



The Byzantium



United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine

Volume XXII

February 2015

Issue 2

THE GRAND SOVEREIGN



William R. Miller

GRAND SOVEREIGN'S MESSAGE

I have a good friend who is a very positive guy. He runs a large national organization, so he gets lots of reports from the field. Usually they deal with negative things. I guess everybody figures the good stuff will take care of itself. It is the bad stuff they need his help with.

After a while, all that negative input takes its toll. Even with a very positive guy. So, I send him some positive emails from time to time just to let him know the positive far outweighs the negative. Some of it is a bit trite I suppose, but it seems to me there is some wisdom in all of it.

Here is one I especially liked:

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, half empty or half full?

She fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced.

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up tomorrow.

- 1 * Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
- 2 * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- 3 * Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- 4 * Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- 5 * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- 6 * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- 7 * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- 8 * Never buy a car you can't push.
- 9 * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

- 10 * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- 11 * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- 12 * The second mouse gets the cheese.
- 13 * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 14 * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- 15 * Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
- 16 * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
- 17 * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- 18 * Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY

- 19 * Save the earth..... It's the only planet with chocolate!

FROM THE CONSTITUTION (pg 18)

§ 404.210. GRAND SOVEREIGN.

The Grand Sovereign shall be the chief executive officer of the Grand Imperial Council. The Grand Sovereign shall have power and authority to do and perform all acts as he may deem best for the interests of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appenant Orders and which are not contrary to the Constitution of the Grand Imperial Council and these General Statutes and Regulations. Among his powers and duties are the following:

(for list of the Grand Sovereign's powers and duties, see the Constitution page 18 – 19)

JOINT ASSEMBLY COEUR DE LION & SHILOH CONCLAVES

The 26th Annual Joint Assembly of the Division of Nebraska was held 22-24 August 2014, in Kearney, NE. Puissant Sovereigns, KC Hugh B. Nehls from Shiloh and KC Ivan A. Virtiska from Coeur de Lion, conducted a memorable event. Attending were KC Burch E. Zehner, Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign, and Lady Lynn, as well as KC Frederick G. Kleyn, III, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder and Past Grand Sovereign. It was an honor to have them share the special event with them!

The event began on Friday evening with a Membership Dinner hosted by KC Donald Swanson, Past IG of Nebraska. On Saturday morning the degrees of Consecration of Viceroys and Enthronement of Sovereigns were conferred by KC Keith Herbster, Past Intendant General, and KC James Brown, Jr., Intendant General. Viceroy degrees were conferred on KC James A. Clark and KC Steven C. Smith. Sovereign degrees were conferred on KC Donald E. Rife and KC Kenneth D. Beebe. In the afternoon, The Order of Red Cross of Constantine (Shiloh Conclave), Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre (Coeur de Lion Conclave), and Order of Novice and Knight of St. John the Evangelist (Shiloh Conclave) were conferred on two candidates: Joseph H. Belden and Larry Zwart. All were greatly impressed by the degrees, conferred in authentic costumes. The evening concluded with a formal banquet with speakers and musical program. Sunday morning a Devotional Service was conducted.

Should you be in Nebraska the fourth Saturday in August, stop by and share the brotherhood of the Knights Companions, Division of Nebraska; you will always be welcome!



Photo Top Left Candidates & Knights of the Holy Sepulchre Degree Team (L-R): Front Row: Candidates Larry Zwart and Joe Belden; Back Row: KCs Ken Beebe, Steve Barchus, Carl Plants, Ted Johnson, Ed Nolte, Ron Grass, Ivan Vrtiska, and A.J. Johnson

Photo Top Right Distinguished Guests & Holy Sepulchre Degree Team (L-R): KC Fred Kleyn and KC Burch Zehner; Back Row: same as above.

Photo Bottom Center Knights of St. John the Evangelist Degree Team (L-R): KCs Richard Cooper, Bryan Burrows, James Clark, Harry Waggener, Bob Williams, Ivan Vrtiska, & A.J. Johnson.

YORK RITE SOVEREIGN COLLEGE

This year's session was held in Denver, CO, on 1 – 2 August 2014. The session was well attended, and distinguished guests are pictured below.



