



FOR THE FAITH AND
IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY



St John

Eyes on the Future

THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

PRIORY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Volume 10, Number 1

Spring 2019

PRIOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to share information with the membership of the U.S. Priory on several timely topics, including recent changes.

First, I'd like to shed some light on how the promotions system works. The Order has an Order Honors and Awards Committee (OHAC) consisting of the Great Officers of the Order, who are voting members, as well as the Priors who serve on the Order's Executive Committee, who are members with voice but without vote. OHAC operates on a consensus basis rather than votes, reviewing and approving nominations for promotion in all grades of the Order.

As of 2019, OHAC will review and approve promotion recommendations from the 11 Priories for Knights and Dames. Previously, OHAC left the decision to the individual Priory Honors and Awards Committee. (OHAC retroactively reviewed those promotions through a statistical sampling.)

Thus, while the U.S. Priory's Honors and Awards Committee will make recommendations to OHAC for promotions to Knight and Dame, OHAC alone will determine which recommendations are forwarded to Her Majesty for consideration. This is being done not to second guess the 11 Priories, but to ensure consistency among the Priories for these promotions.

The other big change is that the number of promotions in general will be more limited. Each Priory is expected to resemble a pyramid in terms of the number of Members in each grade, from entering Member grade up to Bailiff Grand Cross, the grade above Knight or Dame. Every five years, the Order alone allots each Priory the number of Members in each grade. In order for the U.S. Priory to stay within these numbers, our Priory Honors and Awards Committee

(PHAC) will have to be careful in making recommendations for promotions. As a result, our PHAC has the unenviable task of trying to reward deserving Members with recommendations for promotion while, at the same time, limiting their recommendations to ensure that the pyramidal structure is followed.

Along these lines, it is important to understand that the U.S. Priory is atypical in terms of its role within the Order. Since our inception, we have concentrated efforts on assisting the St John Eye Hospital, whereas other Priories focus mainly on volunteer service. In recent years, however, we have expanded our activities by establishing the St John Volunteer Corps (SJVC). As always in the promotion process, PHAC will continue to give due weight not only to Members' contributions to the Hospital but also to their service, leadership and initiatives benefiting the Priory. Yet from now onwards, PHAC will give increasing weight to volunteer work in the SJVC in making recommendations for individual promotions. We will do that not only because it is appropriate to do so, but also because it will assist the Order in having more consistent standards across all 11 Priories. (Of course, service in our case will continue to be broadly defined to include service to the Order in many other ways.)

Second, I think an update to the membership on our regions would be helpful. In addition to the current 19 regions, we have two steering committees: Savannah and Los Angeles. We anticipate that these committees will soon become regions as in the case of North Carolina, now a region and no longer part of the Charleston region. The expansion is a huge step forward for the Priory as we try to fill geographic holes in membership. Another positive aspect of the dynamism of the multiple regions is reflected in the increased revenue derived from events. In 2017, regional

events raised \$161,399. In 2018, it increased 48% to \$238,598.

Regional vibrancy is also amply reflected in the Nurse Initiative, in which the Chapter, regions and one steering committee have participated. As of early April, the Priory has received \$300,000 to support this Initiative. Given the serious difficulties the Hospital is having as a result of the freeze in U.S. assistance in the Holy Land, this Initiative is hugely helpful to the work the Hospital does there. Also, it will link our regions and the Chapter to individual staff members in a very tangible and meaningful way.

Third, and finally, let me update you on our efforts to overcome the aforementioned freeze. We have been working on this situation in tandem with the Sovereign Military Order, which has the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. They are a great partner with our Hospital in many important ways. We have had very positive meetings with critically important Members of Congress on the situation. They are committed to endeavoring to address the situation. We have also reached out to the White House. I am optimistic of ultimate success, but the timing is impossible to predict. Relief will occur, but in the interim, what our Priory is doing for the Hospital is all the more critical.

As always, communication is the best way to understand change. I wanted to take this opportunity to personally let our Members know of these new developments, to keep them abreast of our Priory's growth and to understand the role we are playing to overcome the funding freeze.



