



# *The Byzantium*



*United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine*

Volume XXII

February 2016

Issue 2

## ***THE GRAND SOVEREIGN***



***ROBERT S. FINLEY***

## ***GRAND SOVEREIGN'S MESSAGE***

Since June 2015, I learned some very important lessons. The airline seats are getting smaller, the flights getting longer, and my patience getting shorter.

The great thing that I have learned is that Constantinian Masonry is alive and well. The Knight Companions of the Southwest Region, meeting in Arizona presented degree work that was superb. The hospitality was wonderful and the temperature HOT.

I had the privilege of being received by Most Pre-eminently Distinguished Grand Governor General, David G. Walker at the annual session of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America held in Louisville, Kentucky and accorded Grand Honors.

After a very brief stay at home I attended the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in Buffalo, New York. This too, was a most rewarding and enjoyable experience. Sir Knight David D. Goodwin, Grand Master and his staff, received Kay and me with great friendship and hospitality.

One of the highlights of my travels was our trip to Vaudreuil, Quebec, Canada for the Annual Assembly of the Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada, The friendship and hospitality provided by Grand Sovereign Roy Binns, GCC and Grand Recorder Eric Shaw was outstanding. I am pleased to say that I was honored by being made an Honorary Past Grand Sovereign of the Grand Conclave of Canada and presented a beautiful plaque. What a great weekend.

I rushed home to get clean clothes and catch a plane so I could attend the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction in Washington, DC. Illustrious Ronald Seale 33, Sovereign Grand Commander, received me in the General Session and welcomed me. Again, I was pleased to meet and greet many old friends and the hospitality was top notch.

Next on the trip list was a visit to the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in Indianapolis, Indiana. Sovereign Commander John William McNaughton, 33, Sovereign Grand Commander, greeted me and introduced me in the General Session. Entertainment and hospitality were great.

Kay and I were invited to the all Ohio Assembly in Springfield, Ohio and I witnessed an outstanding presentation of Ritual work presented by the members of all the Conclaves. One of the highlights was the presentation to me of honorary memberships to Holy Grail Conclave and Charlemagne Conclave. A great time was had by all.

Once again I was invited to witness excellent ritual work as I attended the Southeast Regional Assembly in St. Petersburg, Florida. The officers and members welcomed me with hospitality and friendship and portrayed excellent degree work.

By tradition the Eastern Regional Assembly is held the first full weekend in November each year. This year the 57<sup>th</sup> session was held in Grantville, Pa. I have served on the Committee for 29 years, 12 as Chairman. I now serve as treasurer and committee member. The program began on Friday evening with a welcome dinner and the opportunity to visit several hospitality rooms. On Saturday morning a Necrology service and reception of guests was presented after the Chair degrees. In the afternoon the remainder of the Red Cross degrees were presented in full form by several of the 35 Conclaves registered. Saturday evening a formal banquet for 250 people was enjoyed. Along with several members of the Grand Line of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Grand Sovereign, brief remarks were made after which entertainment and dancing concluded the evening.

Kay and I were graciously invited to attend the election and installation of the new Grand Master of Pennsylvania, held in Pittsburgh, PA and I was received at their Grand Lodge meeting by Right Worshipful Raymond T. Dietz, Grand Master.

On to the Music City, Nashville, Tennessee and a meeting with our Grand Senior General Joe Harrison and his members for their Divisional meeting. Absolutely great ritual. I was welcomed by several Past Grand Masters and a very large group of members from all over the State.

On the weekend of February 6<sup>th</sup>, we traveled to Massachusetts to join in a special three state reception that featured the initiation of several new members. Knight Companions from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island and their ladies joined in an outstanding weekend of fun, friendship and great Masonic ritual to an overflow group. I was honored by being presented an Honorary membership in Plantations Conclave, Rhodes Island.

As you can see, this office offers me the wonderful opportunity to visit Knight Companions all over this county as well as others. Because of the deadline necessary for this publication, I will not be able to relate some very exciting adventures that lie before me.

The annual trip to Masonic Week in Washington DC is on the horizon and I am looking forward to the Northwest Regional in Washington. In between all of this, the committee arranging the 144<sup>th</sup> annual Conclave in Buffalo is hard at work. We hope you all plan to attend and enjoy our hospitality. Registration forms are in this publication.

Our bags are packed and we look forward to visiting many more of you in the coming months.

It is an honor and high privilege to serve as your Grand Sovereign. It is the highlight of my Masonic career, and I thank you all for allowing me to serve. God Bless you, God Bless America and God Bless our beloved Fraternity.