L-R, standing: **William R. Miller**, Grand Sovereign, United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, USA; **D. Alan Surratt**, Assistant Grand Master of the Americas, The Masonic Order of Athelstan, Provincial Grand Court of the United States of America; **David Dixon Goodwin**, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar; **F. Douglas Draker**, Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada, Red Cross of Constantine; **Gerald E. Tetzloff**, Supreme Grand Master of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, Knights Templar; **Douglas C. McFarland**, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota; **Lawrence O. Weaver**, General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International; **Matthew D. Dupee**, Grand Master General of the Convent General, Knights of the York Cross of Honour; **James E. Winzenreid**, Provincial Grand Master, Royal Order of Scotland; **Edmund D. Harrison**, General Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International; **Bryce B. Hildreth**, Provincial Grand Master The Masonic Order of Athelstan, Provincial Grand Court of the United States of America; **Reese L. Harrison, Jr.**, Grand Preceptor, The Commemorative Order of St Thomas of Acon, Province of The United States of America; **David Lee Hargett, Jr.**, Great Chief, Grand Council of Knight Masons for the USA.

L-R, seated: **David G. Walker**, Deputy Governor General; **Gerald A. Ford**, Governor General; **James W. Patton**, Chancellor General; all of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

“The Emperor Did What?”

For Lowell*

Actor and comedian Robert Wuhl in one of his specials for HBO, talks about the Liberty Valance effect, which taken from the movie “The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance” describes how the legend of a person soon overtakes the historical individual and his or her accomplishments. Wuhl’s catch phrase from the movie is “when the legend becomes fact, print the legend!” And he proceeds from that point in overturning many facts about several people which simply did not happen.

Constantine the Great was a victim of the “Liberty Valance effect”; the legends surrounding him outweigh the actual record of his accomplishments and he is credited with a great number of claims which are not historically accurate. He is proclaimed the last pagan and the first Christian emperor, and that is, in part, true. He was, throughout most of his life, inclined toward Christianity, he attended worship and is even said to have given speeches and discourses on the faith, but as far as having joined the church, he was instead baptized on his deathbed as was the custom at that time. It was understood by practice that any sins committed after baptism were considered unforgivable and even St. Augustine was so baptized. Technically, Constantine was in fact a Christian, but not during the length of his reign as Emperor as is commonly thought.

The Roman Empire, as early as 303, was entering its last stage as an empire. Christianity had already overcome the years of persecution under the emperors Nero, Caligula and Diocletian, the last of which was the greatest struggle for Roman paganism for its existence.¹ And under Diocletian and his successors, the empire truly became autocracy, for the Senate was ignored and the emperor acted without their direction. This set the stage for the decisions and edicts of the emperors that followed.² It must be remembered that Rome, even in its decline, had been an eclectic empire, allowing its citizens to worship as they chose, so long as those citizens acknowledged the rule of the emperor. The church still was growing until that fateful year, because of an edict of toleration issued by a previous emperor. Diocletian himself knew that his wife and daughter and many of his officers and public officials were either Christian or were favorable to the faith. Yet he allowed himself to be persuaded by his son-in-law and co-regent Galerius, to attack the faithful as never before. Churches were destroyed, Bibles burned, Christians were not allowed to hold public office and were to sacrifice to other gods, under penalty of death.³ This persecution extended throughout the Roman Empire, except in Britain, France and Spain where Christians were spared because of the rule of Constantius Chlorus and his son, Constantine. Diocletian retired to a secluded life in 305, having not been able to destroy the church or its members.

*Lowell H. Zuck, Professor Emeritus of Church History at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO passed away on July 30, 2014. The author was his student in 1977-1980.

¹ Schaff, Philip, *The History of the Christian Church*, vol. II, (Charles Scribner and Sons: New York, 1918), p. 71

² So Burns in *Western Civilizations*, 8th edition (WW Norton and Company: New York, 1973), p. 207

³ Schaff, *The History of the Christian Church*, vol. II, p. 66

As early as the next year, Constantine realized that there must be a unifying element to preserve the integrity and the entirety of the Empire. He was a shrewd politician in that way, realizing that religion was in truth, that element. But not necessarily Christianity, for the empire continued to function well if every citizen were allowed the privilege to worship whatever God they chose and practice whatever religion they felt so inclined. In order to restore what had previously been the rule and order of the empire, those forces of paganism would have to be overcome. And that idea was manifest in the person of Maxentius, who had been made a ruler in Italy. Constantine invaded, and in 312, met the rival emperor in a final battle at Milvian Bridge outside of Rome. Constantine had already twice defeated Maxentius in Turin and Verona⁴ and this battle cemented the complete victory.

