



The Byzantium



United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine

Volume XVII

FEBRUARY 2011

Number 2

THE GRAND SOVEREIGN



SPRING MESSAGE

KNIGHTS COMPANIONS AND LADIES

The Conclaves of Idaho and the City of Boise are preparing an interesting and outstanding program for the 139th Annual Assembly of our United Grand Imperial Council.

Our Intendant General Jock Slavin and I invite you to attend the event June 9-11, 2011, in Boise, Idaho, nestled along the Boise River where the high desert meets the Rocky Mountains. The area is well known for fresh air activities, comfortable, diverse accommodations and unique attractions.

The Grove Hotel uniquely located in the center of the city has direct access to historic 8th Street and its shops and also provides free transportation for the Boise Airport. (continued next page)

The Agenda includes a trip to the World Center for Birds of Prey and a presentation about these predators, and a visit to the World War II and other vintage airplanes at the Warhawk Museum.

We will be served a Basque dinner and watch Basque dancers. A well-known western singer and comedian will entertain at the banquet.

Plenty of free time is interspersed with our business, dinners and planned entertainment.

Preparations are underway in anticipation that you will join us in June at Boise.

Meanwhile, I have continued my visitations. Although I had to cancel my agenda and travel plans for most of June, again in December and January (a knee replacement this time), I was able to participate in most of the Regional Assemblies. I attended the Southwest Regional Assembly in Albuquerque, the Oklahoma Triad in Oklahoma City, the All Ohio Assembly in Springfield, the Eastern Regional Assembly in Grantsville, and I am looking forward to the Northwest Regional Assembly in Richland. I also plan to attend the RCC Conclave in Mexico at Guadalajara, Mexico in March. As time allowed, I also attended divisional and joint Conclaves in North Carolina, Montana, and Idaho.

I again thank the Knights Companions and Ladies for the wonderful reception I received and the generous and warm hospitality that everyone gave me. I have enjoyed the Knights Companions wherever I have gone. I have received numerous invitations to attend functions and individual Conclaves. I regret my schedule would not permit me to accept them all.

I also had the privilege of representing the Red Cross of Constantine at the Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine of Canada in Toronto; the York Rite Sovereign College of North America in Pittsburg; the Covenant General, Knights York Cross of Honor in Wichita, the Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in Philadelphia, AMD Week (Masonic week) in Alexandria, Virginia, and Conference of Grand Master of North America in Denver. I was acknowledged as the representative of our United Grand Imperial Council, and in several instances able to address the Assembly.

Constantinian Masonry is alive and well. Serving our Order as your Grand Sovereign this year has been a most gratifying experience. I thank each of you, Knights-Companions, for the honor and the opportunity.

Editor's Note

The purpose of *The Byzantium* is to inform the members of the Order on the activities of the UGIC, the several regions, divisions and Conclaves. Contributions of material, including text and photographs, is requested from all corners of the Order! Proposed material should be forwarded to the Editor, Dennis S. Strole, by e-mail: dstrole@gmail.com. Articles on any unusual activities of a Conclave, and on divisional and regional assemblies, are most welcome, including photographs. Ideally, photos should contain no more than 5 or 6 people, and captions should include names of individuals, date of the photo, location, and the activity. All submissions should be delivered to the Editor no later than the end of January for the Spring issue, and no later than the end of September for the Fall issue.

ALL OHIO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

October 2, 2010

The Ohio Regional Assembly was held on October 2, 2010 at the Ohio Masonic Home. The Assembly was attended by 119 Knights Companions, including eight from Kentucky. The Intendant General Division of Kentucky KC John Moyer, and Past Intendant General of Kentucky KC Leslie Black also attended. All eight Ohio Conclaves were represented, and all degrees were accomplished at the Assembly. See photo below:



Left to Right: KC Richard Weaver, IG Ohio Eastern; Grand Sovereign James Herndon; KC Harvey Lowry, IG Ohio Western; Grand Sentinel David Grindle; Grand Junior General Burch Zehner. Also attending, but not in photo, was Grand Senior General Ronald Wood.

