

VOLUME XXVI

• SPRING 2020

• ISSUE 2



THE BYZANTIUM

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL · RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE



BATTLE OF MILVIAN BRIDGE - VATICAN APOSTOLIC PALACE
ARTIST: GIULIO ROMANO - 1520 A.D.

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL

James E. Winzenreid, KGC
Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign

Douglas F. Hegyi
Most Eminent Grand Viceroy

D. Allen Surratt
Very Illustrious Grand Senior General

Marcos D. Ostrander
Very Illustrious Grand Junior General

Joe R. Manning, Jr., KGC
Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer

R. Stephen Doan, KGC
Right Illustrious Grand Recorder

Bryce B. Hildreth
Illustrious Grand Trustee (2020)

Charles L. Stuckey, KGC
Illustrious Grand Trustee (2021)

Brian R. Dodson
Illustrious Grand Trustee (2022)

Richard V. Travis, KCC
Illustrious Grand Chancellor

David D. Goodwin
Illustrious Grand Almoner

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS

Thomas F. Miller, KCC
Illustrious Grand Chamberlain

Vaughn F. Shafer
Illustrious Grand Orator

Henry L. Leshner, Sr.
Illustrious Grand Standard Bearer

Martin R. Trent
Illustrious Grand Marshal

John A. Habel, Jr.
Illustrious Grand Herald

William M. Kratzenberg
Illustrious Grand Sentinel

Rev. William D. Hartman
Illustrious Grand High Prelate

Rev. Ronald E. Wood, Jr., KGC
Illustrious Grand Chaplain

John A. Bridegroom
Byzantium Assistant Editor

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Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign James E. Winzenreid, KGC

As I was considering this message, I was reminded of many issues facing us today.

I concluded they are not much different than those faced by fifty young knights in 312 A.D. They were called Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine (Duncan, 1972, p. 8.). These Knights were selected because of proven valor and intelligence just as our members are selected for “high qualities of leadership, exemplified high moral and intellectual attributes and” ... “substantial service to the Craft, or the civic, industrial and religious life of their community.” (Constitution, 2018, p. 47).

From tradition, we learn that:

The Order of Red Cross was founded by Constantine the Great as a memorial of the Divine Miracle which brought about his conversion to the Christian faith and also as a reward for the valor of certain of his soldiers at the memorable battle fought at Saxa Rubra, October 28, 312 A.D. Tradition informs us that the Emperor assembled the Chiefs of his Christian Legion, and, in the presence of his other officers, constituted this Christian Order of Knighthood by creating them Knights of the Red Cross. A special bodyguard of Christian warriors was appointed by Constantine and placed under the command of Eusebius, bishop of Nocomedia, who was considered the Viceroy, or second in command. The Red Cross degree traditionally recites the circumstances attending the conversion of Constantine to the Christian faith and his alleged vision of the Cross in the heavens. (Duncan, 1972, p. 6)

After Constantine defeated the army of Maxentius, fifty knights of proven valor and intelligence were chosen to guard the Imperial Standard of the Roman Empire. They formed the earliest Military Order of Knighthood. During his reign, Constantine restored tranquility to Rome. He issued the Edict of Milan establishing religious tolerance throughout this part of the Roman Empire and abolished crucifixion, infanticide, private divination, licentious and cruel rites and gladiatorial games. He encouraged the emancipation of slaves. (Duncan, 1972, pp. 8-9). While this was a





different time, in some ways, the issues appear like those we face today.

Originally, the Military Order called Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine was conferred only on those that could prove their noble descent through four generations. (Duncan, 1972, p. 9). Today, membership is only by invitation from a Subordinate Conclave given to outstanding Master Masons who have shown high qualities of leadership, exemplified high moral and intellectual attributes and have contributed substantial service to the Craft, or the civic, industrial and religious life of their community. The Constantinian Order of Christian Knighthood may not be conferred “upon anyone who is not a Royal Arch Mason in good standing; nor can it be conferred upon anyone who does not subscribe to a belief in the Christian religion as revealed in the New Testament.” (Constitution, 2018, p. 22).