Bob

## ***ST JAMES CONCLAVE***

On 1 September 2015, members of the Indiana Division gathered for a group photo at the Indianapolis Valley when the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite conferred the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree. The photo was taken at the conclusion of the State of Indiana dinner that followed. Because of the large number of KCs, names are not provided.



## ***GUATEMALA CONCLAVE***

On 29 November 2015, the Conclave held its Annual Assembly in Guatemala City. The highlight of the session was the installation of officers by the Illustrious Intendant General of Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador, KC Denny Strole. A dinner with the ladies at the Hilton Hotel followed the session.



Front Row, L-R: KC Denny Strole, KC Eduardo Perez, the new Puissant Sovereign, KC Ramon Huerta, Past Sovereign  
Back Row, L-R: KC Alfonso Ortiz, KC Carlos Guzman, KC Ronny Aguilar, KC Humberto Juarez, KC Victor Aquino and KC Francisco Saenz, Eminent Viceroy.

## ***MERIDIAN CONCLAVE***

The new Meridian Conclave located in Davao City, Philippines, began life on 17 October 2015, during ceremonies in Manila following the annual sessions of the Philippine Grand York Rite Bodies. The charter members were successfully installed as Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine. A College of Viceroys and a Senate of Sovereigns were conducted with the support of Asoka Conclave. Meridian Conclave is located in Davao City located in the Southern Philippines. The below photo was taken following the installation



From L – R: KC Rico O. Ibonia; KC Dexter L. Ng; KC Manuel Liam C. Garcia, Sovereign; KC Jonathan Edward L. Chua; KC Ferdinand R. Roque; KC Jomel Maranan, Asoka Conclave; KC Fortunato G. Cagas, Jr.; KC Joven K. Chua, immediate Past Sov. Grand Commander of the Philippine Supreme Council A&ASR; KC Hernani Lopez, Asoka Conclave; KC Rodel Riezl S. Reyes, Viceroy; and, KC Louie Thom-Arman E. Yu.



KC Manuel Liam C. Garcia, Meridian Conclave, Davao, Philippines, with the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign Robert S. Finley, Louisville, Kentucky, during the annual meeting of the York Rite Sovereign College of North America.

## *ST. GILES CONCLAVE*

On 12 December, St. Giles Conclave held its Annual Assembly in the Asylum of Hugh de Payens Commandery #1 in the historic Albert Pike Memorial Temple in Little Rock, AR. In attendance was KC Douglas Dobbyn, the Illustrious Intendant General Division of Arkansas. Four distinguished Royal Arch Masons received the orders. In addition, the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of Arkansas, Ill. C. James Graham was installed as the Conclave Sovereign for 2016. Following the Assembly, the Knights Companions and their ladies enjoyed sumptuous banquet in the Temple's Crawford Hall.



The members of the Class are L – R: KCs Troy Cole; Ronald Tucker; George Coffman, Puissant Sovereign 2015 and PGM GL of Arkansas; Billy Jo Holder, Deputy GM GL of Arkansas; and, Scott Sells. Puissant Sovereign George Coffman presided over the conferral of the degrees.

# Chivalric Military Orders: from their origins to the Red Cross of Constantine

by Vincenzo Pulvirenti

Eboracum Conclave - Catania - IT

Since antiquity horses have been valued as a great asset in the realms of hunting and warfare. We have evidence of this for instance, in Assyrian bas-reliefs of early 1st millennium BC, which portray very graphic representations of war and lion-hunting scenes. Around the year 370 BC, Xenophon (ca 430/425 BC – 355 BC) with his two seminal treatises *On the Art of Horsemanship* (*Peri hippikēs*) and *The Cavalry Commander* (*Hippiarchicus*) highlighted the potentialities of war horses analyzing also equipment, training and techniques of deployment. The relevant topics were covered with extraordinary competence and attention to details, constituting the basis for all successive literature on military horsemanship.

Right from the beginning of the history of Rome (753 BC), its first king Romulus created a military structure that trained soldiers in the use of horses for combat. The army was put in charge of this operation and its elevated costs (which included the purchase of the horses, their sustenance and gear) while soldiers were to take care of the animals' well-being and ensure the equipment was always in optimal conditions. Failure to fulfil this task meant being demoted to infantryman. Though we cannot be absolutely sure about the historical accuracy of the information we have today, given it's from the Roman Republican and Imperial Ages (therefore after the Monarchical Age), and the accounts are described in legendary terms, it seems that this equestrian organization, originally made up of 300 knights and relative horses divided in three *centuriae*, by the end of the Monarchical Age (509 BC) had grown to 3.600 units, divided in eighteen *centuriae*.

