



# NEW SOUTH WALES HOSPITALLER

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A Newsletter of the Priory of New South Wales  
GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRALASIA

1 December 2011

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AUSTRALIA

Order of Saint John of Jerusalem—Knights Hospitaller  
King Peter II Constitution—Grand Master HRH Karl Vladimír Karadjordjević of Yugoslavia

## Let Every Day Be Christmas



I sometimes think we expect too much of Christmas Day. We try to crowd into it the long arrears of kindness and humanity of the whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year. And thus I drift along into the holidays - let them overtake me unexpectedly - waking up some fine morning and suddenly saying to myself: "Why, this is Christmas Day!"

~David Grayson

[I]t is the one season of the year when we can lay aside all gnawing worry, indulge in sentiment without censure, assume the carefree faith of childhood, and just plain "have fun." Whether they call it Yuletide, Noel, Weinachten, or Christmas, people around the earth thirst for its refreshment as the desert traveller for the oasis. ~D.D. Monroe



I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



At Christmas-tide the open hand  
Scatters its bounty o'er sea and land,  
And none are left to grieve alone,  
For Love is heaven and claims its own.

~Margaret Elizabeth Sangster



Whatever else be lost among the years,  
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing;  
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,  
Let us hold close one day, remembering  
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.  
Let us get back our childlike faith again.

~Grace Noll Crowell

**OH, GOD... HELP US RIGHTLY  
TO REMEMBER THE BIRTH OF  
JESUS, THAT WE MAY SHARE  
IN THE SONGS OF THE AN-  
GELS, THE GLADNESS OF  
THE SHEPHERDS, AND THE  
WORSHIP OF THE WISE MEN.  
MAY THE CHRISTMAS MORN-  
ING MAKE US HAPPY TO BE  
YOUR CHILDREN. -ROBERT  
LOUIS STEVENSON...**

**THE PRIOR WISHES MEMBERS, SUPPORT-  
ERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A HOLY AND  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND  
PROSPEROUS YEAR IN 2012**

### NATIVITY ICONS



# NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE CHARITY LUNCH

## 7 October 2011

Seventy two members and guests gathered at the Strangers Dining Room, NSW Parliament House, for our second fundraising Lunch to benefit the Diabetes Centre at St Vincent's Hospital. Mr Tony Bilson a well known restaurateur spoke of the development of Australian Cuisine. Following the usual appetizing meal and excellent wines, Chevalier Gary Rossetto conducted the auction. Bidding began on a conservative note but livened up considerably once Garry threatened to give us a rendition of some Elvis tunes. The star items in the auction were two quilts made and donated by Coralie McKinnon, which were truly works of

art.

Chevalier Peter Shilton, the MC for the lunch kept things running to schedule. Our appreciation to Julia Bonora, Gina Pisani, Hayley Condon and Maurice McKinnon who ensured that the activities at the lunch ran smoothly and with a good dose of hilarity and humour. Our gratitude to Sheryl Way, Gaye Fisher, Gina Pisani and all those who made cash donations and gave items for both the auction and raffle as well as the enthusiastic bidders. We were able to raise \$8,000 which we donated to the Diabetes Centre at Saint Vincent's Hospital. Our total contribution to the Centre now stands at \$63,500.00.



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**Toast to the Order**  
**NSW Parliament House**  
**Charity Lunch 7 October 2011**

**(Chevalier Fred Maestrelli GCSJ)**

Knights Dames Serving Brothers Serving Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome and especially to our guests to this our second function of the year to raise funds for the Diabetes Centre at St Vincent's Hospital.

Because I am the Prior, Peter our Hospitaller gives me all the good jobs. I am particularly proud to be giving the toast to our Order, to such a distinguished gathering.

When Knights are mentioned a popular vision emerges of charging horses, clashes of swords noise and confusion, and of course damsels in distress. Not today, because I want to focus on the HOSPITALLER aspects of our Order.

From its beginning in around 1023 under Blessed Gerard, the Brothers were always concerned with assisting the sick and poor. Although the Knights militarised in the late 12th century the needs of the Hospice in Jerusalem remained a priority of the Order's administrative rule and economic administration. As a matter of fact the person chosen to lead the Knights was called "Master of the Hospital and Custodian of the poor of Christ." It was not until 1267 that the title was shortened to Grand Master.

The earliest rule of Raymond du Puy called the recipients of Hospitaller charity "our Lords the sick" and directed that the sick poor should be treated "as Lords", and had set aside the revenues of two estates to provide white bread to the sick, which at the time was a luxury item of the rich.

The Hospice was a considerable undertaking providing beds, linen, food and medicines for the sick and employing physicians and attendants. The Brothers and Knights themselves taking up regular duties in the Hospice. The Jerusalem Hospice was considered inseparable from the convent; the Order throughout its early history also encouraged the establishment of Hospices in its European Pories

After the capture of Jerusalem in 1187 by Saladin a small hospital was established in Acre the new stronghold of the Knights. When Acre fell in 1291 the Knights moved to Cyprus for a short period following which they were able to capture Rhodes in 1309, and then ruled that island for some 200 years.

Initially a small hospital was built in Rhodes then enlarged to a two storey buildings within the walled compound of the Knights. The Hospital housing wards for sick Pilgrims, Knights and Rhodians. Re-

ords for both the hospital in Jerusalem and Rhodes have unfortunately been lost.

After the surrender of Rhodes to Suleiman in 1522, the Knights finally moved to Malta in 1530 and built a small Hospital in Birgu. Following the building of the new city of Valletta the Knights erected a new hospital in 1774, the famed Sacra Infermeria (Sacred Infirmary). For its time a marvel of medical practice. Its administration was the responsibility of the French Languue.