The legend, even among Christian witnesses, speaks of miraculous vision before this battle. Did Constantine have the vision of the cross that is commonly asserted? He could have...maybe not in that much detail that we commonly ascribe to him, but “when the legend becomes fact, print the legend.” That will be an episode lost to the pages of time, for what is described by Eusebius was written at least 25 years after the event and a year after Constantine’s death, even though given to him under oath by an aged Constantine.⁵ Other accounts merely state that Constantine received a sign, had a dream, or heard a voice telling him to conquer in the name of Christ and in the sign of the cross. In any event, Constantine placed the cross on the shields of his soldiers, at least those of his German bodyguards and proceeded to victory. So that much of the legend is true.

We realize that there is some difficulty in establishing one true account. The earliest witness, some three years after the event, speaks only of a dream in which Constantine was to place the cross on the shields of some of his soldiers. It is only later that the legend was born, in Constantine’s own re-telling. Now, he is praying as the legend relates; the next night, he dreams that Christ himself visits him and gives directions for the creation of the labarum, the banner that goes before him in battle. Still later, the legend changes that it was not Christ who appeared to him in a dream but rather simply an angel. And because of all these inconsistencies, there have been church historians and biographers of Constantine that believe the vision, the dream and whatever else may have happened is nothing but a pious fraud.⁶ However, pious frauds have been known to work; there is a theory among biblical scholars that the book of Deuteronomy was so presented to a young king Josiah by the priests, trusting that he would follow their hopes and dreams and reform the religion of Israel. And he did!

It is commonly assumed that Constantine was the sole ruler of the Roman Empire with this victory, but this is not the case. The defeat of Maxentius was only to claim the title of the Emperor of the West. The Empire’s best administrative efforts had been served by co-regents, operating in different regions; Licinius, Constantine’s brother-in-law, was titled the Emperor of the East, and the two ruled the empire with little argument. In 313, they jointly issued the Edict of Milan. In this edict, they proclaimed Christianity as a recognized religion of the empire, and that the older edicts of persecution had been repealed. Even Galerius, who initially designed the persecutions, recanted his earlier edicts and joined the two Emperors in issuing his own edict of toleration,⁷ that they could hold their own services of worship that did not violate the peace of the region. And he added that they “should pray

⁴ N.S. Gil, “The Battle at the Milvian Bridge”, About.com. It was not the Battle of Saxa Rubra, as the tradition holds. That battle took place almost one hundred years before Constantine was born!

⁵ Schaff, Philip, *The History of the Christian Church*, vol. III, (Charles Scribner and Sons: New York, 1918), p. 21

⁶ *ibid*, p. 23

⁷ Schaff, Philip, *The History of the Christian Church*, vol. II, (Charles Scribner and Sons: New York, 1918), p. 71

to their God for the welfare of the emperors, of the state, and of themselves, that the state might prosper in every respect, and that they might live quietly in their homes.”⁸

But the Edict was very broad in its scope, allowing all citizens of the Empire to practice whatever religion they chose, without fear of persecution from others or punishment by imperial law. It is true that Constantine was already leaning in the direction of the church insofar as his own practice of religion was concerned; once again, the traditions and legends have inflated the impact of the emperor, for although the Edict was issued, it did not declare Christianity to be the only religion of the empire. The legend has confused Constantine with a successor, Theodosius II who served some sixty years later, and who issued that command during his reign.

The Edict of Milan was, however, the first step in the preference of Christianity in the Empire, and this and other actions must certainly be considered as beneficial for the faith. In later months and years, Constantine favored the Christians above other religions. He:

“exempted the clergy from military and municipal service (March, 313); abolished various customs and ordinances offensive to the Christian (315); facilitated the emancipation of Christian slaves (before 316); legalized bequests to catholic churches (321); enjoined the civil observances of Sunday....(321); contributed liberally to the building of churches and the support of the clergy; erased the heathen symbols of Jupiter and Apollo, Mars and Hercules from the imperial coins (323); and gave his sons a Christian education.”⁹

