

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE  
CONSTANTINIAN  
NEWS

No. 2 / 2025



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## IN MEMORIAM

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

KCCM

**Vesa Suonperä**

Exarchate of Finland

1934-2025

DCM

**Jane Jönsson**

Exarchate of Sweden

1936-2025

KCM

**Jorma Heikkinen**

Exarchate of Finland

1947 - 2025

GOCM

**Ingemar Apelstig**

Exarchate of Sweden

1942-2025

KCM

**Jonsson-Falck Perolov**

Exarchate of Sweden

1935-2024



*Do not be afraid;*

*I am the First and the Last.*

*I am He who lives.*

## Dear dames and chevaliers

Two years ago, I wrote in the Christmas greeting in Constantian News that we should be prepared to work as the Order worked after the Second World War. I also hoped that the situation in world would be better than it was. Unfortunately, we have to admit that the situation in Europe and other parts of the world is even worse. There are several countries where the political situation is unstable. Human rights, free communication, the independence of the judiciary, trust in science, and the operational security of universities are under threat. Ordo Constantini Magni is a quite small order, but I am sure that we have an important duty to defend these important principles. OCM is active in several countries, and I also am sure that our members can have influence in defending.

Fortunately, we have some good news. We have a new exarchate: the Austrian Exarchate. The number of members in Austria has increased and according the constitution a new Exarchate is possible. From USA we have also good news. The number of members is growing significantly. The international government of OCM has now got a new member – Andrew James McMenamin. This big Exarchate has now an important role in the work of government. There are, of course, some difficulties in meeting timetables, but our secretary general has been able to solve this problem.

Finally, I wish a Mery Christmas and a Happy New year.

**Toivo Salmi**  
Chancellor of OCM

# New Exarchate

The OCM Order has received a new Exarchate, when the International Government, on the proposal of the Bailiwick of Austria, has proposed to the Master the establishment of an Exarchate in Austria. The Master has approved the proposal.

The basis for the Exarchate is the significantly increased membership of the Bailiwick of Austria. The membership enables the establishment of two separate Bailiwicks.

The current Bailie of Austria, Werner H. Bittner, will begin as Exarch of the new Exarchate. The Bailiwicks starting as Dr. Alfred Winkler (Bailiwick of Noricum) and Tomas Zsulits (Bailiwick of Vindobona-Pannonia) will begin as Bailies.

Since the establishment of the Exarchate of Austria, the Order has six Exarchates, with a total of 32 Bailiwicks. In addition, there are two Autonomous Bailiwicks.



## Exarchate of Austria (currently 39 knights)

Leadership structure of future Exarchate:

1. **Exarch**
2. **Treasurer of Exarchate**
3. **Bailie Noricum**
4. **Bailie Vindobona-Pannonia**
5. **Archon**

Werner H. Bittner, KCCM  
Stefan Paris, KCM  
Dr. Alfred Winkler, KCM  
Thomas Zsulits, KCM  
Prof. Dr. M.-Christian Fock, GOCM



Underlying logic of Bailiwicks:  
Former roman provinces in todays Austria

- **Bailiwick NORICUM** (knights with residence in Vorarlberg, Tyrol (all parts), Carinthia, Salzburg, Upper Austria and Styria) **currently 12 PAX**  
  
**Dr. Alfred Winkler**, Thomas Pirker, Lukas Bitterlich, Prof. Dr. Herbert Zech, Christian Drauch, Stefan Maier, Christian Schweiberer, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Sutter, Michael Wanz, Wolfgang Krug, Jan Holey, Markus Megymorez.
- **Bailiwick VINDOBONA-PANNONIA** (knights with residence in Lower Austria, Vienna and Burgenland) **currently 24 PAX**

**Thomas Zsulits**, Dr. Wolfgang Baumann, Dr. Dr. Hubert Fuchs, Martin Glier, Dr. Wolfgang Knogler, Peter Kritsch, Gert Schernhorst, Fritz Stiegler, Gero Stuller, Oliver Szóny, Prof. Dr. Reinhart Waneck, Heinz Zeman, Prof. Dr. Hubert Hrabáček, Dr. Miklos Harajda, Dr. Franz Pietsch, Robert Scharinger, Dr. Christian Tuscher, Markus Braun, Carl Albrecht Waldstein, Dr. Friedrich Rödler, Dr. Edmund Srabotník, Dr. Ulrich Lanz, Ketson Egbon, Alexander Ordosch.