INVESTITURE WEEKEND 2019: NOVEMBER 15–17

"There is no city on Earth quite like Charleston," wrote writer Pat Conroy, who lived and died in South Carolina. This November, Confrères can experience what Conroy called Charleston's "magical beauty" as the 2019 Investiture Weekend and Service of Investiture and Rededication takes place there for the first time. The Investiture Committee has created an exceptional Weekend that revolves around the crown jewel, the Service of Investiture and Rededication, which will take place at Grace Church Cathedral.

Consecrated in 1848, the Cathedral has survived multiple hurricanes and a major earthquake after the American Civil War. It was designed by Edward Brickell White, known for his Gothic Revival architecture and use of Roman and Greek designs. The Cathedral stands out in what Charlestonians call "The Holy City" because of the city's concentration of places of worship. Religious freedom was written into the original colony's constitution in 1670 by the great English philosopher John Locke.



Ground zero for the Weekend is the Francis Marion Hotel. According to its website, the hotel combines "1920's style and grace with 21st century comfort and convenience." On Friday afternoon, attendees have a palate of options from which to choose. They can take "Behind the Scenes Art Tours" at the Gibbes Museum of Art (with a champagne reception) and the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, or enjoy a private walking tour through the famed Charleston Historic District.

Friday afternoon meetings (in the past held on Saturday morning), will be followed by the evening reception, a few steps away from the Hotel in the magnificent William Aiken House, dubbed by Martha Stewart "one of the best event venues in Charleston." Filled with period antiques and artwork, the house was built by railroad tycoon William Aiken in 1810 and has an unmatched collection of antebellum railroad structures. With native spirituals, the Plantation Singers will greet arriving guests. Nearby restaurants will offer attendees ample opportunity to enjoy Charleston's booming culinary scene.

For the first time, the Service of Investiture and Rededication will be on Saturday morning followed by a luncheon. The afternoon is free for shopping and sightseeing.

The social high point of this "Low Country" weekend will be the Saturday



Courtesy of Explore Charleston, explorecharleston.com

evening gala reception and dinner at the Carolina Yacht Club, founded in 1883. The Club's stunning location, with its view of Charleston's harbor, will cap the weekend. Guests will be greeted with chamber music at the cocktail hour in the Fort Sumter Ball Room, and led by a piper into the Gala Dinner in the Bastion Ball Room. Afterwards, revelers can dance the night away to the big band and beach music sounds of the Charlie Gatch Swing Band or enjoy relaxed conversations.

With a new and more compact formula that allows participation in Order-related events, Confrères and guests will have time to explore "The Holy City," perhaps to fall in love with what Henry James called the "luminescent Mother City of the Old South." ✨

Karen Miller Lamb, DStJ

The Charleston Regional Committee is very excited to be hosting the 2019 Investiture Weekend and Service of Investiture and Rededication. Charleston's famous hospitality, cuisine and history will be on display. Our Investiture Committee of 25 dedicated Confrères has lined up magnificent spaces, ensuring that all who attend will have a special memory of our world class city.

At the heart of festivities is the serious purpose of rededicating ourselves to the Order of St John, and welcoming new Members. Grace Church Cathedral, with its soaring Gothic arches and magnificent bell tower, will perfectly enhance the solemn service on Saturday morning. Afterwards, the annual

luncheon will feature an up-to-date report on the St John Eye Hospital by legendary speaker and Order Hospitaller Dr. David Verity, MD, MA (OXON), BM, BCH, FRCOPHTH, OSTJ. The popular chivalry presentation will also be included. Bookending the Weekend are Friday's Welcome Reception and Saturday's Gala Reception and Dinner, both held in spectacular venues.

The formula and host city for the Weekend are new, but the serious purpose and the fellowship are not. We welcome you to Charleston, "The Holy [and Fun] City!"

Regional Chairs

*Julian V. Brandt III, KStJ, and
Kathryn Spotswood Lines Cox, DStJ*

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MEET THE NEW LORD PRIOR: MARK COMPTON, AM, GCSTJ

FOUR GENERATIONS OF ST JOHN SERVICE

As a young lad, Professor Mark Compton tagged along with his father and grandfather, watching them work as St John volunteers in his native Australia. What he learned from them, and from his own service as a St John Grand Prior cadet, Mark says, “did much to frame who I am as a person today.” These early life lessons sowed the seeds for 45 years of active service in the Order of St John. In the words of Len Fiori, KStJ, and CEO of St John Ambulance Australia, “Mark is an inspiration to us all.”