This massive two level structure, the main hall 155 metres long and 10 metres wide and 11 metres high combined many of the Order's charitable functions. It contained a military hospital, a foundling's ward, a female ward and a ward for communicable diseases as well as one for the insane. It catered for some 900 patients. It separated medical from surgical cases and had its own pharmacy.

Grand Master Nicholas Cottoner from the Languue of Aragon, (better known as the Grand Master who fortified the Grand Harbour) having succeeded his brother as Grand Master, established a formal school of anatomy and surgery at the Sacra Infermeria in 1675, under Fra Giuseppe Zammit. The Knights also established a medical faculty at the University of Malta in 1771, which attracted students from many European countries.

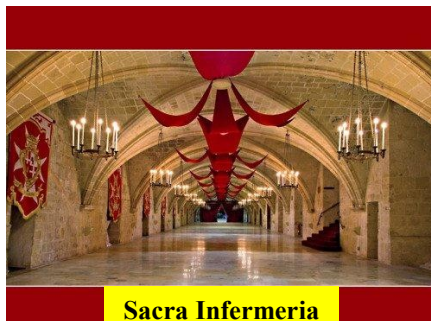
It is said that the reasons for the success of the Hospital was the attention paid to hygiene and the prescribed rules for its operation. Today the refurbished Hospital structure operates as the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

The Hospitaller tradition of our Order was rekindled in 1963 when King Peter II of Yugoslavia issued his Royal Charter. The Order has grown worldwide since then adhering to the Constitution he issued in 1964. Today there are in excess of 300 members of the Order in Australia who are not operative Hospitallers but who continue the embodied traditions dating back to our patron St John the Evangelist. Our duty is for the faith and for the service of mankind.

At this function today we are continuing that tradition by raising funds in aid of the Diabetes Centre who have the primary care of the needy and sick in our community.

Your participation and generosity in today's activities will help make this charity luncheon a successful and rewarding event.

Please join me in a toast to the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller and our Grand Master HRH Prince Karl Vladimir Karadjordjevic of Yugoslavia.



**Sacra Infermeria**

# INVESTITURE

The second Investiture for 2011 was held on Friday 18 November 2011, at the John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Gordon. The Rector Fr. Keith Dalby kindly allowed the Order the use of this beautiful Church and its facilities.

The Priory was fortunate in being able to invest three new Knights of Honour and also to admit a Serving Sister.

The Chaplain Officiant, Chevalier the Reverend Dr David Duchesne GCHSJ, was assisted by Chevalier the Right Reverend Professor Thomas Frame GCHSJ, Chevalier Chaplain (Air Commodore) the Venerable Dr Royce Thompson KSJ. Both had travelled from Canberra to assist with the Investiture ceremony. Also invited as a guest of the Priory was Army Chaplain (Major) Rob Sutherland. The Priory is fortunate to have such an abundance of Clergy to draw upon for occasions such as this but also for the spiritual guidance of Priory members.

Chevalier Barry Walmsley KSJ, as usual did an excellent job in playing the organ and Lt Col the Chevalier Schon Condon KCSJ, RFD (Marshal) and Chevalier John Posener KCSJ, JP (Deputy Marshal) ensured that the ceremony was conducted with as few errors as is humanly possible. The Occasional Address was delivered by Chevalier Tom Frame who gave us an insight on the life and teachings of Saint John the Evangelist and what they should mean for today's Christians and especially members of the Order. His address was received with enthusiastic acclaim. Afterwards Maj Jason Tien-Kin Li, Philip Brian McKenzie and Bernard Rankin McKinnon were invested as Knights of

Honour by the Grand Prior of Australasia HE Bailiff Adjunct Professor Victor Feros GCSJ, CMSJ. The Prior of New South Wales Chevalier Fred Maestrelli GCSJ, then admitted Hayley Alexis Condon as a Serving Sister.

Following the Investiture some sixty members and guests attended the celebratory dinner at the Greengate Function Rooms Killara.

An excellent three course meal with Chateau Tunanda wines and "open" bar, kept everyone in good spirits. Chevalier Peter Shilton KCSJ the MC for the evening kept formal proceedings to an absolute minimum, to enable members and guests to mingle and get to know each other.

The Grand Prior HE Bailiff Adjunct Professor Victor Feros GCSJ, CMSJ, gave the toast to the Order, which certainly was uplifting for the members and especially for those who a short time earlier had been invested into the Order. The Prior advised members that as a result of the Grand Master's Decree that funds from Oblations and Passage fees due to Grand Magisterium, be donated to the Queensland Floods Appeal. To date a total of \$18,434.76 has been donated

As is customary the new members were issued with their diplomas following a brief resume of their achievements. It was quite apparent that all would be an asset to the Priory.

The evening was made even more enjoyable when the Grand Prior issued diplomas to elevate Chevaliers Peter Shilton and Schon Condon to the rank of Knight of Justice. A promotion well deserved by

*(Continued on page 5)*

both for their enthusiastic commitment to the Order and charitable efforts in their community.

The evening concluded at about 11:30 pm with a blessing by Chaplain Chevalier Royce Thompson.

## MEETING WITH GRAND PRIOR

The morning following the Investiture those who did not have work commitments or unavoidable engagements, gathered at the NSW Masonic Club to meet with the newly appointed Grand Prior of Australasia.

HE Bailiff Victor Feros was able to provide members with his vision for the future of the Grand Priory of Australasia. Members were able to ask questions about their concerns particularly in relation to the Priory's loss of independence and the role that the NSW Priory would have under the umbrella of the Grand Priory. Although not all issues of concern were able to be resolved at the meeting, the frank exchange of views was most helpful and encouraging to members.

Our appreciation to the Grand Prior for taking the time to listen.



Investees



St John the Evangelist Church Gordon Investiture



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Blessed Gerard



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