



# *The Byzantium*



*United Grand Imperial Council Red Cross of Constantine*

Volume XXIII

February 2017

Issue 2

***THE GRAND SOVEREIGN***



***R. STEPHEN DOAN and LADY DONNA***

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

The strength of Freemasonry is its universality. We accept adult men seeking light who are of good repute and believe in a Supreme Being and Future Existence, regardless of any applicant's particular sectarian views. Yet, we Christian Masons have a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of this progressive moral science through Masonic knighthood, as Chevalier Andrew Ramsey suggested in his oration almost three hundred years ago. Masonic Christian knighthood inspires us to practice those noble qualities of courtesy, courage, honor and readiness to help the weak and defend truth, the hallmarks of knightly Christian chivalry, which in turn help us fulfill our Masonic commitment to brotherly love, relief and truth. We also learn from Masonic Christian knighthood that our Masonic legends foreshadow the death and resurrection of our Savior, fortifying our own hope to reunite with Him at death.

To these valuable lessons, the contemplative Christian Knight can add a third and even more profound insight. Craft Masonry teaches us that Geometry is the first and noblest of sciences, and therefore the superstructure on which Freemasonry has been erected, because it reveals to us the harmony in the universe which can only come from God who is the Great Geometrician. Constantinian Christian knighthood teaches us that the true word of Freemasonry is revealed in the opening of John's Gospel: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. This cryptic introduction describing the true nature of God refers to the Greek concept of the *Logos*, that creative force which Pythagoras described as the Harmony or Music of the Spheres. It is the *Logos* incarnate in Jesus which harmonizes all things. The *Logos* is the Divine Truth symbolized by Geometry.

How can this insight on the equivalency of the *Logos* and Geometry make us better Masons? Constantinian Christian knighthood challenges us to become agents of the *Logos*, and Jesus has told us how. We should love God with all of our heart, mind and soul and our neighbors as ourselves. We can become true Masonic geometricians by following our Savior's commandment: love one another, a love not limited to those who love us but to those who do not know us, those at the lowest spoke of life's wheel, even the unlovable. Love one another.

Yours in Faith, Unity and Zeal,

R. Stephen Doan, KGC

Grand Sovereign

CONSTANTINE



# ***IN MEMORIAL***



**United Grand Imperial Council  
Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders**

**United States of America, Mexico and The Philippines**

**R. Stephen Doan, KGC – Grand Sovereign 2016-2017  
6411 Seabryn Dr, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-4755**

January 11, 2017

To: Grand Officers  
Past Grand Sovereigns  
Intendants General  
Recorders

Knights Companions:

I regret to advise that our Past Grand Sovereign, Knight Companion Ned E. Dull, KGC and Right Illustrious Grand Recorder Emeritus Ad Vitam, died this morning, following a stroke last Thursday.

A native of Ohio City, Ohio, Ned was a lumber dealer in Van Wert during his business career. He attended the public schools of Ohio City, as well as The Ohio State University and The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He was a member of the First Methodist Church of Van Wert, and his civic activities included membership in the Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Corporation, Rotary Club, Elks, American Legion, V.F.W., and the Ohio and National Retail Lumber Dealers Association. Ned and his late wife, Margaret, had had four daughters. Ned was ninety-three years old at his passing.

Ned served as Sovereign of Holy Grail Conclave in Dayton, Ohio in 1979. He was installed as Grand Sovereign in 1987 and served from 1992 until 2009 as our Grand Recorder. He was Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Ohio in 1968 and Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America from 1982 to 1985. In the Scottish Rite, Ned was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Honorary 33°, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, in 1970.

The calling hours will be on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at the Cowan & Sons Funeral Home, 616 So. Washington Street, Van Wert, Ohio, from 2:00 pm. until 7:00 p.m. with Masonic Services at 7:00 p.m.

Ned was a great friend and Mason. His impact on the lives of those around him has been immeasurable. We will miss him very much.

Yours in Faith, Unity and Zeal,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Stephen Doan'.

R. Stephen Doan, KGC  
Grand Sovereign

***EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was submitted by the Reverend Doctor and KC Frank G. Ciampa of the Tucson Conclave in reply to the article "Who was Eusebius?" on pages 14 and 15 of the October 2016 issue of The Byzantium. Together, both give a great insight into Eusebius.***

## Who Was Eusebius?

KC John L. Cooper, Ill, Grand High Prelate, wrote an insightful article in the October 2016 issue of *The Byzantium*. I agree that the Eusebius in our ritual is Eusebius of Nicomedia (even if some liberties have been taken with the facts).

Eusebius was a friend of the more famous Eusebius of Caesarea (the great historian) and both were what many would call "Semi-Arians." Also, as John pointed out, Eusebius of Nicomedia had a close relationship with the Emperor Constantine; particularly in Constantine's last couple of years (earlier it was more of a rocky off and on relationship). Note: Two years later Eusebius was appointed to the Bishopric of Constantinople - at that time an honor greater than Pope of Rome.

