto Lahti

Exarchate of Finland
1950 – 2024

KCCM

Merras Herman

Exarchate of Finland
1943 – 2025

KCM

Raimo Rousu

Exarchate of Finland
1947 - 2024

KCM

Krug Wolfgang

Bailiwick of Austria
1960 - 2025

KCM

Kari Heiskanen

Exarchate of Finland
1951 – 2024

KCM

Kangas Olavi

Exarchate of Finland
1943 – 2025



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

Chevaliers and Dames

When the Ordo Constantini Magni was grounded in 1950s its main duty was to help young people recovering after the terrible World War II. The idea was to facilitate all kind of education. Since that all exarchates of the order have been active in this field. I think that this work has been very important. We have had a fantasy, that this is enough. The world has learned to live in peace. Unfortunately, we live, again, an era with war even in Europe. This means that all kind of charitable work is needed. We have to be active and try to find ways to help those who need help. A very good example of this is the work in Norway. The exarchate has organized a direct “help line” to Ukraine. I suppose that all members in our order should follow this activity. In Finland the exarchate is organizing a system to help the outcasts youngsters. This might be a great help for those girls and boys.

I do remind you that the next International Convention will be organized in Greece in 2027. I hope that this meeting will be an active forum for creating new ideas for charitable work in our Order.

I wish everyone a beautiful summer.

Turku 10.06.2025

Toivo Salmi
Chancellor of OCM

Knighting Days of the Finnish Exarchate in Vaasa 16-18.5.2025

The Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa invited knights and their spouses to celebrate Knighting Days on the west coast of Finland in Vaasa.

Friday, May 16, was reserved for accommodation and free self-guided exploration of Vaasa.

Saturday, May 17, was full of activities. The day began with the annual meeting of Finnish Exarchate in the Crypt of the Vaasa Church. During the annual meeting, the avec visit was directed to the Tikanoja Art Home, where was an art exhibition by Eero Järnefelt.

After this, lunch was served at the restaurant VENNI in the Rewell-Center, in the same building where the hotel accommodation was also located. All the party venues were compactly located within a few hundred meters of the accommodation.

From the lunch, we were able to move directly to the beautiful banquet hall of Vaasa City Hall, where the day celebration was taking place. The Balie of Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa had chosen the theme of the day as “Bridge Builders”, which referred to connection and creating connections. The first speech of the day celebration was given by the Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering Joakim Strand. He spoke about creating connections and its significance in concrete terms.

Professors of theology Jyrki Knuutila and Antti Räsänen spoke together about the birth of the NIKEA confession of faith, in connection with the NIKEA 325th anniversary.



The Bailie of Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa Kari Hietamäki was responsible for the arrangements for the Knights' Day in Vaasa

The musical gift to the celebration was brought by classical guitar maestro Veikko Siponkoski. The day celebration was concluded with festive coffees in the mirror hall of the City Hall.

The knight promotion was held in the Vaasa city church. It was once again festive, as no fewer than 18 new aspirants were promoted and promotions and merit badges were awarded in the traditional manner. The greetings of the Finnish parish of Vaasa were brought to the promotion by the vicar Teijo Peltola.

After the promotion it was taken a group foto in Vasa church, and after that we moved on to the gala dinner. During the dinner, we enjoyed organist Jimi Järvinen's accordion playing and the wonderful singing performances of Lisa Dumchieva, who had fled the war in Ukraine. During the evening party, we heard the new knight's acceptance speech, given by Dame Sirpa Tirri. The actual speech was given by Exarch Erkki Kajander and the acceptance speech by Chancellor Toivo Salmi. At the end of the evening, we received an invitation to the next Knighting Days 2026 in Åland.



Vaasa Church was the center of the Knighting Days



The greetings from the Finnish parish in Vaasa were brought to the promotion by the vicar Teijo Peltola



Secretary of the Exarchate of Finland, KCCM Kimmo Sainio (left) and Chancellor GCCM Toivo Salmi waiting for the start of the promotion



The procession arriving at the church. The Finnish flag is carried by Knight Brother KCM, reserve major Martti Ehrnrooth



The promoter was the Exarch of Finland, GOCM Erikko Kajander

On Sunday, we participated Memorial Day service for those who fell in wars, from which wreath patrols were sent to lay wreaths at the cemetery at the monument to the war fallen heroes. The OCM-Konstantinus Association also laid its own wreath solemnly along with other wreath-laying members.

The Knights' Day organized by the Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa ended with a church coffee in the church crypt after the service.

The total number of participants in the Knighting Days was 90 people.

Kari Hietämäki, the Bailie of Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa, expresses warm thanks on behalf of the Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa to everyone who participated in the Vaasa Knights' Day.



Bailie of Bailiwick of Helsinki KCM Harri Palmu was promoted to KCCM



The Master of Ceremonies of the Exarchate of Finland, KCM Pekka Räisänen, was awarded CoMCM I



Oath of new knights and dames.