- Potentially in the future: Bailiwick **RAETIA** (Vorarlberg, Tyrol) if a number of 12+ knights with residence in those two Austrian states have been reached.





# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Selbständige Komturei Österreich

Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich

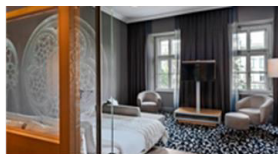
ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140

## 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 depending  
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).



Fraternally

**Dipl.-Ing. Werner H. Bittner, KCCM**

Exarch von Österreich  
Persönlicher Assistent des Ordensmeisters

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**Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni**

Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich  
ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140



## Pictures from Austrian Knights Day 2025









# RITTERTAG 2025

## Savour Le Meridien

**Prosecco** 0,1l

Sergio Monetto bio

Valdobbiadene, IT

**Bier** 0,33l

Ottakringer Gold Fassl Spezial

**2023 Pinot Noir**

Paul Achs Hofweingarten bio

Neusiedlersee, AT

**2022 Riesling**

Bründlmayer Ried Heiligenstein bio

Kamptal, AT

**Soft Drinks** 0,33l

Pepsi | Pepsi Max | 7-Up | Mirinda

**Vöslauer** 0,75l

still | prickelnd



Vorspeise

**Marinierte Burratina**

Kürbis-Apfel Chutney | Radicchio

\*\*\*

**Eierschwammerl-Cremesuppe**

Focaccia Chip



Hauptgang

**Gefüllte Gnocchi**

Kürbis | Blauschimmelkäse | Kräutersalat

\*\*\*

**Gegrilltes Entrecote vom Simmentaler Rind**

Cremige Erdäpfelmousseline | Schwarze Winter Trüffel |

Wilder Brokkoli



Dessert

**Mascarponecreme**

Maroni | Ladyfinger | Zwergorangenragout



**Le MERIDIEN**  
VIENNA







## Pictures from investiture in Prague on November 29, 2025







# Christmas greetings from OCM Office

The year 2025 will soon be a thing of the past. When you look at the world and its developments, and especially at the security situation in Europe, only one question inevitably comes to mind: "Where are we going?"

Russia's barbaric war of aggression in Ukraine, which violates all existing rules of war, has almost lasted four years, and despite all the negotiations, there is no end in sight as I write this.

When we think today of the founding of our Order in post-war Europe on May 29, 1953, and the vision and mission that the founders had, we can say that the same vision should still be with us, who today bear responsibility for the operation of the Order. Our most important tasks are to promote tolerance among different people, to promote ecumenism among denominations, and then to do charitable work among those who are less fortunate. We have such targets - not only through our Patriarchate in Africa - but also here in Europe. In this world situation, where wars are raging around the world, we have a lot of work to do.

Our Order has grown considerably over the past year. We have gained a new Exarchate in Austria, for which I would like to congratulate Exarch Werner H Bittner. You have done a great job. There has also been growth in membership elsewhere - of course, also some regrettable departures. In this context, I would like to remind you once again that knighthood is a lifelong commitment to serving in accordance with our values and duties. Becoming a member and then quickly leaving for a thought - this was not my thing - is not in accordance with the principles of the OCM Order.

I am publishing the 2024 annual report and financial statements in this CN issue exceptionally late. There is a reason for this. The Council only considered the financial statements in the autumn and therefore publishing them without approval would not have been correct. I hope that next year we will get back to a normal rhythm in this regard as well.



The past year has been exceptionally difficult for me. I have been running down the war veterans' organizations that I have led for two decades, and at the same time, cleaning the office and organizing the archives has required a lot of work. The war veterans have almost all left this life (as I write this, there are less than 1000 left in Finland). We have moved into the era of their traditional organizations. I will continue in the same positions in this organization – at least for now. I humbly apologize if everything has not always gone exactly on time due to the above.

Thank you all for your cooperation this past year. I wish to everyone Peacefull and Merry Christmas and all the best for 2026.

**Osmo Suominen**  
Secretary General

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The year 2024 was the 71st year of operation of the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni and was responsible for maintaining good and effective relations with the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Despite the fact that the situation in the world, and in particular in Europe, is the most unstable since the end of the Second World War, the Order has been operating normally. Events have been organized in all the Exarchates and Autonomous Bailiwicks.

The OCM provided an annual charitable contribution to the Patriarchate of Alexandria. In addition, the government has continued to support the Sakiai orphanage in Lithuania. The government has also considered and discussed new potential charitable projects for the coming years.

