



900th Anniversary of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller held on February 15, 2013

THIS IS A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER FEATURING CELEBRATIONS BY OUR PRIORIES AND COMMANDERIES OF THE 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDER

The celebrations commemorated the anniversary of the founding of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller, through the Papal Bull of Pope Paschal II, dated 15 February 1113

COMMANDERY OF CLEVELAND, PRIORY OF THE EASTERN USA

The Cleveland Commandery celebrated the 900th anniversary of the Order with a Service of Thanksgiving and a reception at the Ursuline Motherhouse on the Ursuline College Campus.

The Service was a special opportunity for sharing faith and for reflecting on the meaning of membership in the Order. The Reception provided members and guests to share the history of the Order and to anticipate the future service to humanity by the Commandery.



COMMANDERY OF ST. KNUD HERTUG, PRIORY OF ST. ANSGAR, DENMARK

The 900th anniversary celebration included a church Service in St. John's Church in Odense and was attended by members of all branches of the Order and members of the German Association.

The Service was conducted by Pastor Peter Thyssen (left) and included a history of the Order and the sermon on John the Baptist.

A reception followed the Service and donations were made by Commander Michael Gertsen (left) to three deserving local organizations helping those in need.

One of the donations was presented to Selina Juula PUH (left), the project manager of "Stop Wasting Food".





COMMANDERY OF TAMPERE, PRIORY OF ST. HENRIK, FIN- LAND

80 members and guests enjoyed a gala dinner at the Comedy Theatre of Tampere.

During the course of the celebratory evening Mr. Kimmo Sasai MP, and 5 times Minister in the Government, gave a speech; Vice Prior Emeritus, Heikki Ylinen KGSJ gave a lecture on the history of the Order; Chevalier Sami Taustila KSJ presented to the Priory a framed 16th century iron cross; the Priory made donations to three deserving organizations and members and guests enjoyed popular operetta songs by local actor Seppo Mäki.



COMMANDERY OF THE PALM BEACHES, PRIORY OF THE EASTERN USA

100 Knights, Dames and guests celebrated the 900th anniversary with a solemn ceremony held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in West Palm Beaches. The sanctuary was transformed into a “Knights Chapel filled with Christian and Order flags through the centuries with the altar adorned in candlelight, red roses and the Cross of Amalfi.”

Clergy presiding at the Service were Chevaliers Dr. William Stepp, KJSJ and the Rev. David Adler, KSJ. Bailiff Prior Suzanne Turner, GCSJ delivered the allocution. Throughout the Service music was provided by soloist Dame Pamela Martyna, DGSJ, trumpeter Douglas Fair and brother of Dame Toni Mastrullo, DSJ and organist Gay Dedo.

Following the Service a delightful reception “Sovereign Sweets” was held including Italian desserts and a special SOSJ white chocolate cookie embossed with the Order’s crest. Members were delighted to receive a Petition for Admission from a guest at the conclusion of the reception.

Also in attendance were members of the Washington, DC and Nicaragua Commanderies.



COMMANDERY OF TORONTO, PRIORY OF CANADA

The anniversary celebration in Toronto was attended by members of the Toronto Commandery and Knights of the Order of St. Lazarus and Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Order of St. John.

A church Service was held in Grace Church-on-the-Hill, Toronto conducted by Chaplain Chevalier The Very Reverend John Wright, KSJ and assisted by Canon Peter Walker and Chevalier Dr. Ian Nicol, KSJ.

Following the Service a dinner was held during which Rick Firth, Executive Director of Hospice Palliative Care Ontario gave an inspiring talk about his organization. He was presented with a cheque from the Commandery marking an emerging relationship between the two organizations.





COMMANDERY OF VANCOUVER, PRIORY OF CANADA

Some 175 members and guests celebrated the 900th anniversary of the official founding of the Order with a special Service in Christ Church Cathedral, led by Chevalier The Very Reverend Peter Elliott KJSJ, and Dean of the Cathedral, and Chevalier Carl Armerding, KGSJ and joined by the Cathedral choir.

HMEH Grand Master David Rolfe, GCSJ, CMSJ, MMSJ welcomed everyone to the Service. Mr. Harry Bloy, Member of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly read out a Proclamation from the Government of British Columbia recognizing February 15, 2013 as "Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller Day".



At the conclusion of the Service, the Pipes and Drums of the Regiment of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada joined the Cathedral organist, Rupert Lang, in playing the most stirring "Highland Cathedral," which "stirred the blood and resonated throughout the Cathedral."



Following the Service a reception was held in the Cathedral, during which the newly created YouTube Video on the history of the Order of St. John was shown. (This video is now available on the SOSJ International website at www.sosjinternational.org/history. It is well worth viewing.)





COMMANDERY OF VICTORIA, PRIORY OF CANADA

Almost 100 members and guests attended the Commandery's celebration of the anniversary in the dining room of the historic Union Club in Victoria, which was consecrated by the Commandery Chaplain Chevalier The Reverend Ian Powell, KSJ into a Chapel for the celebratory Service. The Service was supported by the glorious choir of Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria.



A reception was held following the Service. The successful event was attended by the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Murray Rankin MP and the local newspaper, the Times Colonist, which did an extensive report on the Commandery, the history of the Order, the celebration and accompanying photographs.



PRIORY OF THE WESTERN USA

Some 160 members and guests from the four Commanderies in the Priory of the Western USA celebrated the anniversary in Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph in San Jose.

The Service included many readings and remarks by Priory and Commandery leaders and focused on the history of the Order and the many philanthropic endeavours of each Commandery. Dame Jennifer Der Torossian-Studley, DSJ joined Tenor Delmar McComb in singing two beautifully inspiring arias.

Following the Benediction, attendees were piped out of the Cathedral to a reception and dinner at the Silicon Valley Capital Club. Many members contributed to a most successful celebration.



THANK YOU'S

We are very grateful to the many members who took and submitted the photographs we received. We regret not having space to reproduce more of them and name all the photographers. We also thank many other people who wrote extensive reports on their respective celebrations. Clearly all events were well planned and made for very successful commemorations.

We must also express our special thanks to Chevalier Buz Knott, KCJSJ, who chaired the Centennial Planning Committee, and to all others involved in the planning for the 900th anniversary celebrations and throughout the Order. As space is limited here we will give more detailed thanks in the next Newsletter

Chevalier David Petitpierre, KJSJ, Editor.
Dame Annie Li, DSJ, Layout and graphics