CONSTANTINE AND BYZANIUM

Caius Flavius Valerius Aurelius Claudius Constantinus (c288-337 A.D.) was the first Christian Roman Emperor. In 324, he defeated Licinius near Byzantium and brought under his control the Empire of the East, thus becoming the Emperor of the East and West. He transferred the Capitol from Rome to Byzantium, dedicating it in 330 and renaming the city Constantinople.

LAFAYETTE CONCLAVE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

November 11, 2010



Left to Right: KC Harvey C. Lowry, IG Ohio Western; KC Donald B. Gardner, Sovereign Lafayette Conclave; Grand Junior General KC Burch E. Zehner; KC Richard L. Weaver, IG Ohio Eastern

***Remember the UGIC 139th Annual Assembly in
Boise, Idaho***

***Mark your calendars and make your
reservations now!***

***All the necessary information is included
herein!***

CONSTANTINE'S CITY⁽⁷⁾

by Knight Companion Vincenzo Pulvirenti

Sovereign of Eboracum Conclave of Catania

The figure and the work of the Emperor Constantine is been judged in different ways. The transformations implemented to him were of great importance. Its regime took all forms of a monarchy by divine right, under which all is leveled. Everything up to emperor person, The supreme judge and legislator. A new coin is issued, emphasized the luxury trades, the cadastral system is innovated, and building activity known throughout the empire a great development. His fame, however, is bound up with his position toward the Christianity, rather than his military and political successes and administrative reforms. Thanks to him the Christianity, from catacombs religion, takes start up to become one of the greatest religions of history.



Statue of the Emperor Constantine, erected in 1998 at York Minster (Eboracum)

The figure and the work of Constantine have been marked from reasons of religious character (*instinctu divinitatis* is the reference to the divine intervention carved on the Triumphal Arc of Rome):

-312 AD: the battle of Milvian Bridge, when inspired by the cross of light with the writing "*in hoc signo vinces*" appeared to him in dream, has commanded the reproduction of the monogram of Christ on the shields of the soldiers;

-313 AD: Edict of Milan, that granted freedom of worship to Christians throughout the empire, this way

changing the juridical position of the Christianity, from sect persecuted to prominent religion of the empire.

-325 AD: first Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, called and supervised by him for resolving important doctrinal matters within Christianity, such as Aryan heresy, and that consolidated the concessions acquired by Christians with the Edict of Milan;

-326 AD: prophetic dream in which was recommended to establish in Byzantium another capital of the Roman empire;

-May 11th 330 AD: official ceremony of foundation of the new capital. The event he developed according to a complex ritual of Latin and pagan origins to recall the birth of Rome and to assure the prosperity to the new city that he called just *Nova Roma*.

Constantine's visions were compatible with the spirit of the time, that asked a emperor protected and inspired by God. As San Paul, shocked by God on the road to Damascus, has been transformed Christianity from Jewish sect into a universal religion, as Constantine, with the Edict of Milan before, and with the Council of Nicaea then, has promoted a system, that, through the connivance with the political power, transformed the Christian religion from phenomenon exclusively spiritual in institutional factor, that quickly integrated in the social fabric of the Roman people.

In the year 324 AD Constantine had fought in Asia Minor against Valerius Licinius, governor of Orient, and had defeated in two battles, at Adrianople (the actual Turkish city of Edirne) and Chrysopolis. In those occasions he had the opportunity of knowing the city of Byzantium and to appreciate its strategic position between two continents Europe and Asia. Situated to the center of excellent lines of communication both terrestrial and marine toward the principals centers of the Empire, dominated the strategic straits of Bosphorus and of Dardanelles and controlled the route between Asia and Europe, as well as the passage from Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea, and met all conditions for favorable economic development. Also resulted besides defensible, for his dislocation to the height of a peninsula. Founded by colonists of Megara in the 667 BCE was named this way in honor of their king Byzas. According to legend the site was chosen consulting the oracle at Delphi, that advised to create the new city doing "*opposite the blind*": the meaning was found laying the foundation on the opposite shore of Chalcedon, Greek city on the Bosphorus, that "*blindly*" had not taken the opportunity to be built on the high spur on which Byzas founded his own colony. Benefited from its strategic position, since the ancient times increased its prosperity and its power assumed an important commercial role.