How does this apply to us in 2020? Quite simply, just as Constantine restored tranquility to Rome, so should we as Constantinian Knights

work to ensure tranquility in the communities in which we live, using the high qualities of leadership and high moral and intellectual attributes that made us worthy to be selected for the Red Cross of Constantine. As such, we should work to ensure tranquility through substantial service to the Craft, civic, industrial and religious life in the communities in which we live. Thus, we can contribute by the lives we lead just as Constantine did in 312 A.D., and ultimately assist in restoring tranquility one community at a time.

References:

Historical Sketch, Knights of the Red Cross of the Constantine and Appendant Orders for the USA, Mexico, Philippines, [United Grand Imperial Council Centennial Assembly, 1972, 2nd printing, May 2002], Herbert Ewing Duncan, Grand High Priest.

Constitution and Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine (2019).

148th Annual Assembly: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 25th, 2020

By James E. Winzenreid, KGC, Grand Sovereign

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the difficult decision to re-schedule the Annual Assembly scheduled for June 4-7, 2020 was made. The safety of the Knights Companions and Ladies is paramount and informs our decision.

The 2020 UGIC Annual Assembly will now be held on Tuesday, August 25th in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport. The year 2020 will be the 150th year of Constantinian Masonry in the United States and the 150th Anniversary of Premier Conclave No. 1, organized just twenty-five miles from where the Annual Assembly will be held.

On February 16, 1870, the Imperial Grand Council of England authorized Ill. Sir W.M.B. MacLeod Moore of La Prairie, Canada, to introduce the Order into the United States. Sir Knight Moore, after much correspondence, appointed Sir Knight Alfred Creigh, 33rd, L.L.D., Washington, Pennsylvania, on September 30, 1870, as Divisional Inspector General to establish the Order in the State of

Pennsylvania. Under this Commission, the United States Premier Conclave No. 1 was organized at Washington, Pennsylvania, on December 14, 1870. (Duncan, 1972, p. 22).

This year's Annual Assembly will be a one day session. The anticipated schedule of events may be found in the registration material which follows.

The Annual Assembly luncheon will celebrate the 150th Anniversary Premiere Conclave with historical presentations by Knights Companions Thomas W. Jackson of Pennsylvania and R. Stephen Doan of California, both Past Grand Sovereigns.

Reference: *Historical Sketch, Knights of the Red Cross of the Constantine and Appendant Orders for the USA, Mexico, Philippines*, [United Grand Imperial Council Centennial Assembly, 1972, 2nd printing, May 2002], Herbert Ewing Duncan, Grand High Priest.





**UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE
148TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**

Committee: William M. Kratzenberg, General Chairman; Victor K. Crooks, II;
John A. Habel, Jr.; Henry L. Leshner, Sr.; Thomas F. Miller; Vaughn F. Shafer

April 2020

Dear Knight Companion,

Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 changed not only many of our plans for “Coming Home to Western Pennsylvania,” but also many of our lives. The difficult decision to cancel the Annual Assembly on June 4 – 6, 2020 was made with the safety of the Knights Companions and Ladies of primary importance. (If you had made a hotel reservation, you already received a cancellation notification from the hotel. If you sent your Registration Form with your check, I have mailed your refund.) After careful deliberation and with your continued support, we are planning an abbreviated Annual Assembly.

Therefore, we have rescheduled “Coming Home to Western Pennsylvania” and cordially invite you to join us at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel on August 25, 2020 to conduct the annual business of the **148th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY** of the **UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE**. In addition, we will celebrate the **150th ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES PREMIER CONCLAVE** at a luncheon.

The following is our tentative schedule:

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

8:15 – 9:15 am	Hospitality Room
8:30 – 9:15 am	Registration
9:30 – 10:15 am	Recorders and Intendants General Meeting (All Knights Companions are invited.)
10:30 – 11:45 am	General Session I (business, no introductions) (jacket, tie, jewel)
12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm	150 th Anniversary Luncheon celebrating Premier Conclave and featuring Historical Presentations by Most Illustrious Thomas W. Jackson and Most Illustrious R. Stephen Doan
1:45 – 2:15 pm	General Session II (business, no introductions) (jacket, tie, jewel)
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Memorial Service (jacket, tie, jewel) (Ladies are welcome.)
3:15 – 4:00 pm	Installation (jacket, tie, jewel) (Ladies are welcome.)