From the beginning, his family’s influence and that of St John convinced him he was destined for a career in healthcare. Mark was fascinated by the way chemicals such as neurotransmitters and hormones regulate how our bodies work. Equally, he was intrigued “by how drugs, medicines, and poisons work. They can do so much good and so much harm!” His interest led to a career in research and practice in pharmacology, in areas related to respiratory medicine and toxicology, especially poisoning and drug overdose. It also led him to meet his wife of 31 years, Dr. Elizabeth Ellis, OSTJ, in the medical library at a Respiratory Medicine Department Journal Club at the University of Sydney.

Mark and Elizabeth are parents of Michael, a lawyer in the UK, and Daniel, a doctor in Melbourne. Following the family tradition, both have been St John volunteers since the age of eight and are now Members of the Order. Mark says, “I am enormously proud of my wife and sons not only for their personal and professional achievements but because they are warm, generous, open and big-hearted — always ready to serve the community and to give of themselves to others, often at their own cost in terms of time, resources and energy — without seeking recognition or award.”

Mark goes on, “Elizabeth is a highly competent, distinguished academic, and has been an extraordinary supporter of me and my activities, including St John.” They have worked together as operational volunteers for the village of Burrawang’s Rural Fire Brigade in New South Wales, which is near their country home.



Their missions have included helping fight devastating forest fires and attending motor vehicle accidents. Mark’s other personal interests include bracing early morning swims at Sydney’s Balmoral Beach, singing in a male voice choir, fine wine appreciation, cooking, tennis, golf (“badly”, he says) and participation in the same book club for 20 years.

Now Chancellor of the Order in Australia and Chair of its Board of Directors, Mark is (among other professional activities) an Adjunct Professor in management at Macquarie University, in Sydney, and Chairman and Non-Executive Director of Sonic Healthcare Limited, a global medical diagnostics and health-

care firm. In all facets of his life and work, Mark says, “Fun features prominently, with lots of humor and laughs. This is firmly installed in my personality! It’s a great way to form and nurture relationships with all types of people, to find common ways of having a laugh while getting on with the serious matters at hand.”

This positive approach informs Mark’s vision for the future of the Order, which he believes rests on mentoring upcoming and experienced leaders. He is also dedicated to developing a strong leadership pipeline of young people, especially women. According to Mark, “As an Order, we must ensure that we better capture the skills and talents of young women, creating opportunities for them to gain experience, knowledge and skills so that they are well prepared to take on leadership positions. Diversity in all of its forms will ultimately strengthen the Order.”

As a healthcare professional and an Order Member, Mark has great faith in the mission of the St John Eye Hospital, having paid several visits to its wards, clinics, operating theaters, and witnessing its outreach firsthand. “The work done by the teams at the Hospital is first class,” he says, “and it fulfills the Order’s unifying purpose of caring and serving our lords, the sick and the poor. Patients are receiving the best first-world care that can be offered regardless of religion, political affiliation or ability to pay.”

The Order, Mark asserts, has three purposes — Christian, chivalric and charitable. “We must promote, support and add value to each purpose for those we serve and for our Members. Customs and traditions are very important, but should not blind us to the need for appropriate, well-considered and gradual change. A high priority for me is to work with our Executive Committee and Grand Council to outline the Order’s challenges and opportunities by canvassing their views and ideas and refining these into a compelling narrative for the next stage in the life of our great Order.”

Despite his “exalted” status, Mark still greatly enjoys volunteering just as he has always done to help at St John events in Australia. He says, “That is why I joined in the first place — to be on the front line, meet the volunteers, and be able to speak to others from first-hand experience. Even as a young sprout, I was struck by the distinct privilege of being let into peoples’ lives at times when they needed care and assistance. This has driven me in my personal and professional life.” Mark Compton’s exemplary record of service to others calls to mind a Biblical verse: “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7). ✨

Karen Miller Lamb, DSTJ



Mark Compton, GCSTJ, and Grand Prior HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG GCVO.

