

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

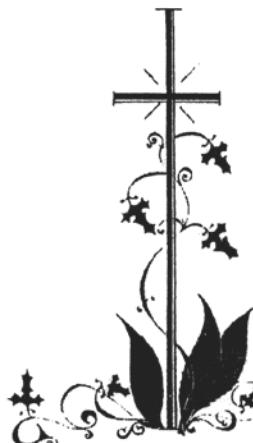
KCCM
Vesa Suonperä
Exarchate of Finland
1934-2025

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 Holej, 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 Steigler, Gero Stuller, Oliver Szöny, Prof. Dr. Reinhard Waneck, Heinz Zeman, Prof. Dr. Hubert Hrabcik, Dr. Miklos Harjada; Dr. Franz Pietsch, Robert Scharinger, Dr. Christian Tüscher, Markus Braun, Carl Albrecht Waldstein, Dr. Friedrich Rödler, Dr. Edmund Sabotnik, 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

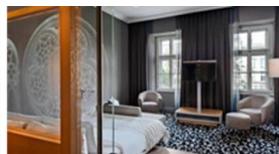
ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140

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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A Sachsenweg 4, A-2391 Kaltenleutgeben



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

Eierschammerl-Cremesuppe

Focaccia Chip

Hauptgang

Gefüllte Gnocchi

Kürbis | Blauschimmelkäse | Kräutersalat

Gegrilltes Entrecôte vom Simmentaler Rind

Cremige Erdäpfelmousseline | Schwarze Winter Trüffel |

Wilder Brokkoli

Dessert

Mascarponecreme

Maroni | Ladyfinger | Zwerigorangenragout

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 Bailiwick.

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 Bailiwick 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 Bailiwick 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



Fiscal year 1.1.2024 - 31.12.2024

Statement of Operations	1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023	1.1.2024 - 31.12.2024
Revenues		
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 €
Total Revenues	55 700,00 €	55 330,00 €
Expenditures		
Funds and Donations		
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 €
Funds and Donations total	-25 070,00 €	-20 000,00 €
Functional expenses		
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 €
Functional expenses total	-10 429,78 €	-5 828,91 €
Other expences		
Other	0,00 €	0,00 €
Change of inventory	-6 659,80 €	37 825,44 €
Other expences total	-6 659,80 €	37 825,44 €
Total Expenditures	-42 159,58 €	11 996,53 €
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	13 540,42 €	67 326,53 €



Balance sheet

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



Balance sheet

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

In Tuusula
24.3.2025

Mika Pynnönen
Treasurer

Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



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
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www.ocmonline.org

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

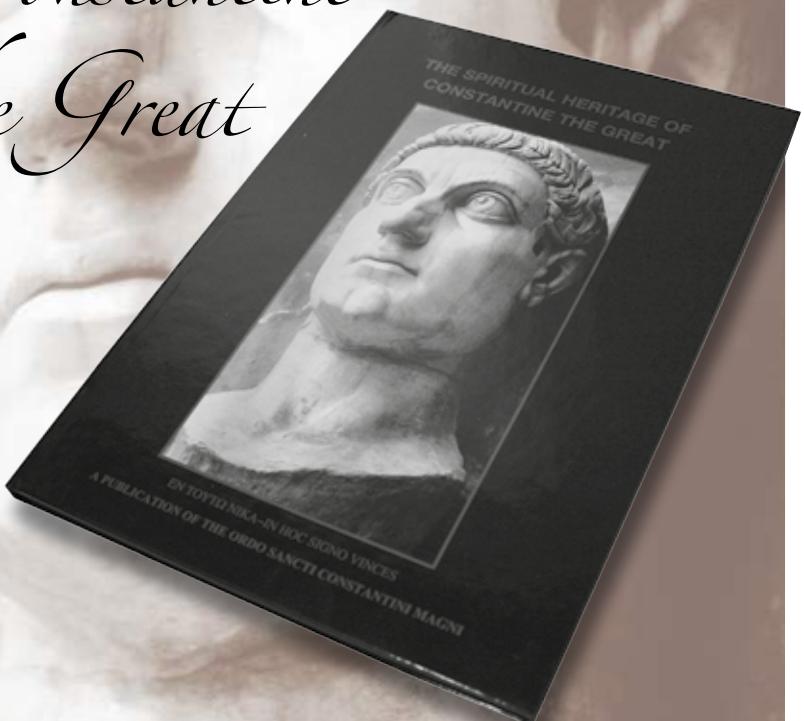
9.2.

Rahkonen Janne

6.5.



The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great



is an OCM publication (2008) in regard to its 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