The accompanying form includes all the details for your registration. We ask that you make your hotel reservation early to allow us to have a better count of those who plan to attend. We look forward to your attendance and continued Constantinian support.

Yours in Faith, Unity, and Zeal,
William M. Kratzenberg
General Chairman

**UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE
148TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES PREMIER CONCLAVE**

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

**Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel
1111 Airport Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15231**

Reservations: 724-899-1234 (Ask for Lauren in Sales.)

Group Name: Red Cross of Constantine

Rate for either Monday and/or Tuesday night: \$115.00 + tax/night

Check-In Time: 3:00 P.M.

Check-Out Time: 12:00 Noon

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**In order to receive the Group Rate, you must make your hotel reservation before July 24.
(If necessary, you are able to cancel 72 hours prior to your arrival without penalty.)**

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (H&C) _____ Email _____

Name and Location of Conclave _____ National Office _____

National Office in other Masonic Bodies _____

LODGING:

_____ I am not planning to stay at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel.

_____ I am planning to stay at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel.

Have you made your reservation with the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport Hotel? Yes _____ No _____

Self-parking information is available on the hotel website. (Limited parking is available in Motor Lobby Parking, \$25.00/overnight.)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$30.00 per person # _____ \$ _____ .00

(Registration Fee for Intendants General only will be waived. However, completed registration forms must be returned.)

There will be no Ladies' Program/Entertainment. However, Ladies are welcome to attend the luncheon.

_____ I am/We are planning to attend the Luncheon.

Person's Name & Dietary Allergies/Restrictions _____

_____ I am not/We are not planning to attend the Luncheon.

Check for Registration Fee is payable to the "148th Annual Assembly" and mailed with this completed form to Thomas F. Miller, 12 Truman Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022-3122. (Questions? Contact tommiller12@comcast.net or 717-367-4184/610-506-5575).

DEADLINE TO BE RECEIVED: July 24, 2020

NO REFUNDS AFTER July 24, 2020

Our Inheritance

R. Stephen Doan, KGC, Grand Recorder

As we approach the first of many sesquicentennial events in American Constantinian Masonry, thanksgiving for what we have inherited as Knights Companions is a natural inclination. For me, our most treasured inheritance is the experience we share in that unique approach to Masonic Christian Knighthood at the core of Constantinian Masonry.

Constantinian Masonry as we know it began when Robert Wentworth Little formed the Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Original or Premier Conclave No. 1 and Plantagenet Conclave No. 2 in London on May 31, 1865. He also published its ritual which is substantially similar to what we use today. Constantine was not a series of side degrees to be conferred by lodges but a new national organization with subordinate conclaves conferring the work under its jurisdiction, much as the various Royal Arch and Templar side degrees had been amalgamated into Grand Chapters and Grand Encampments, beginning in 1766 when the Moderns formed their own Excellent Grand and Royal Arch Chapter. In 1865, Little was a clerk on the Grand Secretary's staff at Freemasons' Hall in London, the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

The Red Cross of Constantine came to the United States under the authority granted by the Grand Imperial Council of England to Colonel William James Bury MacLeod Moore of Canada. He was the Grand Prior of Masonic Knights Templar of Canada and the Chief Inspector General of the Order of Red Cross of Constantine for the Dominion of Canada. Under the authority delegated to him by the Grand Imperial Council of England on February 16, 1870, Moore appointed Sir Knight Alfred Creigh, 33°, L.L.D., of Washington, Pennsylvania, as Divisional Inspector General to establish the Order in the State of Pennsylvania. Under this commission, dated on September 30, 1870, the United States Premier Conclave No. 1 was organized at Washington, Pennsylvania, on December 14, 1870. On June 14, 1872, the Grand Imperial Council of Pennsylvania was organized at Reading, Pennsylvania. Several other conclaves with state grand bodies were subsequently organized, among them the Grand Imperial Council of Illinois on August 30, 1872. Successors to each of the Grand Imperial Councils of Pennsylvania and Illinois formed the United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and

Appendant Orders, for the United States of America, Mexico and the Philippines on February 18, 1958.