The Chairman of the Council of the Order has been Rune Rydén. The Council took responsibility for approving the budget proposal and the financial statements of the Board.

The International Board, Chancellor Toivo Salmi, Vice Chancellor Leif Syrstad, Secretary General Osmo Suominen, Treasurer Mika Pynnönen and member Vassilis Yannakakos. The Board of Directors consists of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Secretary General and Treasurer.

The government directed the international work of the knighthood with the support of the Master. The Government has held 10 meetings, three of which were normal meetings (Helsinki 2 ja Stockholm 1) and the rest were either Teams or e-mail meetings.

The Master promoted one Knight Commander to Grand Officer Constantini Magni and one Knight to Knight Commander Constantini Magni.

The Master admitted new members to the Order from Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Norway, Sweden and US. The net increase in membership was 4

The membership state as of January 1st 2025:

By January 1st 2025 the numbers of all the members was 524, of which 35 were honorary members and 489 paying members.

|                             | 1.1.2022 | 1.1.2023 | 1.1.2024 | 1.1.2025 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Honorary members            | 36       | 36       | 35       | 35       |
| Exarchate of Finland        | 225      | 217      | 220      | 214      |
| Exarchate of USA            | 76       | 79       | 81       | 81       |
| Exarchate of Sweden         | 64       | 59       | 65       | 64       |
| Hellenic Exarchate          | 40       | 39       | 40       | 42       |
| Exarchate of Norway         | 15       | 21       | 22       | 27       |
| Bailiwick of Austria        | 32       | 34       | 35       | 38       |
| Bailiwick of Germany        | 9        | 10       | 9        | 11       |
| Bailiwick of Czech Republic | 9        | 9        | 9        | 9        |
| Diaspora                    | 3        | 4        | 4        | 3        |

Unfortunately, the international government has once again had to admit differences in the number of members at almost every meeting. The International government continues to emphasize that membership is for life and that upon becoming a member, a person must be aware of the responsibilities of the Order. This awareness must be ensured especially when accepting new members, the role of recommenders is important here. Now some members resign after a very short membership, some even before promotions. A significant part of the membership is in the annual fee. In addition, the International government also hopes that the information on those who resigned will be processed more quickly than at present, as there is still information about members who resigned from membership years ago.

Annual reports of the Exarchates and Bailiwicks of the Order were received almost everyone. Unfortunately most units do not deliver detailed reports, although it is their duty to do so. As always, the numbers of meetings, activities and events differs considerable in the different national units. Charitable projects are running. Among the charity projects, the Norwegian Exarchate's aid to Ukraine should be mentioned in particular

Financially, the year 2024 was very good. OCM's 2024 financial statement result was €67,326.53. The reason for the good, positive result was that cost management remained at a lower level than in previous years. Total income was approximately the same as in 2023 and expenses were also just under €5,000.00 lower. In the 2024 financial year, the order continued as an annual donation of €20,000 to the Patriarchate of Alexandria. The main focus of charitable work continued to be the Sakiai project in Lithuania.

Three issues of the Constantinian News magazine were published, which can be read on the website.

Given the current state of the world, the Order has an important mission to continue its work for the benefit of human society. It must remember why it was founded. Every member of the Order has an important role to play in this work. Every member also has a duty, a continuing task and a challenge to be responsible for adding new individuals to our membership who understand the meaning of membership and are ready to commit to it in the spirit of ecumenical thinking. Sponsors of new members must be responsible for ensuring that the prospective member understands what the Order is and that the knightly vow is lifelong. The sponsor must also ensure that the new member participates in the activities of his or her own Bailiwick. Promoting ecumenical thinking, spreading tolerance and building bridges between members working in Exarchates and Autonomous Bailiwicks are the three fundamental pillars of our work. This must be safeguarded in the future, as it is also the basis for the Order's charitable work now and in the future.

