



The Sword & Mantle



The Newsletter of the Canadian Sub-Commandery of Gore ~ Niagara of
the Equestrian, Secular & Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim

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In This Issue

Message from the Commander
Meditations on Knighthood
A New Look to the Order's Website
It's A Bust
Virtual Pub (K)night

Message from the Commander

Greetings,

It's been a challenging time for the Order at large, and certainly the current situation has put a damper on the Sub-Commandery's activities.



We're stuck at home and unfortunately the Canadian Commandery won't be holding an investiture until 2021 (although we have booked it). I know that many enjoy our Pub (K)nights, and we certainly would have already announced one for May of this year. There is some good news; even though social distancing keeps us physically apart, we can still meet online for a virtual version of our popular outing. Facebook's Messenger allows us to host a large-scale live video meeting; everyone interested can join us on May 21, 2020 at 6pm EDT with your choice of beverage for a virtual gathering. Note that I've added the time zone - we are certainly open to have members outside of the Sub-Commandery and Canada join-in! In addition a Facebook post has been made about this, so please look online for more information and respond if you wish to attend. I'll be certain to add you the guest list.

Currently our Annual Trafalgar Dinner is still a go! As usual, it'll be a night of great company, good

food, laughs, and some friendly Nelson trivia! Please mark October 16, 2020 in your calendars. An invite with payment and meal options will be forthcoming.

The Canadian Commandery Investiture will be hosted from June 18-19, 2021 in beautiful Hamilton, Ontario. Please do keep this date in your calendars as well! Information on all the exciting events, and various options will be sent out in the New Year. It'll be nice to finally catch-up again with our fellow Knights, Dames, and Friends to the Order.

Lastly, this will be my final message as Commander of the Sub-Commandery of Gore Niagara. It has been both a pleasure and honour to serve in this position over the past three years and I'm quite happy to welcome The Chevalier Captain Jason Burgoin CD, KJ, to the post. I know that the Sub-Commandery will be in good hands. Take care, look after one another, and keep being examples to others in your respective communities, especially in these difficult times. Remember always your oaths and know that I'm proud to call you all my brothers and sisters.

Junxit Amicus Amor!

The Chevalier Lieutenant(N) Sean E. Livingston
MStJ, CD, KCJ

Commander

Canadian Sub-Commandery of Gore-Niagara

The Order of St. Joachim

livingston@stjoachimorder.org

The Order's Website

Have you had an opportunity to take a look at our illustrious Order's website recently?

Our Grand Master has been hard at work over the past few months redesigning and updating the content and information.

Take an opportunity over the next few days to check it out.

<https://www.stjoachimorder.org/>



It's A Bust

You may have seen this on the Order's Facebook page. You too can own a wonderfully detailed bust of Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson for display on your mantle.

dfgrievemodels.co.uk/

Meditations on Knighthood

Chevalier Sean E. Livingston MSJ, CD, KCJ

In this Issue we will focus on the knightly virtue of Justice (Temperance). I found this quality rather in-depth and multifaceted. I'm not even certain I'm qualified to write about it, but took a stab at it all the same.

For the medieval knight, this virtue had a very practical application which, to some degree, still holds true for a modern knight/dame: they were to be an instrument of justice against evil, righting wrongs and defending the innocent. However, there was also a very self-reflective aspect to this virtue.



Part of a knight/dame's journey was, and still is, to constantly strive to walk the path of justice. In their daily lives, they sought to stay true to their principles and not be swayed by biases or temptation. Consider the words spoken during the blessing of the sword at our investitures:

“Lord our God, powerful, just and merciful, accept our humble prayer. Send your heavenly blessing over this Sword of The Order of Saint Joachim. This Sword represents a Knight/Dame's right to dispense Your Justice. For chivalry is to maintain justice, and the double edge of the blade ever reminds us to temper justice with mercy. Let it ever be used to protect the innocent and help the helpless.”

In making our day-to-day decisions, we strive constantly to walk the just path - to both seek and be champions of truth. To consider, quite rightly, the moral and ethical aspects of our choices. And when dealing with others, we must “temper justice with mercy”. We must not allow ourselves to become victims of our own passions; to be in control of ourselves and not let anger, jealousy, resentment, and other negative emotions sway our judgement. A knight/

dame takes accountability, does not shy from admitting faults, and is always truthful to his bothers/sisters.

“So clean and white as they are shall be the conscience of a Knight/Dame, and each of his/her Actions.”

Recall holding the white gloves?

This is a hard virtue to obtain... one wonders if we ever really do? We are never quite able to grasp it, flawed as we are, and if we do, we stand at risk of losing it in an instant. We make mistakes, we falter, and we sin. But a knight/dame is contrite, penitent, and we ask and give forgiveness. When we misstep, and we all do at times, we resume the path with greater determination to be the best knight/dame that we can be.



Being knighted is quite an honour that is bestowed upon a privileged few... but it carries with it a heavy responsibility. But, as knights and dames, we don't shy away from this. Rather, we embrace it, just as we embrace the trial that is to walk the path of justice.

Nobili Cordi!

**Have you heard the tale of
the knight who lost every
single jousting match?**

~His name was Sir Render~

Please join us for a Virtual Pub (K)night
on
Thursday May 21st at 6:00pm (1800) EDT.



The Pub (K)night will be running via Facebook's Messenger Video Chat (it's a lot like zoom, except all you need is to be on Facebook).

If interested, please RSVP to our commander at
livingston@stjoachimorder.org

He will ensure you are added to the group. You will need to accept the invitation to the Messenger group. On Thursday night, ensure your Facebook is open and ready to go with your favorite beverage. When you receive the call ... simply answer and you're in!

Huzzah!