It is interesting to note that what was to become the Nicene Creed was built on the baptismal creed used by the Semi-Arian Eusebius of Caesarea and endorsed by our Eusebius. The Council slightly modified it to support the "co-equal" Trinitarian formula and both Eusebiuses grudgingly accepted the wording, but not the meaning (initially). The first draft was vague enough to accommodate both sides, although it obviously favored what we call traditional Trinitarianism (those who believe Jesus is of the same substance with God the Father and is co equal with the Father). The Nicene Creed as we know it wasn't finalized until decades later (and I believe the Holy Spirit section was further modified later). The next couple of Church Councils reversed course and affirmed a more Semi-Arian view of the Trinity with new creeds, but these Councils were later struck from the records as if they never happened.

For various reasons, there were many at that time who needed a Jesus who was fully God, while others adhered to the doctrine that God the Father is the only God and noted that even Jesus directed us to God the Father and showed a subordinate relationship both during and after His early pilgrimage. They believed as written in a few places in Scripture that we acknowledge and worship one God, and one Lord (e.g., 1 Cor 8:6, "there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things and we exist through Him." NASU). These Semi-Arians (whose belief was called *Eusebiusism* by some Nicene Trinitarians) differed among themselves in details, but were content with leaving certain details about Christ a mystery. In *Eusebiusism* Jesus was divine, He was the Son of God, He was Lord, He was "begotten" before creation, but not co-equal with the Father and some believed not of the "same" substance as the Father, but from a "similar" divine substance. Jesus was neither a super angel nor a demi-god. He was the one and only, mysterious in details, Son of God. Although details are sketchy, it appears our Eusebius started as a Semi-Arian and at least on the surface accepted Nicene Trinitarianism for a while and then returned to a Semi-Arian view in his later years.

Although many would disagree with me, I believe one can be a Trinitarian Christian and hold the “God is One” view (aka Semi-Arianism or *Eusebiusism* ), because God interacts with creation in a Trinitarian form - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The main difference is that in Nicene Trinitarianism Jesus MUST be fully God and co-equal in power and majesty to God the Father; among other things, they believed only such a being could atone for the sins of the world. Those who follow a more *Eusebiusism* view did not see that as necessary or as biblical.

While the Semi-Arians were eventually defeated and outlawed in the Roman Empire, they did survive in some areas as a loosely organized religion until the 8th century. In fact, it was German Semi-Arians who brought down the Western Roman Empire. Given new discoveries in Biblical archeology, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, there would be much more to discuss if the Nicene Council were held today.

In short, the question wasn't so much was Christ divine or not. It wasn't so much a question of whether our faith is a Trinitarian faith. It wasn't a question of whether Jesus is our Lord and Savior - or not. It was more about the details of Christ's divinity; was Jesus fully God, co equal with the Father or is His nature something else - perhaps unknowable? And does taking one side or the other make you a heretic?

For further study, see *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God* by RPC Hanson and *When Jesus Became God: The Struggle to Define Christianity During the Last Days of Rome* by Richard Rubenstein.



## EDITOR WANTED

The current Editor of *The Byzantium*, KC Denny Strole, will retire after the February 2017 issue of the newsletter. The UGIC is looking for a new Editor. All interested KCs are asked to contact the Grand Sovereign. Please direct any questions to the current Editor or the Grand Sovereign.



***St. Gabriel Conclave***

New KC Ferreria installed on 10 November 2016 at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles, California.



L – R: New KC David M. Ferreria; KC Stephen Doan, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign; KC Mark Gibson, Puissant Sovereign; and KC David Kussman, Illustrious Intendant General

***INLAND EMPIRE CONCLAVE***

The installation of Conclave officers for 2017 occurred at the Annual Assembly held on 3 December 2016 at the Riverside, California Masonic Hall.



*Editor's Note: Please see the Grand Sovereign's memorial letter regarding KC Ned Dull, page 3.*

**GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS  
TEMPLAR OF OHIO**



KC Ned E. Dull, Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign and Past Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, is shown (seated) at the 174<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Ohio held on 7 – 8 October 2016 in Columbus, Ohio. Behind Ned are L to R: KC Richard L. Weaver, Illustrious Intendant General, Division of Ohio Eastern; KC Burch E. Zehner, Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign; and KC Steven A. Duncan, Illustrious Intendant General, Division of Ohio Western.