Helsinki 25.3.2025

The Government of the OCM

# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



## Fiscal year 1.1.2024 - 31.12.2024

| <b>Statement of Operations</b>              | <b>1.1.2023 -<br/>31.12.2023</b> | <b>1.1.2024 -<br/>31.12.2024</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                             |                                  |                                  |
| Annual fees                                 | 46 510,00 €                      | 48 400,00 €                      |
| Entrance fees                               | 3 000,00 €                       | 4 500,00 €                       |
| Sales of decorations                        | 1 140,00 €                       | 195,00 €                         |
| Sales of other insignias                    | 5 050,00 €                       | 2 225,00 €                       |
| Sales of publications                       | 0,00 €                           | 0,00 €                           |
| Donations                                   | 0,00 €                           | 0,00 €                           |
| Interest and other                          | 0,00 €                           | 10,00 €                          |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                       | <b>55 700,00 €</b>               | <b>55 330,00 €</b>               |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                         |                                  |                                  |
| <b>Funds and Donations</b>                  |                                  |                                  |
| Contribution to Patriarchate                | -25 070,00 €                     | -20 000,00 €                     |
| Transfer to Charity Fund                    | 0,00 €                           | 0,00 €                           |
| Transfer to International Convention Fund   | 0,00 €                           | 0,00 €                           |
| <b>Funds and Donations total</b>            | <b>-25 070,00 €</b>              | <b>-20 000,00 €</b>              |
| <b>Functional expenses</b>                  |                                  |                                  |
| Government meetings                         | -364,50 €                        | -295,00 €                        |
| Travelling costs to the meetings            | -584,28 €                        | -2 304,16 €                      |
| Travelling costs to the investitures        | -6 761,30 €                      | -527,56 €                        |
| Costs of International Convention           | -1 400,00 €                      | -405,00 €                        |
| Communications (web, News, ect)             | -1 140,00 €                      | -613,15 €                        |
| Office expenses                             | 0,00 €                           | -1 461,19 €                      |
| Financial costs                             | -179,70 €                        | -222,85 €                        |
| <b>Functional expenses total</b>            | <b>-10 429,78 €</b>              | <b>-5 828,91 €</b>               |
| <b>Other expenses</b>                       |                                  |                                  |
| Other                                       | 0,00 €                           | 0,00 €                           |
| Change of inventory                         | -6 659,80 €                      | 37 825,44 €                      |
| <b>Other expenses total</b>                 | <b>-6 659,80 €</b>               | <b>37 825,44 €</b>               |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>                   | <b>-42 159,58 €</b>              | <b>11 996,53 €</b>               |
| <b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b> | <b>13 540,42 €</b>               | <b>67 326,53 €</b>               |

# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



## Balance sheet

| <b>Assets</b>                     | <b>31.12.2023</b>   | <b>31.12.2024</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Inventory</b>                  |                     |                     |
| Medals and Decorations            | 7 831,82 €          | 45 455,72 €         |
| Insignias                         | 2 412,24 €          | 3 341,68 €          |
| Literature and other articles     | 210,64 €            | 210,64 €            |
| <b>Inventory total</b>            | <b>10 454,70 €</b>  | <b>49 008,04 €</b>  |
| <b>Accounts receivable</b>        |                     |                     |
| Annual fees                       | 46 115,00 €         | 36 300,00 €         |
| Other receivables                 | 0,00 €              | 28 640,00 €         |
| <b>Accounts receivable total</b>  | <b>46 115,00 €</b>  | <b>64 940,00 €</b>  |
| <b>Cash and Equivalents</b>       |                     |                     |
| Bank Account                      | 189 332,67 €        | 189 280,86 €        |
| <b>Cash and Equivalents total</b> | <b>189 332,67 €</b> | <b>189 280,86 €</b> |
| <b>Assets total</b>               | <b>245 902,37 €</b> | <b>303 228,90 €</b> |

# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



## Balance sheet

| <b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>       | <b>31.12.2023</b>   | <b>31.12.2024</b>   |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                       |                     |                     |
| Charity Fund (CF)                          | 56 960,00 €         | 46 960,00 €         |
| <i>Transfer to CF</i>                      | 0,00 €              | 0,00 €              |
| <i>Donations</i>                           | -10 000,00 €        | -10 000,00 €        |
| Charity Fund total                         | 46 960,00 €         | 36 960,00 €         |
| International Convention fund (ICF)        | 40 000,00 €         | 34 517,00 €         |
| <i>Transfer to ICF</i>                     | 0,00 €              | 0,00 €              |
| <i>Donation</i>                            | -5 483,00 €         | 0,00 €              |
| International Convention fund total        | 34 517,00 €         | 34 517,00 €         |
| <b>Fund Balances total</b>                 | <b>81 477,00 €</b>  | <b>71 477,00 €</b>  |
| <b>Excesses</b>                            |                     |                     |
| Excess from previous years                 | 150 884,95 €        | 164 425,37 €        |
| Excess/Loss of the year                    | 13 540,42 €         | 67 326,53 €         |
| <b>Excesses total</b>                      | <b>164 425,37 €</b> | <b>231 751,90 €</b> |
| <b>Fund Balances and Excesses total</b>    | <b>245 902,37 €</b> | <b>303 228,90 €</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                         |                     |                     |
| Accounts payable                           | 0,00 €              | 0,00 €              |
| <b>Liabilities total</b>                   | <b>0,00 €</b>       | <b>0,00 €</b>       |
| <b>Liabilities and Fund Balances total</b> | <b>245 902,37 €</b> | <b>303 228,90 €</b> |

