



## New Year's Message From The Grand Master

**My dear Brothers and Sisters of the Order,**

Please accept my warmest good wishes for you and your family during this Holy Season and my prayer for a safe and healthy new year.

2009 was a busy and eventful year for our Order. For me the highlight will always be the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture held in Toronto on June 20th, 2009, which was the 254th anniversary of the founding of our Order. On that day, I had the supreme honour of being installed as Grand Master of our illustrious Order, along with members of Grand Chapter.

Our Grand Prior, H.E. The Chevalier The Most Reverend Douglas Titus Lewins GCJ, Archbishop of Great Britain of the Old Roman Catholic Church, presided over the Ceremony of Investiture held at the beautiful Gothic Chapel of Trinity College, Toronto. The chapel was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, who also designed both the great Gothic cathedral of Liverpool and the famous English red telephone booths. I found the ceremony itself to be most moving and the honour and duty it bestowed most humbling. The kind words that followed during the banquet, particularly those of our Grand Prior, were among the kindest and most heartfelt I have heard.



This was the first international meeting of members in several years. It was wonderful to see so many members come together in warmth and fellowship from so many countries. In addition to our Grand Prior, I was particularly pleased that we were joined by our Vice Grand Chancellor, H.E. The Chevalier Colin Lee GCJ, from England and our new Commander of Austria-Germany, H.E. The Chevalier Wolfgang Steinhardt GCJ.

My thanks as well to The Chevalier Robert Clark KCJ as Master of the Ceremony, and our many assisting Knights and Dames who ensured everything went very smoothly.



The entire international Grand Chapter attended and three of our four national commanders. In conjunction with the ceremony of installation, a meeting of Grand Chapter was held to conduct the important business of administering the Order.

Part of Grand Chapter’s deliberations included the review and approval of revisions to The Order’s constitution. Our constitution, which had not been updated in more than 15 years, has been revised to better reflect modern organizational and governance requirements and provide for the more efficient administration of a modern, international order. I truly appreciate the commitment to strong and prudent governance of our Order. A copy of the revised Constitution is available on our website.



Following on the June Installation and Investiture, our Commandery of Austria-Germany, “Leopold II”, was legally incorporated under the laws of Austria under its first commander, H.E. The Chevalier Wolfgang Steinhardt GCJ. We are all eagerly anticipating the Commandery’s first Ceremony of Investiture, currently scheduled for Vienna on May 29, 2010. It will be held at the magnificent Salvator Chapel, founded in 1301. It promises to be a splendid event, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

In November I was privileged to attend the inaugural Ceremony of Investiture for the Commandery of



the United Kingdom, “Saint Edward the Confessor”, under the dedicated leadership of H.E. The Chevalier Dr Commander Bryan R Olive GCJ.

The Investiture was held in Portsmouth on November 7th at the Garrison Church - The Domus Dei, God’s House - built in 1212 as a Hospice, to shelter and help pilgrims from overseas. It is oldest British Garrison Church in the world and has been called “The British Military Cathedral”. It was an honour and privilege to conduct our Order’s ancient ceremony of admission and elevation to knighthood in such an historic venue.

Among the other delightful and meaningful events organized by H.E. The Chevalier Cdr Olive GCJ and his “Witan” (his Commandery’s Executive Committee), was a luncheon and evening reception at the Royal Naval Club and Royal Albert Yacht Club





***In Nelson’s private quarters with his uniform on board the HMS Victory***

A Remembrance Day Mass was held on the Sunday in the Anglican Cathedral, where members of the Order of Saint Joachim in attendance were recognized by the Dean of Portsmouth. Mass was followed by a reception and luncheon at the magnificent Wardroom Mess of HMS Nelson - the premier Wardroom in the Royal Navy for pre-luncheon drinks.