The new knights and dames were consecrated by the Chancellor of the Order, GCCM Toivo Salmi. Pictured is Jukka Laine from Bailiwick of Varsinais-Suomi



The new knights and dames in a group photo in Vaasa Church. In the front row are dames Mari Puska (left), Mirka Soinikoski and Sirpa Tirri



Participants of the Knighthood Days in a group photo at Vaasa Church



Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Selbständige Komturei Österreich

Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich

ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140

PROGRAM KNIGHTS DAY 2025

Kaltenleutgeben, 1 May 2025

Saturday, 4 October 2025

12:00 hrs. [Facultative Lunch](#), Le Méridien, Robert-Stolz-Platz 1, 1010 Vienna
[Le Méridien Vienna](#) | [Modernes Hotel in Vienna](#)



13:30 hrs. Presentation & discussion by the President of the EU Drugs Agency, **Dr. Franz Pietsch, KCM**, Flaming Red 1 (UG1) for knights, associate members, candidates and ladies. Topic: [The EU Drugs Agency](#) (German)



14:45 hrs. Presentation & discussion by Head of Division **Robert Scharinger, KCM**, Flaming Red 1 (UG1) for knights, associate members, candidates and ladies. Topic: [eHealth – the Digitalization of our health systems](#) (German)



- 16:15 hrs. **General Assembly** at **Hotel Le Méridien**, Flaming Red (UG1)
Only for Austrian knights and associate members (dark blue blazer, OCM tie, dark grey trousers)



- 17:30 hrs. **Change of attire** for knights (white tie, OCM insignia and coat), associate members (white tie) and ladies (festive evening gown). Ladies kindly wear their "OCM Anniversary Cross 2023", if applicable.



- 18:40 hrs. 15 min **Mini Van Transfer** to **Peterskirche** in 1010 Wien. Departure at the hotel entrance of Le Meridien.

- 19:00 hrs. **Church Ceremony at Peterskirche** with oaths, knightly accolades and honoring (till 19:45 hrs.).
Reverend: Prof. DDr. Mathias Beck
Ave Maria by Cornelia Hübsch (Soprano), Organist: Mario Eritreo.



- 19:45 hrs. 15 min **Mini Van Transfer** back to Hotel Le Méridien.

20:15 hrs. 5 course **Gala Dinner** at **Hotel Le Méridien** (Flaming Red 2, UG1)
With round tables for 8 people each. Afterwards possible gathering at
the **Hotel Bar** (facultative) on ground floor. The bar will be open de-
pending on business, but won't close before 1:00 am.



Sunday, 5 October 2025

07:00 - 11:00 hrs. **Individual Breakfast** at Sala Terrena (ground floor) and departure.
Room keys to be returned at reception and check-out latest by 12:00 hrs. (noon).



Faternally

Werner H. Bittner, KCCM

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Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Stellständige Kammer Österreich
Verein der Konstantinritzer in Österreich
ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.149



REGISTRATION

OCM Knights Day 2025

Of the Constantine Knights in Austria

Vienna, 4-5 October 2025

Remark: kindly register asap, latest on 13 August 2025

Filled out and signed form email to Secretary:
thomas@zsulits.com

I herewith register for OCM Knights Day 2025:

Full Name of OCM Member:

Full Name of Spouse:

Total number of participants 1 PAX 2 PAX

Participation Fee wired to:

Account holder: **Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich**

IBAN: **AT07 2011 1838 1450 3500**

BIC: **GIBATWXXXX**

The **Participation Fee** covers expenses per participant according to the official program of the OCM Knights Day 2025. Other expenses, especially when tagged „facultative“ have to be borne by participant.

Definitely not included are hotel room expenses as well as other private and personal expenses at **Hotel Le Meridien**. Hotel rooms need to be booked as per individual preferences. For OCM Knights Day 2025 special rates have been arranged: **€ 249.00** (single-occupancy) per night and **€ 269.00** (double-occupancy) per knight. The rates include breakfast at Le Meridien.

Special OCM rates do not apply to bookings after 13 August 2025. Also, availabilities of rooms are not guaranteed after this day. Booked rooms are guaranteed to be available as of 15:00 hrs. on the day of arrival.

Reservation link for room bookings:

[Book your group rate for OCM Rittertag 2025 / OCM Knights Day 2025](#)

I have wired the participation fee of € 260.00 per person/participant.

.....
Date and Signature of OCM Member

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.