# 145th UGIC ANNUAL ASSEMBLY and SOUTHWEST REGIONAL

## Pasadena, California

June 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

PASADENA MASONIC HALL & HILTON HOTEL PASADENA

The Knights Companions of California anxiously await your participation in the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly in Pasadena, California, the home of the Rose Parade, Rose Bowl and much, much more. Assembly sessions and meals will be offered at Pasadena Masonic Hall, a beautifully maintained, monumental two-story structure completed in 1927 in the style of Beaux-Arts Classicism. Dinners will be catered by Michael Shafer, owner and chef of The Depot in Torrance, a leading restaurant in the South Bay area of Los Angeles.

Friday morning will be the Southwest Regional Assembly. This Masonic Hall venue will permit the conferral of the Constantinian orders and degrees in a safe, secure and beautiful Masonic setting. All business of the Annual Assembly will be conducted in the Masonic Hall on Saturday.

Pasadena Masonic Hall



On Friday and Saturday afternoons, visits will be offered to the nearby Norton Simon Museum of Art and The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, each a major arts institution in Los Angeles. Transportation to these locations will be provided.



Huntington Celebration Garden – Huntington Library



Norton Simon Museum



## Hilton Hotel Pasadena



Rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Hotel Pasadena. Located at 168 South Los Robles Avenue, the Hilton is 240 steps from Pasadena Masonic Hall. Extensive shopping is available within walking distance of the hotel.

On Thursday evening, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Saint Gabriel Conclave will hold its Regular Assembly at the historic Jonathan Club in nearby downtown Los Angeles. The Jonathan Club is a private social club founded in 1895 where Saint Gabriel Conclave has met since the conclave was formed. Saint Gabriel's meetings are black tie and held at the festive board.

The Puissant Sovereign extends an invitation to all visiting Knights Companions to attend this assembly. Ladies will have the opportunity to dine that evening at redwhite+bluezz in the historic Pasadena Playhouse district. Seating will be limited at both venues, and there will be a supplemental charge for the meals at each. Submit your registration early to avoid disappointment!



Reagan Room at the Jonathan Club

The Hilton Hotel Pasadena is twenty minutes from Burbank Bob Hope Airport. The Super Shuttle charge to the hotel from Burbank Bob Hope Airport is typically \$16.00 per person each way (\$35.00 each way by taxi). Connecting air service is available to Burbank Bob Hope Airport from most major cities on Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, American Airlines and/or Delta. Alternatively, Los Angeles International Airport is the region's gateway to the world.



**UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE  
145<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND 2017 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**JUNE 8-10, 2017**

**LODGING AT HILTON HOTEL PASADENA  
168 SOUTH LOS ROBLES AVENUE  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101  
(626) 577-1000**

**Hilton Reservations: (800) 445-8667**

**\$159 + tax per night for single or double occupancy room (3 night minimum stay). Use ID# REDCC.**

**\$189 + tax per night for single or double occupancy room (1 or 2 night stay). Use ID# TRCCSB.**

**Limited number of rooms available at these rates! Book early!**

**HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 30, 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lady if attending \_\_\_\_\_  
First and Last First and Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Location of Conclave \_\_\_\_\_

Conclave Office \_\_\_\_\_ National Office \_\_\_\_\_

National Office in Other Masonic Bodies \_\_\_\_\_

Have you made your lodging reservation with the Hilton Hotel Pasadena? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If flying: Airport \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ I (we) will depart on \_\_\_\_\_  
(date and time) (date and time)

**REGISTRATION FEE OF \$175.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES SOUTHWEST REGIONAL, FRIDAY LUNCH AND TOUR, FRIDAY DINNER, SATURDAY LUNCH AND TOUR AND SATURDAY BANQUET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$175 EACH \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**INTENDANTS GENERAL MAY ATTEND WITHOUT PAYING THE REGISTRATION FEE BUT MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM EVEN IF NO MONIES ARE DUE**

Select items that you will attend:

Knight Comp	Lady	
		Optional: St. Gabriel Dinner at Jonathan Club (K.C.'s only) (extra charge of \$75)
		Optional: Dinner at redwhite+bluezz restaurant (Ladies only) (extra charge of \$25)
		Friday men's and ladies' lunch
		Friday tour of Norton Simon Museum or Huntington Library (circle choice)
		Friday dinner
		Saturday men's and ladies' lunch
		Saturday tour of Norton Simon Museum or Huntington Library (circle choice)
		Saturday banquet

Check for the registration fee(s) and optional Thursday dinner(s) (if selected) should be made payable to St. Gabriel Conclave.

Mail check and this registration form to:  
Brian P. Bezner BPBezner@gmail.com  
6124 Queenridge Drive  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 (310) 849-7733

**This completed form and your check must be received by April 30, 2017.  
NO REFUNDS AFTER April 30, 2017.**

***SAINT GEORGE CONCLAVE No. 70***

***Port Glasgow, Scotland***

The new Intendant General, V Ill Kt Ken Blackie (front row, third from left) visits the Conclave on 15 November 2016. The Assembly met in Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire. One candidate (Kt Robert Love, standing behind the Intendant General) was installed at that Assembly.