Little's Constantinian Masonry remains unique because it is essentially the capstone of Masonic Christian Knighthood, and a closer look at its ritual reveals why.

The whole concept of Christian Knighthood can be traced to Emperor Constantine in whose memory we meet. After his victory at Saxa Rubra, a victory foretold by his vision in the heavens of the Cross with the monogram *In Hoc Signo Vincas*, In this Sign You Shall Conquer, Constantine rewarded his bodyguard by authorizing them to include the mysterious *Chi-Rho* monogram on their shields. This official sanction helped spread the teachings of Christianity among Roman soldiers and thus the empire. The ideal of chivalry as a way of life for the warrior class began to emerge as a result, reaching its height during the Middle Ages. Chivalry was a code of conduct with duties to protect country and fellow Christians, serve God and honor women through graciousness and service.

Our first order, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, is in part an arming ceremony to qualify us for Constantine's two capstone orders. But it also directs our attention to the event which is the ultimate root of Chivalry and Masonic Christian Knighthood: Constantine's formation of a military unit guided and protected by the teachings of Christ. Meeting as Constantinian Masons is our affirmation that we can remain Christian gentlemen no matter the challenges we face in life.

The next two orders reveal the two rewards we seek in the core higher Masonic degrees: rebuilding the temple and finding the True Word of a Mason.

In Constantine's Order of the Holy Sepulchre, we learn that there will be no physical replacement for King Solomon's Temple: for want of territory, we will build temples and their tabernacles in our hearts. In addition, we are told that we as Masons now occupy ourselves in erecting spiritual buildings, formed when Masons with true hearts gather to foreshadow that house not made hands eternal in the heavens.

In the Order of St. John the Evangelist, we descend into the vault beneath the ruins of the ancient Temple and discover the True Word. St. John the Evangelist is based on the Third

ROBERT WENTWORTH LITTLE C.1870



Temple legend of the cave or vault told in *Ecclesiastical History* written by Philostorgius in the early 5th Century. According to Philostorgius, a cave was discovered under the destroyed Second Temple by the workmen on Emperor Julian's unsuccessful attempt to build the Third Temple on that site during the period 361 to 363 C.E. A workman was lowered into the cave (a perfect square) where he found the Gospel According to John on a pedestal standing in a pool of water. More than a century before Little wrote the Constantine ritual, Masons had already used the *Philostorgius* story,

but with an alteration. They had moved it back almost 900 years to the building of the Second Temple (consecration in the spring of 516 BCE) to explain how a discovery was then made in a vault, a story used in both the Royal Arch degree and the 13° in the French *Rite Écossais Ancien et Accepté*, its *Knight of the Royal Arch*, the French version of the Royal Arch degree.

In effect, St. John the Evangelist takes the vault story in the Royal Arch degree, what the Antients thought was the pinnacle event of craft Masonry, and re-tells it: the candidate goes once again to a vault beneath Solomon's Temple but this time finds the True Word of a Christian Mason. Little was too clever not to have foreseen that this second visit and its discovery would make his Red Cross order popular among Christian Masons.

It is clear that the Order of Knights of St. John the Evangelist is meant to be a pinnacle degree. Beside the discovery of the True Word of a Christian Mason, it has no obligation. Its secrets are entrusted to the candidate's honor requiring no further pledge. It also references the number thirty-three, Jesus's supposed age on Good Friday. St. John the Evangelist uses a sign reminiscent

of the sign in other pinnacle degrees in Freemasonry. As Knights of St. John the Evangelist, we have truly capped our career as Masonic Christian Knights.

Our Order is not only a most ancient one, but a most honorable institution of Christian knighthood. It behooves us, beloved Knights, to prize the privileges descended to us from those worthy men, and ever to remember the watchwords of the Order: Faith, Unity and Zeal.

61st Eastern Regional Assembly



Approximately two hundred registered Knights Companions and sixty ladies attended the 61st Eastern Regional Assembly at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, Pennsylvania on November 1 - 3, 2019. A total of thirty-six conclaves from fifteen different states including the District of Columbia were represented. Thirty-three of the thirty-seven conclaves in all Eastern Region states, including the District of Columbia had representation. No state was without representation.