The luncheon was followed by a visit to the Portsmouth Naval Base and a private tour of HMS Victory, organized by its Commanding Officer, Cdr. Douglas James “Oscar” Whild RN. Commander Whild had been admitted as a member of our Order the previous day, it being noted that he was the second Commanding Officer of the HMS Victory to grace our membership rolls – the other being Admiral Lord Nelson. HMS Victory remains a commissioned ship of the Royal Navy and the Flag Ship of the Second Sea Lord & Commander in Chief Naval

Home Command.

The tour of HMS Victory was for many a highlight of our visit, particularly the admission of our members to the private area of Admiral Lord Nelson’s cabin where a replica of the uniform he was wearing is displayed as worn on the 21 October 1805 when he was mortally wounded wearing the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Joachim.





In my native Canada, our Commander of Canada, H.E. The Chevalier Nugent Schneider GCJ, has sponsored and has been a most gracious host of several social events, including his reception held in conjunction with the June Installation and more recently a Christmas cocktail party for members held at the Toronto Club.

These are a few of the events I was able to attend this year with our members, or representing our Order. Wherever I go, people are curious about The Order of Saint Joachim, our history and ongoing mission. I remind you all of your obligation to wear your lapel insignia with pride on every appropriate occasion. You will find many people interested in our small and noble Order wherever you go.

With the many events and milestones of 2009, including the formal installation of a new Grand Master and Grand Chapter, I feel that the transition following the death of our late Grand Master is now



*Dining in the Ward Room of the HMS Nelson*

complete, even if our work is ongoing. The Grand Chancellery, administered by H.E. The Chevalier Prince William Baszyk GCJ, deals with the many enquiries and applications we receive, and I am grateful for his ongoing assistance. This year we were also fortunate to secure the services of Dame Anne Mitchell DJ as my assistant and secretary to Grand Chapter. This reorganization of our Order has taken up much of the activity and energies of the past few years, including maintaining contact with our members through new media such as our website, web forum and e-mail databases. Our Grand Registrar, Chevalier vander Sluis KJ, assisted by Chevaliers Schoenig KJ and Denbeigh KJ, continually update and improve our membership records.

We have improved our finances through the admission of new members and improved coordination of accounts internationally. Always mindful of our original charitable purpose, having now established a strong organizational footing for The Order, we are finally in a position to begin raising and targeting charitable donations both locally and internationally, with the capable assistance of our new Grand Almoner, H.E. Dame Dawn Schneider GCJ.

Our Order is blessed with generous, talented and dedicated individuals, and continues to grow – but we grow carefully. Our admission process is rig-



*The Grand Herald precedes the banner of the Order at the 2009 Investiture*



*Vice Grand Prior of The Order, H.E.  
The Chevalier The Right Reverend  
Howard Weston-Smart KCJ*

orous and selective, and we admit only those who meet our criteria of accomplishment, contribution and tangible demonstration of public and charitable service.

I would like to offer my welcome and congratulations to all our new Postulants, Dames and Knights admitted and raised in 2009. It has been my privilege to be able to personally admit and invest the majority of them into the fellowship of our Order at our ceremonies in Canada and the UK. Those I have not had the pleasure of meeting

In addition to our members of Grand Chapter and Commanders, I was pleased in November to consent to the appointment of a new Vice Grand Prior of The Order. H.E. The Chevalier The Right Reverend Howard Weston-Smart KCJ joins with our Grand

Prior in providing guidance for our members and caring for the spiritual needs of The Order. I thank him for agreeing to share the sometimes heavy burden carried by our Grand Prior, whose duties have extended far beyond the spiritual, and whose sage counsel I have relied on so much in the past.

I thank all our members for their work on behalf of the Order over the past year, and especially for your support and trust in having placed our historic Order in my care. It is a great honour to serve as your Grand Master.

Please accept my best wishes for a safe and healthy 2010, and for the hope and opportunities a new year has to offer. May the peace and love of the Supreme Being be with you, your family and friends, the community in which you live and the world in which we share.

**Junxit Amicus Amor**

H.E. The Chevalier Stephen Lautens GCJ  
Grand Master

December 29, 2009

In the 255th year of the founding of the Order