The Byzantium editor regularly receives inputs from the Saint George Conclave, thanks to KC Grant Macleod, a Past Sovereign of the Conclave.



## *The Logos and Geometry*

By  
KC R. Stephen Doan, KGC, Grand Sovereign

The great Gothic structures built by our operative Masonic forbearers continually fascinate me, particularly the worship spaces. I can still remember as a young man how in awe I was approaching and being inside Cologne Cathedral. I understand counter-balancing forces. The downward weight of the building is divided evenly and each half diverted diagonally by the archways in a colonnade. Thus, the weight diverted by each arch is counter-balanced by an equal amount of weight diverted diagonally by the adjoining arches. Multiple points of opposing forces balance one another to make a harmonious whole, keeping the structure from collapsing under its own weight. While I understand intellectually how it works, that it works still has an element of mystery that resonates deep within me.

Because of our training as Masons, we can see these structures as a symbol with a deeper significance to our faith as well as our obligations as Freemasons. Each stone in that building is like one of us, and our faith and fraternity help us understand how that symbol informs the expectations which each of us should have for himself.

As we are reminded every time we witness the conferral of our Red Cross Order of St. John the Evangelist, “In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Several verses later, we read that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The Word is an imperfect translation of the Greek word *Logos*. The concept of the *Logos* can be traced back to the teachings of Pythagoras in his school of philosophy. Pythagoras observed the harmony or music of the spheres: all things in the celestial world move in harmony, a kind of equilibrium. If something disturbs it, a new harmony or equilibrium emerges. Hellenistic thought during Jesus’s time saw this *Logos* as something which emanated from the Creator to bring His imperfect and sometimes chaotic creation back into harmony or equilibrium with Himself. The Hellenistic Jews saw the law and the prophets as the messengers of the *Logos*. Early Christians took this concept one step further: Jesus was not just a messenger of the *Logos* but also its incarnation, proving that possession of God’s *Logos* is not inconsistent with the human condition, thereby challenging each one of us to be instruments of the *Logos* or harmony of the Divine.

Freemasonry brings a comparable lesson but expressed with different symbolism. We learn in the Fellow Craft Degree lecture that Geometry is the first and noblest of sciences, that it helps us trace nature to her most concealed recesses, that it explains how the planets move in their orbits and that through it we may discover the power, wisdom and goodness of the Great Architect of the Universe. Geometry measures the movement of the planets in harmony and therefore becomes the symbol of that harmony and of the Great Architect from which that harmony emanates. Geometry is therefore the symbol for the Great Architect and all that the Great Architect does. It challenges us to fit ourselves as living stones in the superstructure of society, cemented together by brotherly love, bringing to our relations with others the harmony which Geometry measures and therefore symbolizes.

Our faith and fraternity both challenge us to divert our own will to work in harmony with others for the common good.

## *2016 Eastern Regional Assembly Summary*

Approximately 200 Knights Companions and 55 Ladies attended the Eastern Regional Assembly at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, Pennsylvania on November 4-6, 2016. A total of thirty-six conclaves from 14 different states, the District of Columbia, and Canada were represented. Nine different states, as well as the District of Columbia (1), had all of their conclaves represented – Connecticut (1), Delaware (1), Massachusetts (2), Maryland (1), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (2), New York (7), Pennsylvania (12) and Rhode Island (1) for a total of 29 conclaves. The other 5 states had 6 different conclaves represented – California (1), Michigan (1), Ohio (1), Tennessee (1), and Vermont (2) – in addition to Canada (1).

Ritualistic work included conferring of the Senate of Sovereigns degree for 28 Knights Companions, College of Viceroys degree for 24 Knights Companions, the Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine & Appendant Orders for 23 Knights Companions, and Appendant Orders only for 17 Knights Companions.

Dignitaries introduced to KC R. Stephen Doan, KGC, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, and the Assembly included the following:

- **CONCORDINATE BODIES** - KC Robert A. Sutherland, Grand Governor, New Hampshire, YRSC; KC William Karstens, MEGHP and MIGM, Vermont; KC Wayne C. Faupel, MEGHP, Grand Holy RAC of Pennsylvania; KC Kerry J. Cashman, Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council R.& S.M.M. of Pennsylvania; KC Ray K. Sheaffer, V.E. Deputy Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania; and KC Kenneth S. Wyville, Jr., Grand Master of Masons in Maryland;
- **SUPREME COUNCIL NORTHERN MASONIC JURISDICTION** - ILL.: James R. Spencer, 33° Active Emeritus, CT; ILL.: Donald G. Hicks, Jr., 33°, Active Emeritus, MA; ILL.: Richard V. Travis, 33°, Active Emeritus, CT; ILL.: Kevin J. Hecht, 33°, Active, CT; ILL.: Steven E. Smith, 33°, Active, RI; ILL.: Stephen R. Whittaker, 33°, Active, NY; ILL.: Bruce Work, 33°, Active, CT; and ILL.: Robert J. Bateman, 33°, Active, PA;