The informal dinner on Friday night started the weekend with a moment of silence for Robert S. Finley, KGC, MI Past Grand Sovereign, who passed away January 12, 2019, and his wife Kay, who passed away August 22, 2019. Both had been integral with the Eastern Regional Assembly for many years. “Blest be the fraternal ties that bind.”

Knights Companions from United States Premier Conclave (Pittsburgh, PA); Williamsport Conclave (Williamsport, PA); and St. James Conclave (Shamokin, PA) performed outstanding, impressive ritualistic work for the twenty-four Senate of Sovereigns candidates and twenty-seven College of Viceroy candidates; nineteen Order of the Red Cross of Constantine candidates; and twenty-six Appendant Orders candidates. Wilmer E. Hall, Past Grand Commander, KT of PA, and Victor K. Crooks, II, Past Grand Master, GC of R&SMM of PA, capably operated the audio system.

Dignitaries were introduced to KC James E. Winzenreid, KGC, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, and the Assembly of Knights Companions and Ladies. They included many state and national Masonic leaders. S. Eugene Herritt, Right Worshipful Grand Master of The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdictions Thereunto Belonging, was accompanied by

Larry A. Derr, RW Junior Grand Warden; Mark A. Haines, RW Grand Secretary; Robert L. Deluge, Jr., RW Past Grand Master; Jay W. Smith, RW Past Grand Master; and Thomas W. Jackson, KGC, PGS, and RW Past Grand Secretary.

Following the Introduction of Dignitaries, The Reverend William D. Hartman, Illustrious Grand High Prelate, conducted the annual Necrology Service in Memory of Robert S. Finley, PGS and fifty-three other departed Knights Companions. Assisting him were Thomas F. Miller, KCC, and Henry Leshner, IG, Pennsylvania Central.

While the Knights Companions enjoyed the afternoon ritualistic work, twenty-seven ladies were scheduled for a guided tour of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. They enjoyed the beautiful manicured, landscaped grounds; beautiful stone and brick buildings; and their stop at the Farmer’s Market. Others enjoyed nearby shopping at the outlets and/or gaming at the Hollywood Casino.

One hundred and fifty-six Knights Companions and ladies attended the annual Saturday night banquet with the Dave Wilson Jax Trio providing the music for the social hour and dinner.

Thomas F. Miller, Chairman, thanks those who helped to make another successful Eastern Regional – Richard and Mary Balas; Freeman and Karen Frey; Marci Goodwin; Mark Haines; Wilmer E. Hall; Gordon Hensel; Henry and Kathleen Leshner; Robert Sutcliffe, Paul Sutcliffe, and their team; his wife Betty; all degree cast members; and the Holiday Inn, Harrisburg/Hershey staff. The 62nd Annual Eastern Regional Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn, Harrisburg/Hershey at Grantville on the traditional first full weekend of November – November 6 - 8, 2020.

26th Annual All-Ohio Assembly



The 26th Annual All-Ohio Assembly was held on Saturday, October 5, 2019, under the leadership of the Intendants General for Ohio, Knights Companions Anthony W. Bachman and Steven A. Duncan. Ohio Knights Companions thus meet annually in early October in Burkhart Auditorium in Rickly Hall at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio.

The 2019 activities began at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast at the Festival Green Clubhouse. Starting at 9:00 a.m., the College of Viceroys degree was conferred with K.C. Michael A. Himes, Past Sovereign of St. Columba Conclave in Cincinnati, presiding, followed by the Senate of Sovereigns degree with K.C. Randy A. Williams, Past Sovereign of Lafayette Conclave, Athens, presiding. At



Officers of Holy Grail Conclave in Dayton, Ohio, attending the 2019 All Ohio-Assembly:

Front Row (Left to Right): KC Henry A. Dodson, Senior General; KC Ronald L. Connelly, Standard Bearer; KC Robert A. Oldfather, Junior General; KC George M. Shell, Prelate; KC Lance L. Lear, Puissant Sovereign.

Back Row (left to right): KC Burch E. Zehner, KGC, Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign, Recorder; KC Nathan H. Pelfrey Jr., Prefect.