Starting from the second century BC, the Roman military cavalry was finally declared “*Ordo Equester*”, but infantry legions continued to be the army's backbone. During the Republican Age, the Order grew in importance, as speed became progressively more critical than ever, both in the battleground and for a more effective military control along the stretching frontiers. The Order's social make-up was across classes, even including freedmen, provided they were particularly brilliant, skilled and intelligent.

In the Imperial Age, the recruiting criterion of the knights was modified. This new rule provided that every year a special magistrate, called censor, drew up a list of citizens (i.e. a census), on the basis of their financial assets, age, reputation and family background. This was because knights were supposed to have the moral, physical and economic means to meet the challenges of their career together with the relative costs. Concurrently, the Order's structure and mission kept consolidating both militarily and as agency in charge of the control and defence of key imperial buildings and areas. Admission to the equestrian military career (*militia equestris*) offered its more skilled and ambitious members greater opportunities to aspire to the highest offices of the Empire. The result was a remarkable increase in the number of knights, reaching more than 20.000 units.

Historical developments and military necessities therefore led to the success of this new class of soldiers, distinct from the rest of society, and formed a new basis of power. Those who succeeded in becoming part of this vital state service would be part of an elitist group, separated from the senators' one. They became self-referential, and, in order to enhance their status, they started to use self-styled pompous honorific titles, such as: *vir eminentissimus*, *perfectissimus*, *egregius*, *splendidus*.

The fourth century (AD) was the one that saw the Roman Empire opening the Order to Christianity. Historically, the first official act in this direction is the work of Constantine with the establishment of a Christian equestrian military order called “*Militia Aurata*”, from the golden collars their dignitaries prided themselves to wear. Traditionally, this Order was established on October 27, 312, when, on the eve of the memorable Battle of the Milvian Bridge, the emperor saw in the sky an emblem in the shape of a cross, above which stood the motto “In

Hoc Signo Vinces”, that is, the sign of his imminent victory over Maxentius. After winning, to honor the vision he thought was the origin of that awesome feat and of his conversion to Christianity, he was moved to show his devotion by glorifying the Cross.

Constantine therefore had the ‘Labarum’ designed, a banner on top of which featured the Chrismon with an insignia in the shape of a distinctive golden-edged red cross, the so-called ‘Lilied Cross’ (Cross Fleurie) for its three petals on each arm, and ordered it to be always held high in front of him during his wars as a sign of Victory and Divine Protection. He then personally appointed the first fifty knights of the Order, chosen from his royal guard, who, obeying Constantine, emblazoned their armors with the same Cross. Step by step a new military class was emerging with a strong group identity, a closed circle that could have been accessed by co-optation only, followed by an initiation ritual.

According to one of the many Constantinian documents kept in the Historical Archive of Naples, Constantine granted Pope Sylvester the powers to create knights of the Order. Historians have never been able to confirm the authenticity of said document, but thanks to it, the Constantinian Order was put right under the protection of the Holy See, and the emperor made it official by arranging the pontifical collation. During the pontificate of Pope Leo I, the original name of the Order was changed into ‘Order of the Red Cross of Constantine’, to evoke more strongly the emblem embroidered on the Labarum.

In the 18th century, the birth of modern Freemasonry, besides giving structure and content to the initiatory and esoteric parts of the three degrees of the Blue Lodge, built also a link between traditional, operative Freemasonry and those esoteric and cultural elements that, together with the activities within the Lodges, would complement the initiates’ work towards perfection.

Besides the Christian version handed down by Eusebius, the history of the Order deserved to be the object of further consideration because it gave rise to a much more complex tradition through its ritualistic elements characterized by said profound esoteric doctrines. So, in parallel with the original Order of decidedly Catholic origins, in 1750 Baron Karl Gotthelf Von Hunde introduced the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine in German Freemasonry. Thirty-eight years later, the Order was also introduced in the USA (see the article A Little History published in this website). In contrast with other Chivalric Orders, open to the nobility only, the Red Cross of Constantine is a Masonic and Military Chivalric Order that confers honors at a personal level and its value is exclusively spiritual. It is founded on the Annual Assembly of the Grand Imperial Council, that is, a sovereign executive and administrative body summoned and chaired by the Grand Sovereign, who is the Order’s guide and spiritual authority in accordance with its Constitution, Statute and Regulations. He has the authority and responsibility of the government of the Order and interprets the chivalric tradition and the set of rules that are at the basis of the Imperial Grand Council, whose activities he presides over. All offices of the Imperial Grand Council are elective, lasting 12 months only, after which they cannot be elected again.