REGIONAL NURSE INITIATIVE: PUTTING

LEADING BY EXAMPLE, THE CHAPTER OF THE U.S. PRIORY ANNOUNCED AT THE 2018 INVESTITURE WEEKEND THEIR DECISION TO PAY THE SALARY OF A JUNIOR CHARGE NURSE AT THE ST JOHN EYE HOSPITAL FOR ONE YEAR. SINCE THEN, MANY REGIONS OF THE PRIORY HAVE FOLLOWED THE CHAPTER IN THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT BY RAISING MONEY TO SUPPORT SELECTED HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBERS.

The compelling reason for this Initiative was the cancellation by the current U.S. Administration of U.S. government funding made through USAID for organizations providing aid to Palestinians. This shortfall dramatically affected the St John Eye Hospital, creating an unexpected budget shortfall of \$650,000. Faced with an increasing number of patients and a decreasing source of revenue for operations — as well as unpaid reimbursements from the Palestinian Authority for services provided — the cancellation created a crisis.

As a way to help with staffing costs, the Regional Nurse Initiative grew out of the Chapter's example. From a list of candidates and costs, regions identified a staff member they would

choose to support for one year. That person would follow up periodically with communications to the regions involved.

The regions have risen magnificently to this challenge. Thirteen regions and one steering committee are participating. Twelve medical staffers (11 nurses, one doctor) are supported, and \$300,000 has been raised as of publication date.

What follows is an example of how the San Diego Region, which includes the Los Angeles steering committee, went about funding three professionals. It is hoped that the Initiative will be a permanent star in the St John constellation.

Michele Blair, Priory Executive Director

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: A TEAM EFFORT

After hearing the inspiring presentation of Hospital Co-CEO, Ahmad Ma'ali, at the 2018 Investiture's Membership Meeting, a group of San Diego and Orange County Confrères decided, on the spot, to fund a Hospital staff member's salary for 2019.

The project snowballed. Los Angeles steering committee Chairman, Jim Terzian, OSTJ; David Pyott, CBE, OSTJ, and Molly Pyott, MStJ, spearheaded the effort, quickly organizing a Newport Beach reception in November. Funding was secured for Dr. Mohammed Daraghmeh, a teaching pediatric ophthalmologist.

But Confrères from both Los Angeles and San Diego wanted to go further, to fully fund a "pediatric team." In the words of San Diego Region Co-Chairman Andrew Brooks, KStJ, "We focused on pediatric caregivers because there is an ecumenical tie-in. St John also provides the pediatric eye care element at the Order of Malta's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem."

In Beverly Hills, another reception took place and attendees were encouraged to approach foundation boards and philanthropies with a mission relevant to the Hospital. Days later, Jim Terzian received word that a Confrère's family foundation had committed to supporting pediatric nurse Abeer Zuiteer.

San Diego introduced the project at its annual Presidents' Weekend reception, and donations were received both from Members and guests. Andrew Brooks says, "Having Confrères underwrite events, then asking attendees for donations for a specific project works for us."

In the words of Jim Terzian, "Southern California couldn't leave the job undone!" A Confrère couple in San Diego supplemented the funds raised by the Los Angeles steering committee, and pediatric nurse Wala Kamel was added to the list. Mission accomplished — the team was complete, thanks to a joint effort.

WHAT ARE THE HOSPITAL'S GREATEST NEEDS?

The St John Eye Hospital needs not only staff, but equipment. Confrères may consider funding as a group, or as individuals. Here is the Hospital's Wish List, with the prices involved:

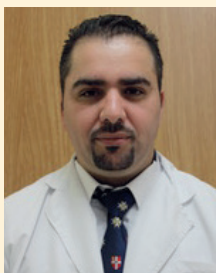
- Single-use surgical packs for surgical procedures: **\$21,648**
- 90 pediatric squint surgeries: **\$54,885**
- Anesthesia unit and monitor: **\$65,000**
- Two Yag lasers for post-cataract surgeries: **\$80,000**
- 100 cataract surgeries: **\$92,400**
- Surgical microscope: **\$120,000**
- Mobile outreach team personnel: **\$210,860**
- 60 vitreoretinal surgeries: **\$140,610**