There were more decisions from Constantine still to come when he became the sole head of the Empire, with his victory over Licinius in 324. This again was looked upon by Christians as a victory for the church over the pagans who were in power, much the same as they did when Constantine defeated Maxentius some twelve years before. Licinius had renewed some of the persecutions endured by the Christians in that he reversed some of the practices that Constantine had instituted; in his defense, he was under no obligation to abide by what the Emperor of the West was doing. But by siding more and more with the non-Christians of the empire, Licinius could not show favoritism toward the church and thus, added to the woes of the people. Christians were prohibited from holding civil office, they suffered open ridicule and even banishment from the Eastern Empire. This now became a religious war of sorts, especially in the view of the church, so when Constantine won, it was the triumph of the cross over the enemies of Christ. Whatever victory, however, that may have been won, it was the murder of Licinius and his eleven year old son, that discredits Constantine as a devoted follower in the Christian faith. This fact is conveniently forgotten about the emperor when relating the legend! But it was at this time that Constantine openly encouraged the citizens of Rome to unite themselves with the church, even though he still would not declare Christianity as the sole religion of the empire. Everyone was still free to follow their own convictions and decide for themselves the adherence of their own faith. However, the next year was pivotal in the life of the church, for the Emperor himself decided that it was time for the church to determine what would be accepted as orthodoxy and daily practice and what would be rejected as heresy. In 325, Constantine called a general meeting of the bishops of the church at Nicea, placing himself in the midst of them, though he had no accepted standing among them. This was a radical move for the early church; it had never been done before. Constantine did it more for the unity of the Empire than he did for the unity of the church¹⁰ because he could not

⁸ M. de Broglie cited in *ibid*

⁹ Schaff, Philip, *History of the Christian Church*, vol III (Charles Scribner and Sons: New York, 1918), p. 31. His sons, however, made little use of such an education when it came to their ascension to the throne and the subsequent reign over the Empire!

¹⁰ Gonzalez, Justo L., *A History of Christian Thought*, vol. 1, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1970), p. 273

possibly understand the discussions that were to take place. Nonetheless, the bishops who remembered the recent persecutions deemed his presence a sign from God that the church and the faith had triumphed!

For the church during the Council of Nicea, the Arian controversy¹¹ threatened to split it asunder, and with that division, the Empire would likewise be divided and Constantine knew this all too well. It was necessary to secure the unity of the empire as this was the only hope of its future. The bishops expanded the wording of the Apostle's Creed to affirm that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all of the same substance (Greek: *homoousios*) and that they all existed together since the beginning of the creation. Anything contrary to this affirmation was rejected, and the Nicene Creed has been in use by the church ever since, even though the Arian controversy existed in the church for another fifty years before finally being declared anathema. The date of Easter was likewise agreed upon as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, and other decisions and pronouncements were made.

But without the Emperor, who was favoring Christianity even more in his personal life, the church would never have taken the bold step of confronting the dispute and taking the first steps toward resolving it. Even though the Council of Nicea had been called for imperial purposes, it had done what it needed to do; to reunite the church, and thus, the Roman Empire. Afterward, Constantine, in spite of his political intrigue, almost becomes the model of Christian witness. There is an apocryphal story that he promised twelve thousand converts to the faith both a white garment and twenty pieces of gold, but the number is greatly exaggerated. Nonetheless, he and his mother Helena built churches at the sacred places in and around Jerusalem, and in 330, transferred the seat of government to Byzantium, which he renamed for himself to Constantinople. It was his intention to make that city the new Rome and a Christian center for worship, as churches were built and crosses were seen throughout. No longer were gladiatorial shows allowed, but theatres and hippodromes were permitted to entertain the masses.

Constantine remained faithful to the edict of toleration that he issued in 313, even to allow the heathen religions and temples to continue to practice without fear of reprisals from the Christians or from the throne. This was because he truly believed that they would die out of their own accord, since so many would favor the Christian faith. He did prohibit immoral acts, however, especially in cities and places that were sacred to Christians, and still further, it is said that he issued commands that prohibited idolatrous sacrifices altogether, though it may not have been enforced during his reign.¹²

At the advanced age of 65, Constantine finally consented to the laying on of hands and baptism by Eusebius, who had been a supporter of the Arian heresy, but who was recalled to the ministry of the church by the Emperor himself. He promised to live faithfully as a servant of the Christ, and even laid aside the royal robe of the empire, contenting himself with the white baptismal gown. He died shortly thereafter, fittingly on Pentecost, May 22, 337, commending himself to God. He was later canonized by the Orthodox church, while the Western church simply conferred on him the title of "the Great" for his services in behalf of the church.