The Constantinian Order is a source of spiritual and social growth. Admission, via invitation only, is a privilege that can be enjoyed only by active members of the Royal Arch Chapters who have distinguished themselves in the exercise of their respective positions in the York Rite. Those honored with the Cross of the Order are also requested exceptional and proven moral standards and the competence to fulfil all their obligations as outlined in the Constitution.

Last but not least, the Order identifies with the chivalric and Christian-inspired moral philosophy and principles, and its mission is that its Members conduct themselves in a manner reflecting wisdom, zeal and social virtues, respectful of the just rules that govern society, so that in the name of their Faith in Jesus Christ, the Unity of the Knights reign forever.



### *SANGRE de CRISTO CONCLAVE*

On 5 December 2015, Sangre de Cristo Conclave held its Annual Assembly in Pueblo, Colorado. Illustrious Intendant General, KC Jerry Fenimore, conducted a College of Viceroys for KC Ralph Newby to replace KC Richard Price who was forced to resign for health reasons. Also, two KCs were installed into the Order, Craig Fabric and Barry Nightingale. Finally, 2016 officers were elected and subsequently installed by the IG. The KCs and their ladies enjoyed a dinner following the Assembly.



Front Row, L - R: KCs Michael McMillan, Ralph Newby, Jack Ward, Tony Quintana, and James Erickson

Back Row, L – R: KCs David Coberly, Craig Fabric, Burney Brandel, and Barry Nightingale

### *Saint Columba Conclave*

On 7 December 2015, St. Columba Conclave installed their 2016 officers at the Montgomery Inn, a restaurant in Montgomery, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio.



L – R: KC Timothy D. Martin, Sentinel ; KC Norman J. Mick, PGM, Standard Bearer; KC J. Randolph Clark, Junior General; KC John R. Teller, Treasurer; KC Kermit V. Zimmerman, Sovereign; KC Lynn Alexander, Viceroy; KC Robert H. Coster, Recorder; KC Richard R. Worthing, Prelate; KC Gary L. Ogelsby, Prefect; KC Robert W. Dumford, Senior General.

## *HOLY GRAIL CONCLAVE*

The Annual Assembly of the Holy Grail Conclave was held on 9 September 2015 at the Dayton Masonic Center in Dayton, Ohio. Three prominent Knights Companions were present. Below left to right are: Grand Recorder Emeritus, KC Ned E. Dull, Past Grand Sovereign and Past Grand Recorder; Illustrious Intendant General Division of Ohio Western, KC Harvey C. Lowry; and, Past Grand Sovereign, KC Burch E. Zehner.



## *CHARLEMAGNE CONCLAVE*

On 19 December 2015, Charlemagne Conclave installed their 2016 officers at the Findlay Country Club in Findlay, Ohio.



L – R: Sovereign, KC John R. Clime; Viceroy, KC Bruce M. Ailes; Senior General, Kenneth L. Crouch; Junior General, KC Michael D. Cecil; and, Sentinel KC Homer L. Buchanan

## *ST. DENYS CONCLAVE*

Saint Denys Conclave located in Sheridan, Wyoming was Chartered on 6 June 1919. From time immemorial, it was uncertain what became of the original Charter. In the photo below, the replacement Charter is proudly displayed! The Conclave appreciates the extensive labors of the Grand Recorder for his research of the UGIC archives to ensure the accuracy of the Charter.



Pictured L – R: KCs Mark S. Young, Viceroy; Otto G. Uecker, Illustrious Intendant General – Division of Wyoming; Jimmy J. Dunlap, Senior Past Sovereign (1979); and, Gregory K. Shiek, Sovereign.

## ***St Timothy Conclave***

Annual Meeting and Banquet – Saturday, April 30, 2016, Fort Worth, TX. All Knights Companions and their Ladies are invited. Come join in the fun!

Annual Meeting and Degree Conferral  
Fort Worth Temple  
1100 Henderson St, Fort Worth, TX  
Meeting starts at 1:00 PM

Annual Banquet Fort Worth Club –  
<http://www.fortworthclub.com>  
306 West Seventh St, Fort Worth, TX 76102  
Cocktails 6:30 PM Cash Bar-Dinner 7:00 PM

Dignitaries include:

**Illustrious Knight Companion John A. Hughes, Intendent General, Division of Texas Northern UGIC, who will be making his Official Visit**

**Most Worshipful Wendell P. Miller, Special Guest Speaker, Grand Master of Masons in Texas, and Past Sovereign, St Marks Conclave 2013**