JERUSALEM HOSPITAL: \$169,200 (Two clinic lenses sets; suction unit; ophthalmic ultrasound probe; Yag laser; anterior tomography; electro-retinography unit)

GAZA HOSPITAL: \$155,000 (ophthalmic ultrasound probe, two surgeon chairs; diode laser unit; anesthesia unit and monitor)

ING A HUMAN FACE ON THE HOSPITAL

DR. MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, CLINICAL ASSISTANT



Growing up in the busy West Bank city of Ramallah, Mohammed Daraghmeah was aware of the great need for ophthalmologic specialists, particularly pediatric ones. When Mohammed was 16 years old, a relative suffered penetrating trauma to his left eye. Because of this, Mohammed became very aware of the difficulty of managing that condition. In time, the relative would reach the St John Eye Hospital team, which successfully treated his case. Mohammed says, "As a result, I eventually decided to become an ophthalmologist as a *sure* way of helping my people."

Mohammed attended a medical school in Pakistan for five years and found that he "greatly loved" the subject of ophthalmology. So inspired was he that he received a distinction in ophthalmology his final year. He went on to work as a general practitioner in a local hospital, but ophthalmology continued to beckon, and in 2013 he joined St John's four-year Ophthalmic Training Program, completing it in 2017. Mohammad's resi-

dency program required rotations in each field of ophthalmology, and after encouragement from his seniors in the pediatric department, he decided to designate a specialty in that field.

"I decided to specialize in pediatric ophthalmology because of the excellence of the treatment at St John Eye Hospital, and the improvements I witnessed in our little patients," Mohammad says. After passing the Palestinian Board in Ophthalmology, he was appointed a Clinic Assistant at the Hospital, where he now shadows St John's pediatric ophthalmologist in his clinics and surgery. Mohammad is the teaching lead for medical students of Al-Quds University, founded two decades ago as the only Palestinian University in Jerusalem. Its students come for their two-week elective at St John Eye Hospital.

Now working to obtain a fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology, Mohammad is described by his colleagues as "hardworking and enthusiastic." Married and the father of two lovely daughters, Mohammad continues to be dedicated to his profession: "The most satisfying part of my job is doing surgeries for pediatric age groups, many suffering from congenital cataracts.

REGIONAL NURSE INITIATIVE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

LITTLE PATIENTS AND THEIR PARENTS: TRUSTING ST JOHN



With a nine-month-old's natural curiosity, **Siraj** is interested in the world around her, but suffers from "squint," a common condition in the region. St John caught it early, and with her new glasses she is already seeing better. Her mother is happy with Siraj's treatment so far: "I trust St John for its quality of care. I'm so pleased with the improvements to my precious daughter's eyes."



At a weekly pediatric clinic, six-year-old **Luma's** severe squint was diagnosed early enough to avoid surgery. Now happily wearing glasses, she has a chance to receive a proper education. Her father says, "There is nowhere else in Palestine with St John's level of training. Each clinic is run by a skilled specialty doctor. I would not trust anyone other than St John with my daughter's eyes."



Born prematurely, baby **Bilal's** eyes were badly underdeveloped. He was able to have surgery on his left eye at Hadassah Hospital and several laser treatments at St John in an attempt to preserve his retina. His sight may be saved, and St John will be with him every step of the way. Bilal's parents trust St John's expertise: "We know the doctors there will do all they can to save our son's sight."



The father of brothers **Yman** and **Nabel** works for a local medical clinic, making sure their sight is regularly checked. So far, their vision is undisturbed, but their father takes nothing for granted. "I am so pleased that St John comes to our village on a regular basis. What is more important than a child's sight? It allows them a future and the ability to contribute to society around them."

I extract the cataract, a procedure that will help them to live their lives in peace without visual problems. This part of the job touches my heart. I am thankful for the effort of the U.S. Priory, which enables me to help my community."

