

SOUTHERN COMMANDERY NEWS

VOLUME II, ISSUE I

APRIL, 2009

Patriarchal Order of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem

Special Points of Interest:

- *Southern Commander in Jerusalem*
- *Christian plight in Bethlehem*
- *Memorial Mass*

SOUTHERN COMMANDER VISITS SUPREME COUNCIL

The Southern Commander visited members of the Supreme Council earlier this year at the Patriarchate in Jerusalem. In a two-hour interview with the Archbishop Jules Zrehye and the Patriarchal General Vicar Archimandrite Joseph Saghbini, the Commander discussed several areas of concern for the Province of the United States.

We had entered a period of interregnum that lasted for over a year at the time of the visitation. Although, the Papacy experienced longer delays in its lengthy history. This situation is of primary import to the Province. The Commander and Lady

Delores raised other matters mostly of an administrative nature concerning the organizational structure, including those at the international level.



After coffee and chocolates, the Patriarchal General Vicar accompanied Lady Delores and the Commander on a tour of the Patriarchate including the beautiful altar and surrounding iconography.

The Patriarchal General Vicar graciously took a moment for a photograph flanked by the Commander and Lady Delores.

The Greek Melkite Catholic Patriarchate is located near the Jaffa Gate in the old city.

Archbishop Zrehye mentioned that we were the first lay American members to visit the Patriarchate in his memory. He went on to state that he is taking a very sincere interest in the Patriarchal Order of the Holy Cross. He also mentioned that he will be speaking to His Beatitude in the near future to bring our concerns to his attention.



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CAPTIVATED

BETHLEHEM, Israel -

Bethlehem presents itself as a walled prison to the outside world. The, cold, harsh-looking metal wall that incarcerates its residents is an ugly artifact of Israel's internal control and philosophy. Outside of Bethlehem's gate signs of the 21st century are apparent with the graffiti

that is beginning to appear on the face of this cruel barrier. Machinegun toting Israeli guards monitor all movement in and out of the city. The squeeze put on the population causes angst over employment and emigration. The Palestinian Christian Community is caught between a rock and a hard place. Through the Order's

Website, the Southern Commander intends to help in one way by creating a link to approved Christian stores that have a Web presence. It is anticipated that interested parties will peruse the goods offered and make purchases in order to sustain the small businesses in Bethlehem so that people may stay in their homes.

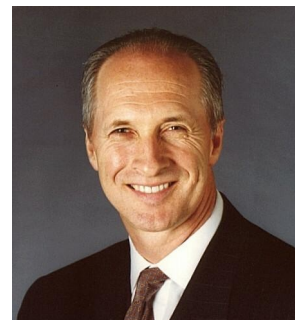
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COMMANDER'S COMMO

I know many knights and ladies of the Southern Command travel to the Mid East to visit relatives and friends. But, if I may offer a comment: it is vitally important to visit those areas of the Holy Land in Israel. The spirituality of the area instills and inspires a sense of Christ's presence among us in a way more palpable than being outside the territory. After flying into Tel Aviv, we drove to Haifa to experience the area along with Caesarea Maritime

where we visited the crusader castle and saw the place where Paul spent time in prison before being shipped to Rome. Later we drove to Tiberias and spent several nights. Side adventures took us to Cana (where Lady Delores and I renewed our marriage vows) where Christ, in obedience to His mother Mary, performed his first public miracle. The next day we renewed our baptismal vows at the Jordan River encouraging an overwhelming re-commitment to

the Faith. We visited Nazareth and numerous other areas of Christ's presence in Galilee and Capernaum. On the way to Jerusalem, we passed through Jericho and the surrounding lands. From our post in Jerusalem, we spent time at Qumran and were able to pass the checkpoint to enter Bethlehem. While in Jerusalem Archbishop Zrehye and Archimandrite Joseph Saghbini, the Patriarchal General Vicar invited us to visit (see page 1).



*The Honorable
Bernard W. M. Wolff, KGCCJ
Provincial Defender of the Order
Commander
Southern Commandery*

ANTOON SABBAG



*Antoon Sabbag
Immediate past Knight
Marshall*

Antoon (Tony) Sabbag is with the Lord. Tony passed in early February of this year. He served for many years as the Knight Marshall for the Southern Commander being appointed during the command of Sir Walter Meshaka.

Tony was a stalwart Knight of the Order who discharged his responsibilities with great devotion to his duties.

One will remember his pres-

ence at St. Jude in Miami where he greeted all with a broad smile.