Much of his conversion and his witness for the church during his reign justifiably falls into the arena of legend. The stories are too numerous and contradictory to be believed that they happened in just that way. But the legend is more interesting than the actual facts surrounding his life, so "print the legend." Constantine figures

¹¹ This theology argued that since Jesus was born into the world, then there was a time when he did not exist, and that he was not pre-eminent with God the Father, which, taken to a logical end, overturns the concept of the Trinity.

¹² So Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, vol III (Charles Scribner and Sons: New York, 1918), p. 35

as a better romantic character, champion of the Christian faith, doer of great deeds and defender of the faith. The legends whitewash the accepted facts among historians.

But without the reign of Constantine, the church never would have achieved the status that it had, though it could be argued that it would have simply because of God's supreme power. The church survived the persecutions both before and after Constantine's reign, so doubtless that it would have persevered and would have continued to grow in strength. It just would have taken longer. But in Constantine, the church found its champion. He issued edicts of toleration; called the First Council of Nicea; built holy shrines and many churches and generally deferred to and promoted the faith.

It is doubtful that any of these could have been done within the fleeting days of the Empire without a leader who supported them. He was deserving of the title "the Great", for his reign rivaled that of Augustus, when Rome was at its highest power. And though his work for Christianity was done from the purest of political purposes, the Church was the beneficiary.

The Empire prospered for another hundred years; the Church continues to this day.

MEXICO CITY CONCLAVE

On 20 September 2014, the Conclave held an Assembly in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. KCs from around Mexico attended. The first order of business was the installation of two new members into the Conclave. Following this, a business meeting was conducted, including a paper presented by KC Eduardo Velasco. The time and place for Assemblies in 2015 were established. A dinner with the ladies was held after the session in an Argentine restaurant in the city.



L – R: KC Jaime Galicia, Puissant Sovereign; new members, KC Hector Aleman and KC Jaquin Vega; and the Eminent Viceroy, KC Ricardo Ruiz.



At the dinner, the Puissant Sovereign hosted from his L – R: Most Worshipful Brother Juan Ramon Negrete, MW Grand Master the York Grand Lodge of Mexico; KC Hector Aleman, Grand High Priest RAM United States of Mexico; and, Illustrious Intendant General of Mexico, Guatemala & El Salvador, KC Denny Strole.

GRAND SOVEREIGN VISITS GUATEMALA CONCLAVE0

On Saturday, 29 November 2014, the Grand Sovereign visited the Guatemala Conclave's Annual Assembly. Accompanying the Grand Sovereign were KC Joe McIntyre the Illustrious Grand Herald, and KC Denny Strole, the Illustrious Intendant General for the Divisions of Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. The first order of business at the Annual Assembly was the Installation of Carlos Gusman as a Knight Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine. This was followed by the Conclave's business session. And, the last order of business was the Grand Sovereign's comments to the assembled Knights Companions. The Grand Sovereign thanked the Knights Companions for their warm welcome, and encouraged the Conclave members to continue their membership growth, and continue their regular works in the future. That evening, a dinner with the ladies was enjoyed by all at the local Italian Club.



Front Row L-R: KC Joseph MacIntyre, Illustrious Grand Herald; KC Ramon Huerta, Sovereign; Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, KC Bill Miller; KC Eduardo Perez, Viceroy; KC Francisco Saenz.

Back Row L-R: KC Ronny Aguilar; KC Carlos Guzman; KC Alfonso Ortiz; KC Humberto Juarez; KC Victor Aquino.

Photo by: KC Denny Strole, Illustrious Intendant General Mexico, Guatemala & El Salvador

OREGON MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS

The Constitution and Statutes of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor “shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member.”

At the 69th Triennial Convocation, Companion and Sir Knight Lawrence Weaver was elected “Illustrious General Grand Master;” congratulations KC Larry.

Also at the 69th Triennial Convocation, KC John Smith, KCC, was awarded the Royal Arch Silver Medal. These medals are only given to one person in our particular region and are only given every three years to members that have given exemplary work to the craft. We also have another KC who received such a medal and that is KC Lowell Amundson and I understand he received the honor in 1989. If there are any others I have not been told of their accomplishments.