- **INTENDANTS GENERAL** - KC Charles C. Mendell, NY Eastern; KC David Dixon Goodwin, NY Western; KC Arthur F. Chapman, RI; KC Dean S. Clatterbuck, DC; KC Gordon A. Davids, MD; KC Donald R. Denning, Jr., MA; KC Kevin J. Hecht, CT; KC Dennis A. Sheridan, NH; KC John A. Habel, Jr., PA Western; KC Henry L. Leshner, PA Central; KC Thomas F. Miller, PA Eastern; and David H. Laucius, DE, also GHP, DE; KC Belford A. Belles, VT;
- **PAST INTENDANTS GENERAL** - KC James A. Pletz, DE; KC Freeman Z. Frey, III, PA Central; KC Richard A. Balas, KCC, PA Western; KC Marvin G. Speicher, KCC, PA Eastern; KC Richard V. Travis, KCC, CT; and KC Robert S. Finley, KGC, NY;
- **GRAND IMPERIAL CONCLAVE OF CANADA** - Most Illustrious T. Roy Binns, GCC, Past Grand Sovereign; Most Illustrious Eric L. Shaw, GCC, Honorary Past Grand Sovereign and Recorder; and Most Illustrious Thomas A. Mortlock, GCC, Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Conclave of Canada;
- **UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL** – KC Robert S. Finley, KGC, PGS; KC Burch E. Zehner, KGC, PGS; The Reverend and KC William D. Hartman, Illustrious Grand Chaplain; KC David D. Goodwin, Grand Marshal; KC Richard V. Travis, KCC, Grand Trustee; KC James E. Winzenreid, Grand Junior General also Provincial Grand Master, Royal Order of Scotland; and KC Joseph C. Harrison, Jr., Grand Viceroy and SGIG for Tennessee; and
- **RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA** –KC S. Eugene Herritt, R. W. Deputy Grand Master; KC Thomas Gamon, IV, R.W. Senior Grand Warden; KC Mark A. Haines, R. W. Grand Secretary; K.C. Jay W. Smith, R. W. Past Grand Master; KC Robert J. Bateman, R. W. Past Grand Master; and KC Marvin G. Speicher, KCC, R.W. Past Grand Treasurer.

The Reverend and KC William D. Hartman, Illustrious Grand Chaplain, conducted the annual Necrology Service for the 38 departed Knights Companions from 18 different Conclaves throughout the Northeast Region.

One hundred and seventy-seven Companions Knights and Ladies attended the Saturday night banquet with entertainment.





KC R. Stephen Doan, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, shown with KC Gordon A. Davids, Illustrious Intendant General for Maryland, at the Grand Sovereign's right, along with some New York KCs and their ladies at the Friday night dinner held as part of the Eastern Regional Assembly, 4 – 5 November, in Grantville, Pennsylvania.

Eastern Regional - Canadian Visitors: In the foreground, L to R, Eric L. Shaw, G.C.C., Most Illustrious Grand Recorder; Thomas A. Mortlock, G.C.C., Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign; and T. Roy Binns G.C.C., Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign.



## *The First First Lady*

*By K.C. Arthur H. Weiss, Grand Orator*

Mark Twain once wrote, “behind every successful man, there is a woman.” The kind and magnitude of the contribution or support is different in every case, yet those who achieve great things usually acknowledge this observation positively. The wife of the President of the United States is known as the First Lady. The wife of a Grand Master of Masons can be referred to as the First Lady of Masonry in his jurisdiction. Even in our own Order, our Ladies are honored and respected for what they do to support our endeavors, led by the wife of our Grand Sovereign.

Our founder, the great Constantine, was no different in his acknowledgement of the important supportive role played by his wife and, to a much greater extent, his mother. She was to play a vital role in demonstrating to the people the understanding and practice of the new faith he had embraced, and that was first revealed to him by a burning cross in the sky.

Flavia Julia Helena Augusta, as she was ultimately named, was born in 250 CE in Drepanum, in Bithynia, Asia Minor. A commoner, she worked as a bar maid until she met Flavius Constantius, a soldier and rising star in the west. Helena became his consort and bore him a son, Constantine, in 272. Rising to the rank of Caesar, Constantius was ordered by the emperor Diocletian to marry Caesar Maximianus’ daughter Theodora, which he did by divorcing Helena in 293. Constantine was shipped off to be part of the emperor’s court. Helena then disappeared from the world stage for several years, reportedly going to live in Trier.