WALA KAMEL, PEDIATRIC STAFF NURSE

"I focused on the pediatric field because I love caring for children. As the mother of one girl and two boys, I am acutely aware of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment," says Wala Kamel. Born in Bethlehem, she studied nursing at Bethlehem University, where she was attracted to the ophthalmology courses. After graduating in 2011, Wala joined St John Eye Hospital as a student nurse and undertook the Specialist Ophthalmic Nursing Course.



Wala broadened her knowledge by working at the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation, a non-profit non-government organization, and in the dialysis department of Augusta Victoria Hospital, a Lutheran-affiliated church and hospital complex in Jerusalem that provides specialty medical care for Palestinians. Her long-held attraction to pediatric ophthalmology led her to return to St John as a pediatric staff nurse in the Children's Ward. Wala then moved to day care, where she provides pre- and post-operative nursing care to infants, children and adolescents and helps families deal with their children after surgery.

The Hospital describes Wala as "a highly committed staff nurse who has excellent skills with children and their parents." She says, "The most satisfying part of my job is to see the patient after their cataract operation and know that they have better vision than before. This will give them a better chance to live their

lives as a healthy person. I am enormously grateful to the U.S. Priory not only for their support for the Hospital but also for their sponsorship that allows me to fulfill daily my lifelong passion."

ABEER ZUITER, PEDIATRIC STAFF NURSE

Abeer, the only girl among three brothers, is from Jabal Mukaber, a predominantly Arab quarter in southern East Jerusalem divided by the Israeli West Bank Barrier. Interest in the medical profession arose early, as her mother is a pharmacist, her father a nutrition specialist, and an aunt and uncle who work at the St John Eye Hospital. "My aunt used to talk in front of me about her good experience as an ophthalmic nurse and this inspired me to go into this profession after graduating from high school."



Abeer entered Al Quds University, and after graduating in 2016 joined St John Eye Hospital as a student nurse in the Specialist Ophthalmic Nursing Course. In 2017, she started working at the Hospital in the inpatient department, subsequently moving to pediatrics to care for sick children and their parents.

"As a mother to be, I love dealing with children and playing with them. I try my best to decrease their suffering and entertain them. The most satisfying part of my job as a pediatric nurse is when I see my little patients' sight improving," she says. The Hospital values her "brilliant communications skills as well as her very good academic abilities. She has proved to be a very caring, professional and motivated staff nurse."

Abeer in turn is grateful to the U.S. Priory for sponsoring her. "This will lead to helping my people, especially the children. Saving their sight and enabling we nurses to provide them with the best care is worth everything to me."

HOLY LAND, HOLY WORK: SEE AND SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Surviving descriptions of Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land date from the fourth century, when Christians were encouraged to visit sites connected with Jesus's ministry. In partnership with Jerusalem Peacebuilders, I now invite you to join these centuries of pilgrims who have experienced the journey. As Confrères, you have the added incentive of visiting the St John Eye Hospital, so central to the mission of our Priory.

My wife, Dorothy, and I have led several Priory pilgrimages, and as in previous years, our band of pilgrims will visit not only Jerusalem and the Hospital, but also Bethlehem, the Jordan River Valley, Jericho, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and the Crusader city of St Jean d'Acre. Unlike the rudimentary conditions of the fourth century, our pilgrims will stay in one of the world's most legendary — and beautiful — hotels, the American Colony, located between the St John Eye Hospital and the Old City.

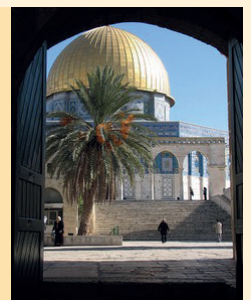
Confrères who have joined previous Priory pilgrimages have found them to be not just a "trip," but a voyage of discovery,

a life-changing experience that has deepened their faith, strengthened their commitments to the Order, and let them experience first hand the Holy Land and its people. Pilgrims develop close bonds with other Confrères both during the day's excursions, and after a full day, relaxing in lovely settings. In the words of Linda Ziglar, MStJ, "Pilgrimages make you more aware of the privilege and opportunity we each have to be a part of this wonderful work!"

Please join us for "Holy Land, Holy Work," which I believe will be a unique experience for you, both as a Confrère and a Christian. The deadline for reservations is November 1, 2019. For more information on "Holy Land, Holy Work" please contact dmccormick@saintjohn.org.