We recall Sir Tony leading the processions of the Order with the sword held high, inverted to display the cross formed by the hilt and quadrillion to remind us to fight for the faith not with the blade but by a prayerful defense. Upon his retirement from the position the Commander awarded him a beauti-

ful lithograph to recognize his faithful service and joyful successes.

He leaves Lady Vivien, his devoted wife of many years.

May he rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord.

Exarch Gabriel Ghanoum celebrated an 8-day Memorial Mass concurrently with the 1-year Memorial Mass for the late Governor General (see below article).

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL AND KNIGHT



*Ernest F. Russo
Former Governor
General*

Exarch Gabriel Ghanoum celebrated a Memorial Mass concurrently for Sir Antoon Sabbag and the former Governor General of the Province of the United States. Members of the Southern Commandery attended as a group to offer their prayers for the deceased.

St. Jude Greek Catholic Church in Miami, Florida hosted the event for the many parishioners who were per-

sonally touched by their deceased brethren.

The Governor General presented himself to the Southern Command as a pleasant and engaging servant of the Lord. The Commander fondly remembers him and their many personal conversations about the Order and its future direction.

Ernie enjoyed the reputation as an artist at a local college where he taught classes for

many years in New York. He leaves a grand tradition as a doer and passionate believer in the mission of the Patriarchal Order of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem. He often traveled to the Holy Land over the years and kept a special place in his heart for the poor who are constantly in the need of our prayers, love and support.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Schedule of Events

- April 5, Palm Sunday
- April 12, Holy Pascha Easter Sunday
- April 23, Feast of St. George
- April 25, Holy Apostle
 - Mark the Evangelist
- April 26, Sunday of the Ointment Bearing Women

ORDER MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

MIAMI, FL — March 7

St. Jude, which is the Southern Command's spiritual headquarters, celebrated its 26th anniversary at a gala in the church social center in downtown Miami, Florida Saturday evening, March 7, 2009. The catered event drew a full-crowd and presented the perfect opportunity to recognize founding members.

Long-time members of the Order, Dr. Thomas Zaydon, Jr., KCCJ and Lady Josephine Korge, LCJ, approached the stage where Exarch Gabriel Ghanoum, pastor of St. Jude, presented them with crystal keepsakes for their dedication and support to the spiritual community at St. Jude.

The Grand Prior National Archbishop Cyril Bustros

presented his congratulations for long-time service and awarded them with congenial thanks and Eparchal blessings.

Dr. Zaydon was one of the first commanders for the Southern Command (called Southern Region, at that time) and was instrumental in establishing a base for future operations along with successor Walter Meschaka, GOCJ.

Lady Josephine gleamed especially bright that evening as Father Gabi announced that her son, Andrew Korge, would assume the mantle of the chairman for the St. Jude parish council.

Raymond Kayal, Sr., KCJ, Deputy Commander for the Southern Command acted as emcee for the evening. His wife, Lady Loraine Kayal helped spear-

head the planning for the festivities.

Also in attendance were the Commander and Lady Delores, Knight Marshal Thomas Lutfi and Lady Isabel. Sir Raffoul Ajami also offered his appreciation for their efforts in the spectacularly decorated hall.

COMING SOON!

The Feast of St. George convocation



Grand Prior greets past Commander Thomas Zaydon, M. D., KCCJ



Lady Josephine Korge pays her respects to the Grand Prior.



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Oath of the Order

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our King forever. By your Cross you have brought salvation to the world and redeemed me, a poor sinner. As I take upon myself the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, I swear allegiance to You, to Your Holy City, to all Your Holy Land, and to the Christian communities therein which make You present today in the Land sanctified by Your life-giving life, death and resurrection. O Lord, make me worthy of Your kingdom. Amen.



Memorial Mass for the Governor General and Former Knight Marshall.

Bishop John Elya and Exarch Gabriel Ghanoum officiate. Members gather along with Sir Richard Sayour, KCCJ.

REPORTS

Hospitaller

Lady Delores Wolff conferred with Friend of the Holy Land member Simone Zontini of St. Jude in Miami, and reports that only one member is placed on the Prayer List: Lady Virginia Nimer.

Additionally, postulant Joseph Weeks of St. Basil, also in Miami, requests our prayers for his mother Mellicent, who lives in Atlanta.

Several members of the Order are suffering from a variety of head colds and stomach flu. Let us keep them in our prayers and pray that these maladies pass quickly.

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Historian



Icon of St. George

Knight Marshall

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Watch for the upcoming Feast of St. George.

Plans are being made for a holy and special ceremony.