In Tuusula  
24.3.2025

Mika Pynnönen  
Treasurer



## **The signing of the annual report for the**

**Fiscal year 1.1.2024 - 31.12.2024**

The Government of the Order  
25.3.2025 In the city of Helsinki

Toivo Salmi

Nils Jørgen Sørli

Osmo Suominen

Mika Pynnönen

Eleftherios Fonazakis



# COMING OCM EVENTS

22.-24.5.2026    Knighting Days of Finnish Exarchate in Åland Islands



## THE CONSTANTINIAN NEWS

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# 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.

## 98 v

Ilaskivi Raimo 26.5.

## 95 v

Selby Beverly M. 3.6.

## 93 v

Necas Jaroslaw 3.1.

## 91 v

Vikström John 1.10.

## 90 v

Jaskari Matti 13.3.

Pietilä Seppo 2.4.

## 85 v

Konstantinidis Anestis 3.1.

Grikorakou Potitsa 18.4.

Luokomaa Raimo 19.4.

Cronert Kjell 4.6.

De Borchgrave Alexandra 12.6.

Andersson Göran 14.6.

## 80 v

Pyysalo Risto 14.1.

Turja Juha 16.2.

Junttila Risto 18.3.

Vahlquist Fredrik 3.5.

Neva Martti 23.5.

Ennevaara Mikko 27.6.

## 75 v

Saura Juha 5.2.

Bolanowski Wladyslaw 5.2.

Lingserius Bo 5.3.

Salmi Samuel 19.3.

Fidler Jan 22.3.

Skare Knut 16.5.

Langenfeld David 2.6.

## 60 v

Fasching Marcus 10.2.

Mikkonen Pave 8.3.

Schweiberer Christian 18.3.

Schøyen Eivind 15.4.

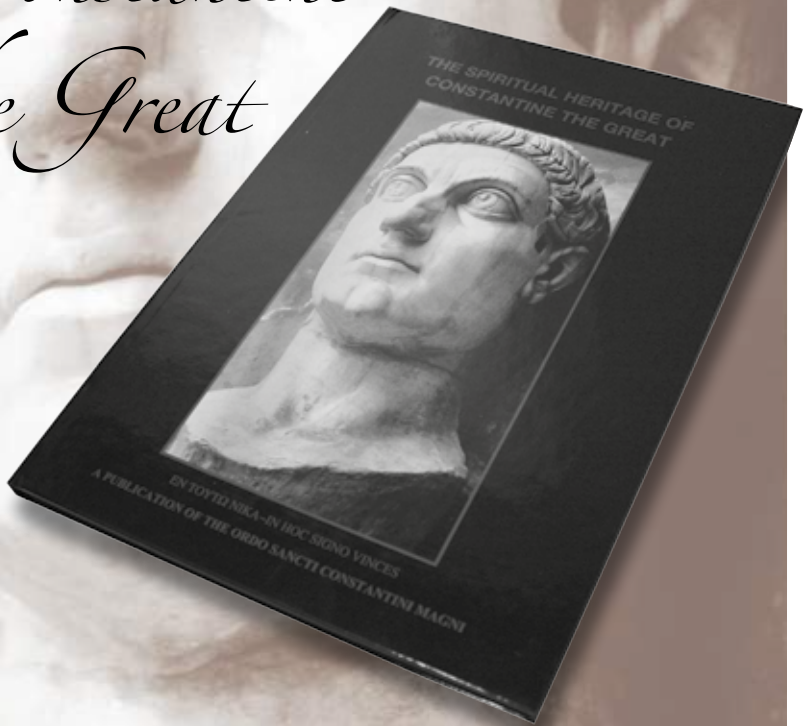
## 50 v

Rantakari Riikka 9.2.

Rahkonen Janne 6.5.



# *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](mailto:treasurer@ocmonline.org)