99 v		Nikolainen Markus	17.9.
Boddington Jack	11.10.	Hilliard John	19.9.
96 v		Waneck Reinhard	16.10.
Pystynen Erkki	2.11.	Keisu Mikko	25.10.
95 v		75 v	
Christoffersen Leif E.	16.9.	Canclicia Henry	3.9.
Parker James	22.10.	Lindström Pauli	9.9.
94 v		Saeger Heidrun Christine	24.9.
Vikström John	1.10.	Ahola Antti	22.11.
93 v		Koskinen Reino	9.12.
Smokovits Dimitris	6.10.	60 v	
91 v		Jaskari Jari	24.6.
Haarni Jorma	20.7.	Patrikios Tilewachos	10.7.
Korstad Jerry Ray	23.7.	Zeman Heinz	1.8.
Suonperä Vesa	3.11.	Tokonidze-Skronia Maya	28.8.
90 v		Öhrling Therese	29.12.
Hansen Göran	3.10.	50 v	
Leimuvirta Olavi	26.11.	Silanto Mikko	12.9.
Keagy Richard H	30.11.	Kohtala Pasi	1.12.
85 v		Soinikoski Mirka	16.12.
Diakovassilis Emmanuel	10.11.		
80 v			
His Eminence Ambrosius	10.8.		
Kalajoki Jorma	1.9.		
Rantakari Ilari	5.9.		
Trombetta Orfeo jr.	6.9.		



Greetings from OCM office

In August, it will be five years since I took over the duties of OCM Secretary General. The situation was difficult, my predecessor was seriously ill, and the person to whom he was supposed to hand over was not willing to act in this position after a short acquaintance with the matter. On top of all that, the previous Secretary General Jorma Ahonen passed away during the orientation to the position. I apologize if some things have not been as they should have been right away, there has been a lot to learn here. In addition, other busy things have slowed things to do down from time to time.

The International Government is currently working on a number of things that we hope will make it easier to operate and communicate between member countries. One important innovation in this regard is the modernization of the web pages. By adding links, we hope to improve the flow of information, and we also hope to offer more opportunities to participate in events also outside of your own country. This project is led by Chairman of the Council Leif Syrstad.

One of our problems (if it is considered such) is the age structure of the membership. It can be seen, for example, on the CN “We congratulate” page. Of course, we are constantly getting new younger members, but there should be many more of them. I was very pleased when, at the Knighting Days of the Finnish Exarchate, we received 18 new knights, 3 of whom were dames. This membership problem is perhaps most concrete in our small member countries, such as the Czech Republic and Germany. In addition, it would be desirable that everyone in Central European countries would recruit their new members mainly from their own country. This way, no one would be deprived of the opportunity to get members interested in our cause.

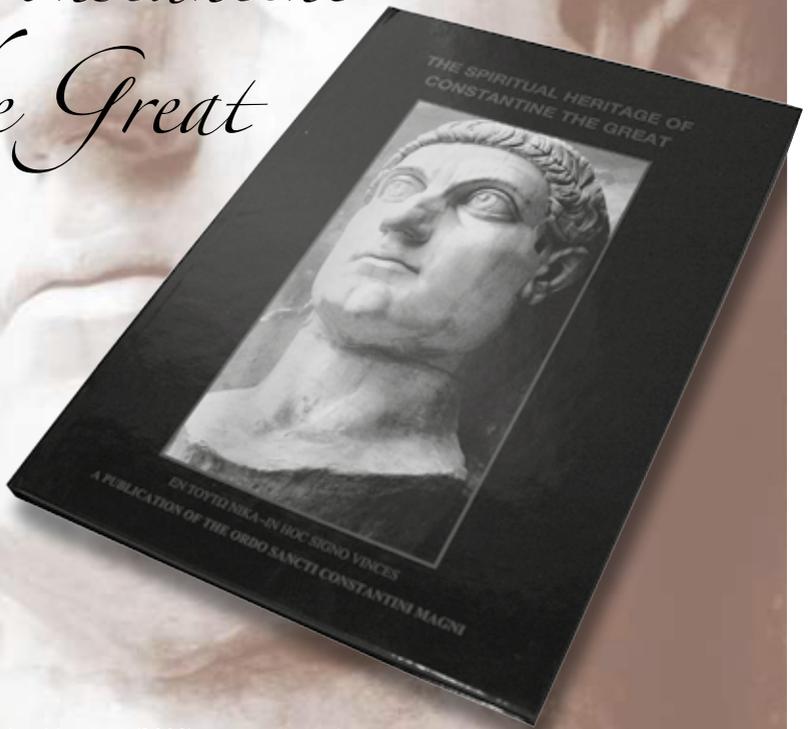
As the Chancellor writes elsewhere in this CN, “When the Ordo Constantini Magni was grounded in the 1950s its main duty was to help young people recovering after the terrible World War II.” Today we live again in a world where the ongoing military operations in Europe also threaten to escalate to affect the whole world. That is why it is important that we all keep the roots of our Order clearly in mind. Of course, no one hopes that the situation will change even worse, rather the opposite. But all the same - the OCM Order has a mission in time. It is more important than we may think in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Exarchates and Bailiwicks and their members for the work you do. It is summer now, and it is time to recharge our batteries. Therefore, I would like to inform you that the OCM office will be closed from 7 July to 8 August.

I wish everyone a good, peaceful and relaxing summer

Osmo Suominen, KCCM, Secretary-General

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