If it is true that the new Capital responded to the intention of an approach to the most critical frontiers of the Empire, those of the Danube threatened by the Goths and those of the Euphrates threatened by the Persians, it is also true that at its creation there were not extraneous other considerations finalized to transform she into a lighthouse that would radiate a new light of Truth. A Christian Rome in Byzantium opposing the Rome of a rooted pagan tradition was another opening of the Roman Empire to Christianization taking place in the oriental world.

The legend has it that was the same Constantine, *Pontifex Maximus*, to trace with his lance the sacred perimeter of outer walls of the city, assigning to it the same secret name of Rome, probably Flora, and officially renamed it *Nova Roma* (after the city was called *Constantinople* - Constantine's city).

The colossal work of reconstruction extended the urban area from 200 to 700 hectares, were built new walls, a new port in the Gold Horn, a new urban plan, new buildings, temples, public structures so that the

city became indeed the new Rome. In the new Capital particular attention was also paid to the symbolic systems of the previous cultures in which was discerned the hidden wealth of lost wisdom.

For example there was even carried the Palladium, the statue patron of Troy and then of Rome (where it was carried by Aeneas), which was buried in the centre of the Forum above the column built of porphyry and 25 m. high.



Constantine's column, situated in the Forum



Fragment of the Milion, milestone of the Empire

Seven hills were individualized, how much it counted Rome, and as in it, as sign of the center of the Empire, was placed a stone, the Milion, milestone from which to measure all the distances.

The magnificent complex of the Imperial Palaces was erected to the extremity of the peninsula, near the great circus and to the Augustan forum, in imitation of the Roman model: Forum – Palatine - Circus Maximus. In the Forum was built the senatorial hall. A new element was introduced by the presence of a church, the Basilica of St. Sofia.

In respect for the traditional legend regarding the foundation of old Byzantium, were transferred from the sanctuary of Delphi, the maximum center Greek religious, the serpent column, dedicated to Apollo and Python, that was placed in the partition wall of the great hippodrome, together with the commemorative tripod of the Greek victory in the battle of Plataea, and with Hercules statue of Lisippo, strength's symbol.

The city, become one of the capitals of the Empire Romano and later capital of the Easter Roman Empire, lost definitely the denomination "Byzantium" that it survived only through the Byzantine adjective that was given to art, to history and to culture.



Special coin struck by Constantine commemorative of the founding Constantinople

Although the Emperor continued to reside in the near Nicomedia, Constantinople, where the work proceeded feverishly, became therefore the new capital of the Roman Empire, with the old Rome. And special commemorative coins were issued for celebrating the event.

To encourage the urban population growth, May 18th 332 AD he announced the beginning of public distributions of grain to the citizens, the same, for ages, as what happened in Rome with the plebs. It seems that at the time arrive at donation of 80,000 daily rations through a distribution system of 117 points.

On the death of Constantine, in 337 AD, much was still under construction, although three years ago the principal structures were in operation and the inhabitants were ninety thousand.

On May 29, 1453, the city fell to the Ottoman Turks, and again became the capital of a powerful state, the Ottoman Empire.

Her name was changed to Istanbul in 1930, following the establishment of modern Turkey, and although it has remained Turkey's largest and most populous city, Ankara is now the capital.

(*) English version of the subject treated by the K. C. Vincenzo Pulvirenti in October, 28, during the Ceremony of installation.