After Constantine ascends to power in the west and his many victories, Helena reappears and resumes public life with the title “Most Noble Lady.” Once Constantine assumes total control of the empire, he names her, and his second wife, Fausta, as Augusta, in essence First Ladies. But less than two years later, an internal family crisis resulted in the executions of Constantine’s oldest son and his wife. Though the reasons for this drastic action may never be known, it firmly set Helena in the position of First Lady of the empire.

Whether she was converted to the new Christian religion by her son, or whether she influenced his move to the new faith, Helena energetically embraced the teachings of the Christ. During her time in public life, she became known for her many works of service. As the First Lady of the empire, it became her cause. Eusebius of Caesarea, Constantine’s biographer, described her deeds this way:

“Especially abundant were the gifts she bestowed on the naked and unprotected poor. To some she gave money, to others an ample supply of clothing; she liberated some from imprisonment, or from the bitter servitude of the mines; others she delivered from unjust oppression, and others again, she restored from exile. While, however, her character derived luster from such deeds . . . , she was far from neglecting personal piety toward God. She might be seen continually frequenting His Church, while at the same time she adorned the houses of prayer with splendid offerings, not overlooking the churches of the smallest cities. In short, this admirable woman was to be seen, in simple and modest attire, mingling with the crowd of worshipers, and testifying her devotion to God by a uniform course of pious conduct.”<sup>1</sup>

In 326, with Constantine's concurrence, Helena undertook a two-year quest to the Holy Land to visit the sites of the key events in the life of Jesus and possibly uncover sacred relics. Like Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Helena visited the places where Jesus lived, preached and died. The finding of the True Cross was certainly the high point of her mission, although no record of it was made by Eusebius. The story of the destruction of the temple of Venus, the excavation beneath, the discovery of three crosses, and the validation of the True Cross remains a well known legend. Yet, the many churches she directed be built at the nativity site in Bethlehem, the ascension site on the Mount of Olives, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at the crucifixion and burial site, are real and lasting testimony to her piety. All in all she had more than 80 churches constructed.

Helena died in 330, shortly after her return from the Holy Land at the age of 80. She was placed in a hand carved sarcophagus created for Constantine himself. The sarcophagus is currently on display in the Pio-Clementino Museum in the Vatican. She was canonized a Saint by the Roman Catholic Church and her feast day is August 18.

As the First Lady of the Empire, Helena had the wealth and power to be a clear force for good in a time of transition and uncertainty. She chose to do so. She clearly demonstrated the attributes that we Knights Companions strive to achieve every day. She had faith in her Lord and Savior and her new religion. She was united with her constituents in service to God. And, she approached this new life with energy and zeal. She believed that we all have a unique task assigned to us, whether hard or easy, public or private, and we must search for the truth to understand the task we are given.

Constantine was a great leader. He influenced the course of history for a millennium. But without the love, encouragement, and proactive support of Helena, the world's first Christian empire might not have taken hold. Behind this great man was most certainly a great woman - Augusta Helena, the first Christian First Lady.

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1. Fr William Saunders, "St Helena and the True Cross," *Arlington Catholic Herald*, 2005
  2. Robert Thorvat, "St Helena: Empress and Beloved Mother of Constantine I," *History of the Byzantine Empire*, 7 April 2014
  3. A. R. Briley, "St Helena, Discoverer of the True Cross," [www.brown.edu](http://www.brown.edu)
  4. Jay King, "Helena – the Tavern Girl Who Became an Empress and a Saint," [jaysromanhistory.com](http://jaysromanhistory.com), 2005
  5. "Helena of Constantinople," *New World Encyclopedia*, 13 February 2014
  6. "Helena (Empress)," *Wikipedia*



# *IN MEMORIAL*



**United Grand Imperial Council**  
**Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders**  
**United States of America, Mexico and The Philippines**

R. Stephen Doan, KGC – Grand Sovereign 2016-2017 6411  
Seabryn Dr, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-4755

January 30, 2017

To: Grand Officers  
Past Grand Sovereigns  
Intendants General

Knights Companions:

I regret to advise that our Illustrious Grand Sentinel Harvey C. Lowry died on January 29<sup>th</sup> following a lengthy illness.

Knight Companion Lowry was born on August 11, 1938 in Covington, Kentucky. He was trained as an electrician and was later an electrical construction manager. He was married on August 22, 1958 to Janice Irene Boese and is survived by his wife and children, Kathleen, Elizabeth Witham, and David (Kim). He is also survived by seven grandchildren, his brother, sister-in-law and innumerable Masonic friends.