The Rev'd Canon Nicholas Porter, KStJ



HELPING A LIFE LIFT OFF

When we were charged with finding a St John Volunteer Corps opportunity for the Greenwich region, we had two criteria: the activity must serve veterans and be complementary to the professional skills our Greenwich Confrères could offer. After much research, we chose American Corporate Partners (ACP), a well-established monitoring program founded in 2008 that helps veterans' transition from military to civilian life.

ACP is not an employment service, but rather a helping hand. Priory Chancellor Doug Paul, KStJ, has been a participant in this program for years, as have other Confrères in our region. ACP matches corporate and individual volunteers with veterans, taking into account volunteers' preferences, including preferred branch of the military, age and gender.

After assigning Mentees, ACP keeps in close touch with both, ensuring that the relationship is beneficial to all. Citizen Program mentors contribute \$1,000 to ACP to meet its staffing costs. The average time commitment is less than a year.

We were assigned a veteran from El Paso, Texas, and mentored him through phone and e-mail. We gave him help in telling his story with an effective CV and interviews, coaching him on answering and asking the appropriate questions. Mentors can

also help as needed with exploring career possibilities, networking, developing a small business and communicating personally and professionally. We even gave him information addressing the family's role in particular workplaces.

Our Mentee's story had a happy ending, or should we say, a beginning. He was hired by a major corporation for a job he was excited about. The job is near his family, in his home state, where he has now bought a home. At this point, we are no longer Mentors. He is launched!

The satisfaction we gain in mentoring is immense. Nothing is more meaningful than helping someone make a whole new life, and we are looking forward to our next Mentee. For more information, visit ACP's website: www.acp-usa.org, and the contact is Samantha Greenberg. ✨

Scott Smith, OStJ, a Wall Street professional, is retired, as is Lynne Smith, OStJ, who counts among her many careers that of professional storyteller.



Scott and Lynne with Col. Jack Jacobs, a Medal of Honor recipient who spoke at the Greenwich 'launch' of ACP.

YOUNG MEMBERS' COOPERATION GROUP: CONFRONTING THE FUTURE

The U.S. population aged 65 and older is projected to double from 46 million in 2016 to over 98 million by 2060 — an increase from 15% to 24% of the total population. The worldwide trend is markedly similar. Attendance at religious services has also decreased, a trend projected to continue.

The Young Members Cooperation Group (YMCG) was formed in 2014 and includes representatives — aged 45 or younger — from the Alliance of the Orders of St John and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. In 2018 YMCG was expanded to include a U.S./Canada sub-group, providing broader input.

I am honored to represent both the U.S. Priory within the sub-group and to represent The Most Venerable Order in the YMCG, which was asked to study three topics:

- The future of the Orders with a 30-year perspective;
- What a cooperation of all five Orders could accomplish, and how that could be driven by younger members;
- How to combine the group's work with youth projects.

Alas, this piece cannot cover such a wieldy topic, yet I can highlight a trend. The YMCG concludes that, if an Order had a possible membership of 100 people in 1995, that pool will decrease to 30 people by 2030 and 19 people by 2060. Our Priory bucks that trend in one respect — total membership. Since 2005

membership has increased by approximately 45%, and now exceeds 1,400. However, in line with an aging population, the average age of nominated persons has increased and so too has the average age of the Priory, from 61 years of age in 2005 to 66 years of age in 2018. How do we buck *that* trend?

Although cultural changes have shifted the younger generations' view on Christianity, they still hold "Christian values" but display them differently than prior generations. Whether through serving on non-profit boards, volunteering to help the less advantaged or engaging in environmental issues, the younger demographic displays traits that would benefit our Order. I have recommended to the Prior that we look inward and develop a Priory Young Members Group, composed of a Member from each region.

When you next consider sponsoring someone to join our Order, look beyond your peer group to someone not of your generation! They are the lifeblood of the Order.