United Grand Imperial Council

DIVISION of PUERTO RICO

(editor's note: in the next several issues of The Byzantium, an overseas Division of the UGIC will be featured)



On 22 May 1974, a request for dispensation to form a Conclave was submitted to the UGIC and on 26 March 1977, the San Juan Conclave was chartered by the UGIC. The first Puissant Sovereign was KC Joseph L. Martinez, and the first Eminent Vicroy was KC Alexander A. Corney, Jr.

The current Intendant General of the Division of Puerto Rico is KC Ramón Montañez Cortez, photo at left. He was appointed Intendant General on 2 June 2001, following the passing of KC Joseph L. Martinez, the incumbent Intendant General at the time.

Puerto Rico is a small island, and there are only 80 York Rite Masons. Accordingly, the Conclave is relatively small with 25 Knights Companions. Within the Conclave membership there are two Past Grand Masters, the current Grand Master, and three

Grand Lodge officers. Also, included in the Conclave is the Illustrious Deputy of the Scottish Rite Supreme Council of the 33^o, and the Secretary of the Scottish Rite bodies.

The Conclave is very proud of the fact that in 34 years the Conclave has never had to suspend an assembly because of a lack of a quorum!

The San Juan Conclave meets four times a year in the months of March, June, September, and the annual Conclave assembly in December. Meetings are held on a Saturday evening, and after the Conclave there is a fraternal banquet with ladies and family at a local restaurant.

The Puissant Sovereign of the San Juan Conclave is KC Isidoro Cerpa.

If you are planning to visit San Juan and would like more information about upcoming meetings, contact the Intendant General KC Ramon Montañez at

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL, RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

139TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

June 9-11, 2011

The Grove Hotel

245 S Capitol Blvd, Boise ID 83702

\$106 single or double, triple, & quad occupancy

Make room reservations with the hotel before May 9, 2011 and mention Code "73376"

"United Grand Imperial Council"

(208) 333-8000—Toll Free (888) 961-5000

Registration fee \$160 per person

Name _____ Lady's Name (if attending) _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name & Location of Conclave _____

Office _____ National Office _____

National Office in Other Organization _____

I (We) will arrive on _____ I (We) will depart _____
(Date) (Date)

Knight

Companion

Lady

Will attend the Thursday Evening Reception, June 9th

Will attend the Friday Men's and Ladies' Lunch, June 10th

Will attend the Friday Dinner & Entertainment, June 10th

Will attend the Saturday Men's and Ladies' Lunch, June 11th

Will attend the Saturday Grand Banquet, June 11th

Will attend the Friday afternoon Warhawk Museum & Birds of Prey
Tour, June 10th

If you have any special dietary requirements, please note them on the line below:

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE"

And mail to:

St Michael Conclave

C/O KC G. Arthur Shoemaker

5724 E Oak St

Nampa ID 83687-8572

ANY QUESTIONS, E-MAIL: stmichaelrcc@gmail.com

139th ANNUAL GRAND ASSEMBLY — BOISE, IDAHO 2010
VENUE INFORMATION

THE GROVE HOTEL BOISE — Our full service-hotel is nestled in the heart of downtown Boise, and sits amid the city's finest dining, shopping, museums, the state capitol building and the Basque Block. Attached to the 5,000-seat multi-purpose Qwest Arena and adjacent to the Boise Convention Center, the Grove Hotel is just 4 miles from the Boise airport, and offers a 24-hour, complimentary shuttle service to and from the Boise Airport. The hotel boasts 250 elegantly appointed guestrooms — that have spectacular views of either the city or the valley. Guestrooms are decorated in soft contemporary colors with granite accents. There is also a complimentary full-service business center, complimentary high-speed wireless internet and a state-of-the-art Business Center. Visit them at www.grovehotelboise.com.