Submitted by: James Aday, Illustrious Intendant General, Division of Oregon

OREGON CONCLAVES

On 6 December 2014 both Oregon Conclaves met in Salem, Oregon where a new member was installed into St. Laurence, then both St. Laurence and St. Janus Conclaves elected 2015 officers. Installation of both Conclaves concluded the evening after a wonderful dinner. Shown in the photo are the new elected officers, the newest member and the installing Prelate and Marshal.



SOUTH DAKOTA CONCLAVES MEET

On 1 November 2014, in recognition of the State of South Dakota's 125 year of Statehood, Black Hills Conclave and St. Simon Conclave, held an annual joint Assembly at the capital city Masonic center. The day started at 11:30 AM with a joint banquet presided over by Viceroy KC Matt Schatz; the luncheon speaker was MWB KC Douglas McFarland. After lunch, the KC's retired to the upper chamber. St. Simon opened and conducted their business meeting after which new members DaNeil Woods and Steven Butterfield were invested into the Orders. Then Black Hills Priory opened their priory and conducted their business led by Puissant Sovereign, KC George Bauder. After these sessions, officers for the following year were elected. Prior to the closing of the conclave, a memorial service conducted by Illustrious Intendant General Charlie Walker to remember Past Sovereigns of both Conclaves: MWB Wesly P. Jarman, KC Norman Herron, KC Lawrence W. O. Holmes, MWB Richard Decker, KC Alvin Dyer and KC Joseph P. McCarty, each was called this year to that House not made with hands eternal in the heaven. The new Officers for Black Hills and St. Simon Conclaves were installed in a joint installation by Intendant General Charlie Walker. Officers elected for Black Hills Conclave were: Puissant Sovereign John Laughlin, Eminent Viceroy Donald Huxford, Senior General Stan Schwellenbach, Prelate Herbert Cook, and Recorder/ Secretary John Gonsor. Appointed Officers; Prelate Shawn "Jake" Smith, Prefect Stanley Bervier, Standard Bearer Gary Johnson, Herald Dave True. Officers elected for St Simon were: Puissant Sovereign Matt Schatz, Eminent Viceroy Douglas McFarland, Senior General Clinton Erhart, Junior General Roger L. Kehm, Recorder Robert Webb PS, and Treasurer MWB Robert D. Osborne PS. Appointed Officer installed: Prelate Richard McBride, Prefect Rolland L. Klienschmidt, Standard Bearer Roger Hanson, Herald Greg Hall, Warder James Taylor, and Sentinel Greg Hall.



Left to right. St. Simon Roger Hanson, St. Simon MWB Robert Osborn, St. Simon James Taylor, St. Simon Robert Webb, St. Simon, St. Simon Richard McBride, GM Douglas McFarland, St. Simon Clint Erhart, St Simon Matt Schatz, Black Hills Shawn "Jake" Smith, St, Simon Roger Kehm, Black Hills John Laughlin, St Simon MWB Charles Gilson, Black Hills Herb Cook, Black Hills Stan Schwellenbach, Black Hills Jon Gonsor and Illustrious Intendant General Charles Walker.

SANGRE DE CRISTO CONCLAVE

The officers of Sangre de Cristo Conclave in Pueblo, Colorado were installed by Intendant General Jerry Fenimore on December 6, 2014. Karl Hinkle, Past Grand Master of Masons in Colorado, was elected Puissant Sovereign replacing Ronald Garrett, Past Grand High Priest. Grand Master of Masons in Colorado Michael McMillan, Past Illustrious Grand Master, became Eminent Viceroy. Richard Price assumed the duties of Senior General and Jack Ward, Past Grand Commander became Junior General. Dave Salberg, Past Grand High Priest, Past Illustrious Grand Master and Past Grand Commander remained as Recorder.



L to R Front Row: Ronald Garrett, Karl Hinkle, Michael McMillan, Richard Price, Jack Ward, and Burney Brandel

L to R Second Row: David Salberg, David Reynolds, Tony Quintana, Ralph Newby, and David Coberly

ST. JAMES CONCLAVE, INDIANAPOLIS

The Annual Assembly of St. James Conclave was held in November 2014. Thirty KCs were present, and four candidates were installed. The ladies joined in a delightful dinner hosted by KC Rick Purcell, Puissant Sovereign. Photo by: KC Jerry Collins, Recorder



ST. JEROME CONCLAVE COMPLETES MEMORABLE YEAR

St. Jerome Conclave held its Annual Assembly on 6 December 2014 at the Northwest Masonic Temple in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to the business meeting, three new members received their Initiatory Degree, bringing the total new members for 2014 to five. Witnessing the degree work were Past Grand Sovereign Burch E. Zehner and the Illustrious Intendant General, KC Richard L. Weaver, (Ohio-Eastern), who are Honorary Members of this Conclave.