**Most Illustrious Knight Companion Reese L. Harrison, Jr., KGC, KCC, Past Grand Sovereign UGIC and Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas (2004)**

**Knight Companion Fred E. Allen, KCC, Past Intendent General, Division of Texas Northern, Past Grand Trustee of the UGIC, and Past Grand Master of Masons in Texas (1991)**

Banquet Tickets are available for only \$50 each.  
Red Cross of Constantine Members and their ladies are invited.  
Send reservations and checks (prior to March 31, 2016) to:

**Kirby G. Rudisill**  
1004 Tanglewood Ln  
Arlington, TX 76012-4453

## ***MEXICO CITY CONCLAVE***

The City of Mexico Conclave held its Annual Assembly on 23 January 2016 in facilities of the York Grand Lodge of Mexico in Mexico City. The 2016 officers were elected, and installed by KC Denny Strole, the Illustrious Intendant General Divisions of Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador.



L – R: KC Armando Torres, Senior General; KC Ricardo Ruiz, Sovereign; KC Oscar Castillo, Viceroy; and, KC Omar Martinez, Recorder.

## ***THE DIVISION OF TENNESSEE***

On 9 January 2016 in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, the Division of Tennessee installed new Knights Companions from throughout the State. Because of the numbers of KCs, the names are not provided; however, the Director of the Installation, KC Richard Van Tassell, the Illustrious Intendant General, Division of Tennessee, is in the front row, center!



---

## ***DIVISION OF TENNESSEE***

The Installation of the new KCs took place under the watchful eyes of several Puissant Sovereigns of the Division. Conclave leadership starts at the top!



L-R: Grand Senior General, KC Joseph C. Harrison; KC Douglas M. Skeens, St. Julian Conclave; KC Ralph E. Baggett, Old Hickory; KC Alvin Y. Bell, St. Gregory Conclave; KC Curtis M. Helms, St. Stephens Conclave; and, KC Robert S. Finley, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign.

**FOUR NEW ENGLAND CONCLAVES JOIN TO HONOR  
THE GRAND SOVEREIGN AND CONFER DEGREES**

On Saturday, 6 February 2016, the Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, KC Robert S. Finley and his wife, Kay, made a fraternal visit to St. Matthews Conclave in Massachusetts where Knight Companions from four area conclaves joined together to honor the Grand Sovereign: Baystate of Lowell, MA; St. Andrews of Hartford, Connecticut; St Matthews of Springfield, MA; and, Plantations of Rhode Island (who chartered a bus to travel to event with their wives).

On Friday, 5 February, 16 Knight Companions and their ladies enjoyed a great dinner at Johnnies' Tavern in South Hadley, MA, hosting the Grand Sovereign and his lady and welcoming them to the area.

At 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, St. Matthews Conclave was opened, and following a short business meeting, the conferral of degrees commenced. The cast comprised of KCs from Baystate and St. Matthew's Conclaves conferred the Red Cross of Constantine degree on seven new members, two from Baystate Conclave, four from St. Matthews Conclave and one from Plantations Conclave. The "work" was really well done, and the Grand Sovereign personally welcomed each new Knight Companion to the Order.

The Grand Sovereign was then officially received by an "honor guard" consisting of KC Richard Travis, Most Illustrious Intendent General for Connecticut; KC Arthur Chapman, Most Illustrious Intendant General for Rhode Island; KC John McNaughton, Most Illustrious Intendant General-at-Large; KC Paul Roston, Past Intendant General Division of Massachusetts; the Grand Sovereign's personal escort was the Most Illustrious Intendant General Division of Massachusetts, KC Robert A. Goewey. At the conclusion of the installation, St. Matthew's closed the Conclave .

The day's events concluded with a delicious dinner of roasted prime rib and baked scrod for 100 Knight Companions and their ladies.

The Grand Sovereign stated that "In the 30 years I have been involved, this is one of the first times I've seen Conclaves assemble together to honor a Grand Sovereign, and I am honored to be the recipient".



A

Above L – R: KCs Archibald Campbell, Roy Leone, Russell Lorenson, Robert Goewey, IG of Mass., Michael Dodge, Geoffrey Kromer, Kenneth Pfeiffer, and Wayne Vinton.



Photo on left, L – R: KC Raymond Hassell, GM of RI; KC Robert S. Finley, MWGS; KC Arthur Chapman, Most Illustrious Intendant General Division of RI; KC Leon Knudson, Sovereign Plantations Conclave





**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**

**Robert S. Finley, KGC.....Grand Sovereign**

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

**Dennis S. Strole.....Editor**