He was raised a Master Mason in E.T. Carson Lodge No. 598 in Cincinnati on December 19, 1959 and was its Master in 1970. At his passing he was a member of Kilwinning Lodge No. 356 where he had served as Master in 2006. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the First Masonic District in 1977, 1978 and 1979 and served the Grand Lodge of Ohio as a member and chairman of the Credentials Committee for many years. He served as Puissant Sovereign of St. Columba Conclave and was Intendant General for Ohio West. He served the Valley of Cincinnati as Commander-in-Chief from 1988-1990 and was a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, NMJ.

Visitation will take place at the Spring Grove Funeral Home, 4389 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, 45223 on Thursday, February 1, 2017 from 5-9 p.m. with Masonic and Scottish Rite services at 8:30 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the Norman Chapel at Spring Grove Cemetery, 4521 Spring Grove Avenue in Cincinnati on Friday, February 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Children's Dyslexia Center of Cincinnati, 317 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, OH, 45202.

Yours in Faith, Unity and Zeal,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Stephen Doan', is written in black ink.

R. Stephen Doan, KGC  
Grand Sovereign

## ***SAINT HONORE CONCLAVE***

***Jacksonville, Florida***

The new 2017 Conclave Officers were installed at the Deerwood Country Club in Jacksonville on 14 January 2017.



From L to R: KC P. Elliott, KYCH, 33<sup>o</sup>, newly installed Puissant Sovereign; KC Robert G. Kirkpatrick, MEPGHP, Grand Chapter R.A.M. of Florida, Illustrious Intendant General, Division of Florida, Installing Marshal; KC Emmett W. Mills, Jr., REPGC, Grand Commandery, K.T. of Michigan, 33<sup>o</sup>, Installing Prelate; and KC Erwin W. O'Dell, REPGC, Grand Commandery K. T. of Michigan, 33<sup>o</sup>, Past Deputy for Michigan; and Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign, Installing Officer.



Pictured L to R: KC Thomas Olsen, Sentinel; KC Corey Kosciuszko, Herald; KC Patrick Farell, Standard Bearer; KC Charles R. Cooper, Prefect; KC Brian R. Poole, Prelate; KC Robert G. Kirkpatrick, Illustrious Intendant General, Division of Florida, Installing Marshal; KC Harold E. Hunter, Jr, Recorder; KC M. Daniel Fullwood, Junior General; KC Steven M. Barnett, Senior General; KC H. Wiley Hart, Viceroy; and, KC Corbin P. Elliott, Puissant Sovereign.

## *Doors to the Sacred*

*By KC John L. Cooper III, Grand High Prelate*

Freemasonry uses both symbol and myth in its rituals to convey important teachings, and so it is no surprise that the orders of the Red Cross of Constantine should also use symbol and myth to convey important teachings. An obscure metallurgist in the Old Testament, Hiram Abiff, is transformed in Freemasonry into the architect of King Solomon's Temple. No Mason supposes that this story is true, because it is obviously an allegorical tale to carry the teaching of the Master Mason Degree. But when it comes to our Constantinian orders, it is easy to forget that these stories, too, are allegorical tales intended to carry important teachings through symbol and myth.

Because Freemasonry is not a religion, nor a substitute for religion, students of Freemasonry often fail to see the similarities between how Freemasonry uses its symbols and myths, and how religions do the same. And yet much can be learned by looking at how religions in general, and Christianity in particular, use symbols and stories to carry an important teaching. Christians are familiar with this idea when it comes to the parables of Jesus. No one supposes that there ever was an individual who acted out the story of the Good Samaritan. The story, as told by Jesus, is not intended as history, but rather as a form of moral instruction. The "heretic" exhibited a compassion that the "religiously orthodox" of the day did not.

The great 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian, Rudolph Bultmann wrote this:

The real purpose of myth is not to present an objective picture of the world as it is, but to express man's understanding of himself in the world in which he lives. Myth should not be interpreted cosmologically, but anthropologically, or better still, existentially. Myth speaks of the power or the powers which man supposes he experiences as the ground and limit of his world and of his own activity and suffering. He describes these powers in terms derived from the visible world, with its tangible objects and forces, and from human life, with its feelings, motives, and potentialities.

In classical Christianity, Sacraments perform some of the same functions as myth. The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church of the United States has this definition of "Sacrament" in its Catechism:

The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

In his 1982 book on the function of the sacraments, Doors to the Sacred, author Joseph Martos says:

..... what is sacred and mysterious does not have to be supernatural or divine, even though it might be. What the sacrament symbolizes is always sacred in the sense that it is precious or important, and it is always mysterious in the sense that it is not fully understood.

I would suggest that the function of myth and symbol in Freemasonry is to serve as a door to the sacred – not in a religious sense – but in a philosophical sense. That is particularly the case for Christian Freemasons in our Constantinian Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. At the heart of the order is the idea that we are

pledged to keep sacred that which we discover in a most unlikely place – eternal life is discovered in a place of the dead – a tomb.