L to R: KC H. Clayton Hunt; KC Glenn B. Redick; 2014 Sovereign Terry L. DeVassie; KC Fred S. Kile; Past Grand Sovereign Burch E. Zehner; KC Phillip S. Clouse; and Illustrious Intendant General Richard L. Weaver. Hunt, Redick, Kile, and Clouse along with F. Lon Lowry (not pictured) are the newly installed members.

Following the degree work, the 2015 officers were elected and then installed by KCs Zehner and Weaver. Thirty KCs then adjourned to The Brookside Golf and Country Club for outstanding fellowship and sustenance.



L to R: KC Richard J. Bull, Junior General; KC Dow T. Voelker, Standard Bearer; Richard L. Weaver, IG Ohio-Eastern; KC Ronald J. Scharer, Sentinel; PS Tony Bachman, Recorder/Treasurer; KC Mark M. Watters, Senior General; Eminent Viceroy Donald E. Lund; Puissant Sovereign Roger L. Albrecht; and Past Grand Sovereign Burch E. Zehner.

CITY OF MEXICO CONCLAVE

On 24 January 2015, the Conclave held its Annual Communication in Mexico City in the hall of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico. The highlight of the evening was the installation of two new members into the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders. The two are both active Masonic members. KC Omar Martinez-Palafox resides in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, and is a past master of Xochicalco Lodge No. 32, a member of Chapultepec Chapter No. 5 in Mexico City as well as a member of Xalisco Council No. 7 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. KC Omar is currently the Senior Grand Steward of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico

KC Mario Tanus is an attorney residing in Mexico City. He is the Worshipful Master of Azteca Lodge No. 22 in Mexico City, a member of Chapultepec Chapter No. 5 in Mexico City and a member of Quetzalcoatl Council (UD) in Mexico City. KC Mario is also a Noble in Anezeh Shriners in Mexico City.

Below, KC Mario is on the left and KC Omar is on the right. Between them is the Conclave Standard that was discovered in the Grand Lodge building some years ago. It is a beautiful piece housed in a wood and glass cabinet; unfortunately, no has any background concerning its origin.



UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE
143rd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

June 4-6, 2015
Seattle Airport Marriott
3201 South 176th Street
Seattle, WA 98188
(206) 241-2000

\$129 + tax single or double occupancy
Room reservations must be made before May 15, 2015 to receive
"UGIC Red Cross of Constantine " discounted rate

Registration Fee \$160.00 per person

Name _____ Lady's Name if attending _____
First and Last First and Last

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name & Location of Conclave _____

Office _____ National Office _____

National Office in Other Masonic Body _____

Have you made your reservations with the Hotel? YES NO

(If you have ambulatory difficulties, please advise the hotel when you register.)

I (we) are Flying Air Line - _____ Flight # _____

I (we) will arrive on _____ I (we) will depart on _____
(DATE) (TIME) (DATE) (TIME)

Registration Fee of \$160.00 Per Person includes:
Thursday Reception, Friday Lunch, Friday Boat Cruise and Dinner,
Saturday Lunch, Tours and Saturday Banquet.

Number _____ @ (\$160.00) each \$ _____

Knight Comp	Lady	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will attend the Thursday Evening Reception, June 4 th
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will attend the Friday Men's and Ladies Lunch, June 5 TH
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will attend the Friday boat Tillicum Village Tour/Salmon Dinner and show, June 5 th
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will attend the Saturday Men's/Ladies Lunch/Tour June 6 th
Tour choice -		<input type="checkbox"/> Pike Place Market
		<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle Center (site of the Space Needle) with admission to Chihuly Glass Garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will attend the Saturday Grand Banquet, June 6 th
Entrée choice -		Grand Banquet entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Seared Pork Chop with a cider apple glaze
		Grand Banquet entrée <input type="checkbox"/> Halibut crusted with horseradish and lemon sauce