9:45 a.m., the All-State Assembly was convened by Holy Grail Conclave, Dayton. At 10:00 a.m., the Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine was conferred by St. Jerome Conclave, Columbus, followed by the conferral of the Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre by St. Columba Conclave and the Order of Knights of St. John the Evangelist by Charlemagne Conclave, Lima. At Noon, the Grand Sovereign, Knight Companion James E. Winzenreid, KGC, addressed the Knights Companions. The assembly then closed, followed by a buffet lunch with the ladies at the

Festival Green Clubhouse. While the Knights Companions were in their sessions, the ladies gathered at the Festival Green Clubhouse where there were entertainment by Mark Harris, a vocalist and guitarist.

Those attending any event in Burkhart Auditorium always notice the windows. They are 93 year old stained glass works of art, each illustrating a beautiful and inspiring lesson of our Masonic lectures. It is an exquisite and thought provoking venue in which to experience Constantinian Masonry.



St. Bonaventure Installation



Pictured at the Annual Assembly of St. Bonaventure Conclave in Marquette, Michigan, Knight Companion Stan Simons, Intendant General for Michigan, installed Knight Companion Anthony J. Giorgianni as Sovereign for 2019-2020 at the Marquette Masonic Temple. The Knights Companions then retired to enjoy fellowship and a meal in the private room of The Vierling Restaurant, located around the corner from the lodge. Vierling is a local favorite for fine dining and its ambiance, including a one hundred year old oak bar and large windows overlooking Marquette's lower harbor.

PICTURED:

Back Row: Doug Wolfe, PS; Alan T. Nelson, PS; Eric Nyman, PS; and William E. Leveque, PS, PGM of Michigan.

Front Row: J. Corey Cain; Corey F. G. L. Curtiss; Tony Giorgianni, Sovereign; Stan Simons, IG; and Gordy Peterson, PS.



El Salvador Installation



The Annual Assembly of the El Salvador Conclave was held on December 14, 2019. At this Assembly, the officers were elected and installed for the period 2019-2020. Elected as Puissant Sovereign was K. C. Carlos Araujo Grimaldi. The Conclave of El Salvador was Chartered in Seattle in June of 2015, It also has members from Honduras and Costa Rica. These photographs show all the attendees at the December meeting.