On the surface, the story line of the order is a simple one. The knights must guard the tomb of Christ for the time in which His body lay in it. Then comes the startling discovery that the tomb is empty, and the concomitant proclamation, “He is Risen!” But beneath the story line there is a deeper meaning. The story is in reality a Door to the Sacred. The knight who discovers the empty tomb has not failed in his responsibility to guard it, any more than we fail when we try to “protect” that which we hold sacred from the powers of the world around us. God is greater than any human purpose, and our failure may be the only means of letting His purpose be seen by the world.

The last stanza of the poem, “Night,” by Henry Vaughan speaks to this:

There is in God, some say,  
A deep but dazzling darkness, as men here  
Say it is late and dusky, because they  
See not all clear.  
O for that night! where I in Him  
Might live invisible and dim!

The myths and symbols of Freemasonry are intended to bring us into a place where we see the issues of life more clearly. In the Christian orders of Freemasonry we use stories from our religious tradition to add to the stock of myths and symbols, and these stories, embodied in our ritual, become “Doors to the Sacred,” not in the religious sense of the sacraments, but in a way, as Martos says, that “is always sacred in the sense that it is precious or important, and it is always mysterious in the sense that it is not fully understood.” In this way the ritual opens up for us a new understanding that we would not otherwise have, of God’s power in this world. And our prayer might also be that of Henry Vaughan, “O for that night! Where I in Him, Might live invisible and dim!”



## CONSTANTINIAN MASONRY IN ITALY

In response to our encouragement, representatives of Saxa Rubra and Maxima Paerfectio Conclaves met on May 13, 2016 in Rimini, Italy and agreed to pursue a request to form their own Imperial Council. At that same meeting, a request was also made for dispensations to form two additional conclaves in Italy: Rhegium Julii Conclave in Reggio Calabria and Tuscania Conclave in Florence.

In response to these requests, the United Grand Imperial Council granted an extension of time for the Italian Knights Companions to continue to move toward autonomy. In addition, the requests for dispensations to open two new Italian conclaves were granted. Rhegium Julii and Tuscania Conclaves were opened on November 12, 2016 in ceremonies held in Naples, at which twenty Italian Royal Arch Masons were installed as Knights Companions. As a result of these actions, Rhegium Julii Conclave was opened with eighteen Knights Companions and Tuscania with seventeen. Six Knights Companions were added to Saxa Rubra Conclave and three to Maxima Paerfectio Conclave at these ceremonies.

To continue this progress toward autonomy, the Grand Sovereign authorized the formation of the Provincial Grand Council of Italy on June 14, 2016. It is contemplated that the Provincial Grand Council of Italy will be an interim organization giving the Italian Knights Companions an opportunity to develop their own operating organization with a view to forming their own, sovereign Grand Imperial Council while remaining under the supervision of the UGIC during this process. Knight Companion Tiziano Busca was appointed as Provincial Grand Sovereign and Knight Companion Carlo de Rysky as Provincial Grand Recorder of the Provincial Grand Council of Italy. Knight Companion Busca is the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Italy of the RAM - American York Rite, and Knight Companion de Rysky is the Ambassador to Italy of the General Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter International of the American York Rite. Knight Companion Busca was also appointed as Intendant General for Italy.

During the November 12, 2016 ceremonies held in Naples, Provincial Grand Sovereign Busca remarked, “The Red Cross of Constantine in Italy is gaining momentum because of the tenacity, determination and love that the UGIC is giving to this effort. Without the help and encouragement that we are receiving, nothing could have been achieved, and we are very grateful and thankful.”



K.C. Tiziano  
Provincial Grand  
Sovereign



Some of the Knights Companions in attendance  
at the November 12, 2016 ceremonies in Naples



K.C. de Rysky  
Provincial Grand  
Recorder

Grand Sovereign Itinerary  
February to June 2017

- 8 - 12 February AMD Masonic Week, Crystal City, Virginia
- 19 - 21 February Conference of Grand Masters, Omaha, Nebraska
- 17 - 18 March Northwest Regional Assembly, Richland, Washington
- 8 April Visitation to Cross and Crown Conclave, Folsom, California
- 15 - 16 April Grand Encampment Easter Observance, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 6 May Visitation to St. Felix and St. Simon Conclaves, Aberdeen, South Dakota
- 22 May Grand Commandery Knights Templar of California, Bakersfield, California
- 8 June Regular Assembly of Saint Gabriel Conclave, Los Angeles, California
- 9 June Southwestern Regional Assembly, Pasadena, California
- 10 June 145<sup>th</sup> UGIC Annual Assembly, Pasadena, California



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**United Grand Imperial Council**

**R. Stephen Doan, KGC.....Grand Sovereign**

**Vacant.....Grand Recorder**

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