GRAND ASSEMBLY ATTRACTIONS — Welcome to the City of Trees. Boise is the 208,000-person capital of Idaho, the Gem State, and the Pacific Northwest's third-largest city, and now trails only Seattle and Portland, Oregon. The city's well-loved Greenbelt path runs 25 miles along the shores of the Boise River. There are many things to see and do while in Boise, including the **Saturday Capital City Public Market on 8th Street**, is just steps outside the Grove Hotel. This vibrant market includes more than wonderful fresh grown produce. It's a shopper's delight for local artwork, jewelry, candles, pottery, paintings, wine, gifts, a variety of fresh prepared tasty treats, and much, much, more! As part of your registration package we will provide you with a ticket and transportation to the **World Center for Birds of Prey** (www.peregrinefund.org/visitors) where you will enjoy live bird presentations, multi-media shows and learn about the ancient art of falconry; and the **Warhawk Air Museum** (www.warhawkairmuseum.org). Visitors come from around the world to see this rare collection of World War II memorabilia and aircraft that are on display. The mission of the museum is to teach and preserve America's history during times of war from the home front to the war front and aviation history from the advent of flight through the space age. Also, along with enjoying downtown Boise, for your "free time" the **Basque Museum and Cultural Center** is only one block from the Grove Hotel. Boise is home to one of the largest communities of Basque people outside of the Basque Country of Spain and France. This unique attraction provides a look into the heritage of the Basque communities of Idaho and the USA. (www.basquemuseum.com).

BOISE AIRPORT — The Grove Hotel is 4 miles north of the Boise Airport, and provides a shuttle service. For your convenience, on the wall to the right of the baggage claim the GROVE HOTEL provides pre-dialed hotel telephone. Should you plan to rent a vehicle: 1) start out going NORTHEAST ON W AIRPORT WAY toward S VISTA AVE. - go 0.3 mi. 2) Stay STRAIGHT to go onto S VISTA AVE. - go 2.3 mi; 3) Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto S CAPITOL BLVD. Go 1.0 mi; GROVE HOTEL is on the LEFT.

IF YOU ARE DRIVING — From the East on Interstate 84: 1) take the US-20/US-26/BROADWAY AVE. exit, EXIT 54, toward CITY CENTER - go 0.2 mi. 2) Turn RIGHT onto S BROADWAY AVE/US-20/US-26 - go 2.8 mi; 3) Turn LEFT on E FRONT ST/US-20/US-26W. - go 0.6 mile. Turn RIGHT onto S CAPITOL BLVD. Go 0.0 miles; GROVE HOTEL is on the LEFT. Note of interest: located on Broadway Avenue is the home of Boise State University and Bronco Stadium "The Blue" famous for their blue turf. From the West on Interstate 84: 1) keep LEFT to take I-184 E toward I-184/CITY CENTER - go 4.7 mi; 2) I-184 E becomes W MYRTLE ST - go .04 mi; 3) Turn LEFT onto S CAPITOL BLVD. 0.2 mi, GROVE HOTEL is on the LEFT.

DRESS FOR MEN & WOMEN — The Thursday night reception will be business casual for men and ladies. (**No jewel, no jeans**). The Friday night dinner will be business casual. The Saturday night banquet is formal with black Tuxedo or white dinner jacket (**with jewel and sash**) for the men and long or cocktail dresses for the ladies.

REGISTRATION — Will begin Thursday, at 1:00 p.m., second floor, on "The Landing."

Please visit the Red Cross of Constantine web site at: www.redcrossconstantine.org for a computer friendly copy of the information with links to the locations, activities and services mentioned above.



**RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE
PO BOX 1606
EI CAJON CA 92022-1606**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIELD IN
PERMIT NO. 41**

The Byzantium is published twice yearly by the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine. Address: 312 Highland Ave, Ste 202, El Cajon, CA 92020-5218.

Postmaster: send address changes to PO Box 1686, El Cajon, CA 92020-1606.

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