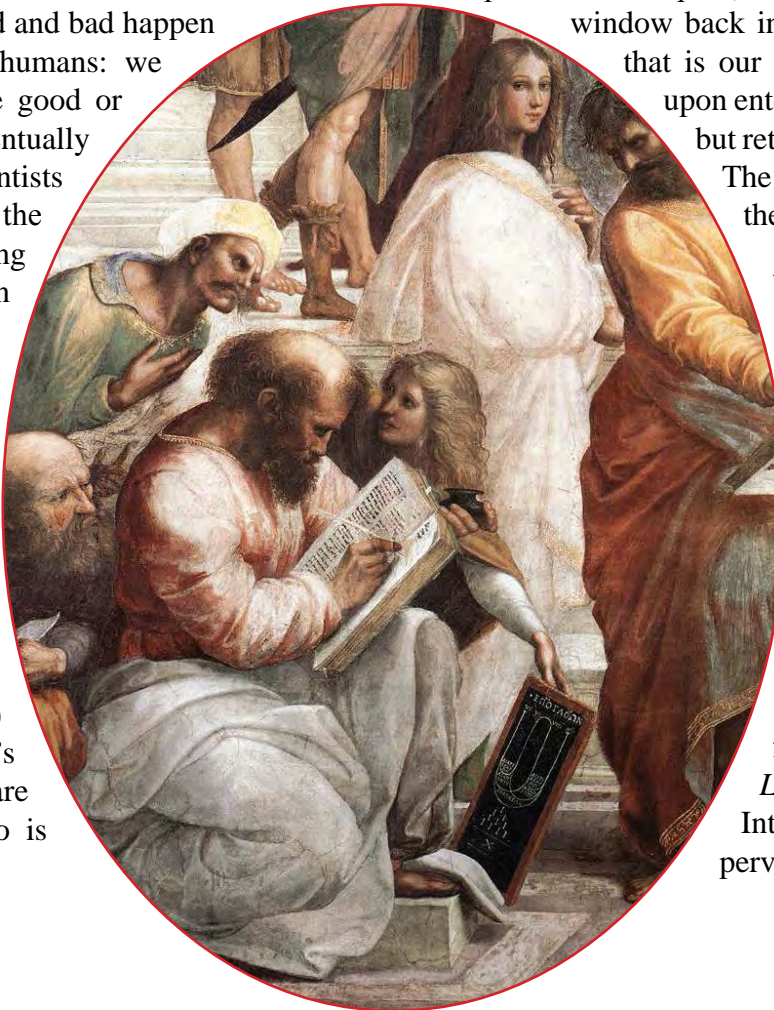


Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

R. Stephen Doan, KGC, Grand Recorder

In the early times of Speculative Freemasonry, Pythagoras was often mentioned without really much discussion of why. Of course, the Harmony or Music of the Spheres is attributed to his school of philosophy: no matter how violent the Universe may be, it will always return to harmony. Geometry measures that harmony when exhibited by celestial objects, and thus becomes not only the symbol of that harmony but also the symbol of its source: the Great Geometrician.

The Fellow Craft degree lecture encourages us to find that harmony on Earth, in the return of seasons, for instance. Just as good and bad happen in Nature, so it is among humans: we have free will to choose good or bad. Yet, everything eventually returns to harmony. Scientists find that harmony at the quantum level: everything is energy that will return to equilibrium and follow the rules after it is disturbed. That quantum harmony originated in the Big Bang, which we metaphorically refer to as Let There Be Light. That harmony is also the meaning behind the Word (or the *Logos* in the original Greek) at the opening of John's Gospel. Good and bad are part of existence, but so is



the *Logos*. We observe that harmony, the *Logos*, by its nature will return. That expectation should offer us hope that we can overcome the bad when it does come.

There is a Masonic degree, a now unused portion of which compared human existence to a bird flying in the night. The bird enters through an open window a great, lighted hall, flying around in it for a time, experiencing pleasure and pain, before flying out another window back into the night. The energy that is our spirit takes physical form upon entering the metaphorical hall but returns to spirit upon leaving. The spirit does survive despite the time of trial.

When I was a boy and first learned about what I thought was limitless space (not yet understanding the theory of expanding bubbles of space and time), I came to doubt that there was a place for God in the Universe, until after many years of thought I came to find in Geometry and the *Logos* my proof of a Great Intelligence whose harmony pervades everything.



Panama Welcomes You!

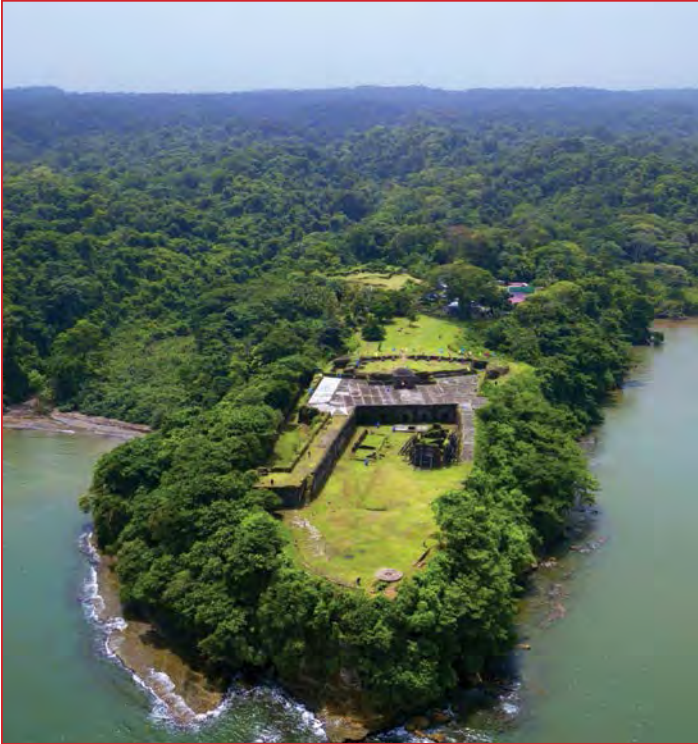


Assuming tradition continues, Very Illustrious Grand Junior General Marcos Ostrander will preside as Grand Sovereign at the UGIC's 2023 Annual Assembly. As tradition also has it, the presiding Grand Sovereign selects the location for the Annual Assembly at which presides, which Knight Companion Ostrander has tentatively scheduled for June 8th to 10th of 2023 in his hometown of Panama City, Panama. The Grand Recorder visited Panama on January 30th through February 2nd of this year to meet with the team which Knight Companion Ostrander has gathered to plan and host the 2023 Annual Assembly. Many may remember that Panama successfully hosted the XVI World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand

Lodges in November of 2018 and will build on that experience for our 2023 Annual Assembly.