Originally from Lincolnshire, England, **Simon Boyd, MStJ**, graduated from the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell. Following flying training as a Weapons Systems Officer, he was posted to the Tornado GR4 aircraft. He holds an economics degree from the Harvard University Extension School and is a Principal for a Boston-based commercial real estate development and investment company. ✨

PROMISES TO KEEP: LCDR MICHAEL J. QUIGLEY, MSTJ

The website “Gentleman’s Gazette” once featured an article entitled “What It Means to Be a Gentleman Today.” It observes that, in the modern world, the term is much more egalitarian: “To say you are a gentleman means you have to earn it.” The Priory’s new Historiographer, Michael J. Quigley, made an important promise to his treasured grandmother and to his godfather, “a true gentleman who embodied chivalry, wisdom and compassion.” Michael vowed he would always “be my best self and strive for others, especially for those who cannot strive for themselves.”

Growing up in the New York City area and County Galway, Ireland, Michael absorbed the history, poetry and music of both countries and also developed a profound faith and thirst for knowledge. Although raised a Catholic, he was confirmed an Episcopalian at the age of 15, then came back to Catholicism. In time, “Through an odyssey of self-discovery,” he says, “I returned to the Episcopal Church and feel increasingly at home there. Faith is a journey, not a destination.”

As a boy, Michael devoured stories about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table and watched films like “Ivanhoe” and “Robin Hood.” This inspired a lifelong interest in heraldry and military history. He loved visiting Revolutionary and Civil War battlefields in part because his grandfather and seven uncles served in WWII. Inspired to continue the family legacy of military service, he enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 19.

While serving, Michael attended University College Dublin and received a BA in European History from the University of San Francisco. He went on to earn an MA in National Security Studies from Georgetown University, and an MA in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. He has held various positions in the national intelligence and security field and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 2003.

Along the way, Michael’s abiding love for Sherlock Holmes led him to be a part of the “Sherlockian” community. He founded The Diogenes Club for Sherlockians in government, and ultimately was selected to be a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, the premier society in the Holmes world. “Some of the luminary Irregulars included Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Isaac Asimov. All in all, the Irregulars are a family and a good lot!”

Already a Knight of Malta, Michael discovered, through friends, the Order of St John, becoming a Confrère in 2016. The Order was very much in sync with his passions for history, chivalry and heraldry, and his desire to serve the less fortunate. He says, “I have lived a life in service to my country for 30 or more years. I sought a way to serve a higher purpose, whilst also being part of an organization with a storied history and a legacy of service to the needy and sick.” The pairing was a perfect match.



One of the most meaningful things to Michael is his participation in the St John Volunteer Corps, where his service takes many forms, from playing Santa Claus at the U.S. Army Field Band family holiday party, to spending time with WWII veterans visiting Washington, D.C., as part of the Honor Flight program. Among other activities involving both serving military and veterans, he is active in the pre-Christmas Wreaths Across America project. He says, “This is who we are as Hospitalers. We serve. A little bit goes a long way, and before you know it this becomes a lifestyle.”

Early in 2019, Michael assumed the role of Priory Historiographer. In this capacity, he hopes to better preserve our historic documents and artifacts, helping digitize records over time and also making available to Members a select archive of documents that mark key people and events in the Priory’s history. “I have experience in military cataloging and making available collected (and valuable) historic information. I can foresee a published Priory history.”

In his lifelong quest to become a very modern gentleman, Michael Quigley has earned his spurs. As the Gentleman’s Gazette concludes: “Quite simply, a gentleman makes promises that he intends to keep.”



Karen Miller Lamb, DStJ

CONFRÈRES DEPARTED

- Edward Blake Byrne, KStJ
- Marion Saffold Oates Charles, CStJ
- Todd Alexander Culbertson, OStJ
- Kevin W. Dodge, MSTJ
- Robert Elwood Gamble, CStJ
- The Rev’d Frank Washington Jarvis, LHD, D.Litt., MSTJ
- Schuyler White Lininger, OStJ
- Scott Roderick MacMillan, MSTJ
- The Rev’d Elizabeth Daggett Simmons Masquelette, CStJ
- Samuel Williams Meek Jr., KStJ
- Mary Alyce Smith Merow, CStJ
- Susan Stimmel Metcalf Robertson, DStJ
- Margot Semler Shorb, CStJ
- Richard Storm Summers, OStJ
- John Doty Williamson Jr., OStJ