Special Dietary Needs _____

Wheel Chair _____

ATTIRE FOR MEETINGS – COAT, TIE AND JEWEL

SATURDAY BANQUET – FORMAL, SASH AND JEWEL

Make Checks Payable To: **"143rd Annual Conclave"**

Mail Check and Registration To: Jerry E. Whitney (206) 241-7510
231 South Normandy Road j.whitney@comcast.net
Burien, WA 98148-1709

This completed form and your check must be received by May 8, 2015
NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 15, 2015

143rd UGIC ANNUAL ASSEMBLY - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON VENUE INFORMATION

4 - 6 June 2015 Sea-Tac Marriott Hotel, 3201 South 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188

The SEA-TAC MARRIOTT HOTEL - is located across from the International Airport with free shuttle service to/from the Hotel. Enjoy a healthy meal and drinks at the bar and restaurant. Dine on regional cuisine including salmon, crab, clams, oysters and delicious steak in a casual setting. Enjoy a workout in the fitness center or take a plunge in the indoor pool. Stay in control of all your business needs at the 24-hour business center or through free wi-fi in your room. For free shuttle service to the hotel call the hotel - (206) 241-3298.

GRAND ASSEMBLY AREA ATTRACTIONS - Area attractions include:

The Museum of Flight which houses airplanes and artifacts of a century of flight. Planes displayed include the world's first fighter and the record setting Concorde. You can explore the original Air Force One and a Space Shuttle Trainer. www.museumofflight.org

The EMP is the only museum of its kind in the world. Explore some of the most significant moments in rock music, science fiction and popular culture through EMP's impressive exhibits and interactive installations. www.EMPmuseum.org.

Pacific Science Center includes hands-on exhibits stretching throughout five buildings, a cutting edge IMAX film in either 2D or 3D, a planetarium show or a live science show. You could even finish off your visit with a laser light show. www.pacificsciencecenter.org

Ride the Ducks of Seattle, a WWII amphibious vehicle that tours you through historic Pioneer Square, Seattle's spectacular waterfront and the downtown shopping district. Then, splash into Lake Union for a thrill of a lifetime! When was the last you drove a truck into the water on purpose? www.ridetheducksofseattle.com.

Seattle Aquarium gives you a chance to discover playful sea otters, graceful octopuses, luminous moon jellies and more. Be amazed by Window on Washington Waters, a 120,000 gallon exhibit with daily diver shows. Touch live sea creatures in the tide pools. Immerse yourself in the Underwater Dome's 360' view. Take a virtual trip to the tropics in the Pacific Coral Reef exhibit. www.SeattleAquarium.org

Other attractions include the Seattle International Film Festival - www.siff.net.

GRAND ASSEMBLY TOURS: The Friday Cruise, Salmon Bake and Native Cultural Show. Tillicum Village is located on pristine Blake Island State Park and treats you to a cultural experience found only in the Northwest. Enjoy breathtaking views and a colorful narration as you cruise across Puget Sound. Dine on a wonderful salmon buffet and enjoy Coast Salish Native storytelling and dance during your 4 hour round trip adventure. You have a choice of two tours on Saturday (make your choice on your registration form):

1. Pike Place Market - the oldest continually operating market in the United States. Founded in 1907, Seattle's downtown public market offers fresh produce, unique foods and handmade arts and crafts, overlooking the Elliott Bay waterfront. Watch the market fishmongers toss around salmon, visit the first Starbucks Coffee Shop, enjoy the music and antics of talented street performers, and soak in the unique ambiance of Seattle's most popular attraction. This nine-acre historic district hosts over 10 million visitors each year. www.pikeplacemarket.org.

2. Seattle Center - First built for the 1962 World's Fair, the 74 acre Seattle Center campus is located just north of downtown Seattle, and offers a fairground, park, and arts and entertainment center all year round. Journey skyward for a 360 degree view of Puget Sound from the Space Needle, hop on the Monorail for an elevated glide to downtown Seattle, or cavort in the shooting waters of the International Fountain.

DRESS FOR MEN & WOMEN: All Assembly meetings will be coat and tie with jewel. The Saturday evening Banquet is formal with black tuxedo or white dinner jacket (with jewel and sash) for the men and the ladies always know what to wear. For all tours the dress is casual.

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

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION U.S.
POSTAGE PAID
GREENFIED, 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 1606, El Cajon, CA 92022-1606

United Grand Imperial Council

William R. Miller, KGC.....Grand Sovereign

Frederick G. Kleyn, III, KGC.....Grand Recorder

Dennis S. Strole.....Editor