Outside of our usual business sessions, anticipated events include a trip to the Panama Canal Museum and to Plaza de Francia in the picturesque old quarter of the city along the Pacific Ocean where there are a number of shops and street vendors. The host committee is also considering a trip to historic Fort San Lorenzo, located about 8 miles west of Colón, on a promontory overlooking the mouth of the Chagres River into the Atlantic Ocean. There would then be a visit to the Agua Clara Visitor Center on the Atlantic end of the canal to see from a viewing platform the operation of the new





locks for larger ships. The tour would then go to the Miraflores locks on the Pacific end of the canal. These locks are part of the original canal.

Passports are currently required for entry to Panama. Each of Copa, United, Delta, America and Spirit currently offers direct flights to Panama City. One or more of these carriers offer direct flights to Tocumen International Airport in Panama City from JFK and Newark in New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Tampa, Orlando, Miami, Chicago, New Orleans, Houston, Denver, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Tocumen International Airport is 18 minutes by car from the proposed host hotel.

The Panamanian currency is the Balboa which is pegged one to one to the dollar. Everyone in Panama seemingly accepts dollars and gives change in dollars.

The Grand Recorder timed his visit to Panama in order to attend San Lorenzo Conclave's installation of officers on February 1st. Held at the Union Club, located in the Paitilla District of Panama City, the event was attended by various Masonic dignitaries and their wives. Among the dignitaries present, M.W. Miguel Canales, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Panama, K.C. Sid Leluan III, Right Eminent Department Commander, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA, the Right Eminent Grand Commander Grand Commandery of Panama, the Grand Illustrious Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Panama, and Grand High Priest Panama Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Panama. Prior to closing the assembly, the traditional toast to the Masonic Bodies and departed Brethren was made. A delicious dinner and refreshments were then enjoyed by all.



Pictured from left to right: Right Illustrious Grand Recorder R. Stephen Doan, KGC, Past Grand Sovereign; newly installed Sovereign, Ricaurte Arrocha; Very Illustrious Grand Junior General Marcos D. Ostrander; Intendant General for Panama, John Bernard Bamber; and retiring Sovereign Ruben J. Levy.

Upcoming Events

2020:

- 18-20 JuneDeMolay International, Arizona Grand Resort and Spa, Phoenix, Arizona
- 12-14 JulyGreat Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons, Maggie Valley, NC
- 17-18 July34th Annual Southwest Regional Assembly, Orleans Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada **(CANCELLED)**
- 5-9 AugustYork Rite Sovereign College of North America, Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, MO
- 19-20 AugustGrand Imperial Conclave of Canada, Mississauga, ON **(CANCELLED)**
- 21-22 August41st Annual Oklahoma Divisional Assembly (Oklahoma Triad), McAlester, OK
- 25 August.....148th UGIC Annual Assembly, Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport, 1111 Airport Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15231
- 27-29 AugustConvent General, KYCH, Wyndham Indianapolis West, Indianapolis, IN
- 11-12 September35th Annual All-Missouri Divisional Assembly, Columbia, MO
- 23-29 SeptemberGeneral Grand Chapter and General Grand Council Sessions, Crowne Plaza, Louisville, KY
- 3 October.....27th Annual All Ohio Assembly, Springfield, OH
- 6-11 October.....Convent General, KYCH, Greater Indianapolis area, IN
- 6-7 November.....62nd Annual Eastern Regional Assembly, Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA
- 14 NovemberNorth Carolina Divisional Assembly, Goldsboro, NC
- 21 NovemberGeorgia Statewide Assembly, Warner Robins, Georgia



RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE
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