



The Sovereign Military
Order
of the Temple of Jerusalem
Priory of St. James

2006
Annual Report



INDEX

A Message from the Prior	Page 4
Membership	Page 5
Awards and Promotions	Page 7
Charitable Activities	Page 7
Meetings	Page 10
Audit Committee Report	Page 11
Knights Templar Facts	Page 11

A Message from the Prior

Greetings --

Although only in its second full year of operations, the Priory of St. James' membership grew to 41 knights and dames. Our growth has been most encouraging – given that our first 'class' in October 2004 consisted of only 15 Postulants! Much credit is due to the knights and dames of the Priory for their hard work and good example in recruiting quality members.

As you read through these pages, you will see that the Priory of St. James is dedicated to assisting the less fortunate in society – both at home and abroad. This, along with aiding Christians at risk, helping to unite the Abrahamic faiths and preserving Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the primary missions of OSMTH – Knights Templar International.



Some highlights for the year included:

- At its Annual Convent & Investiture, the Priory was graced with the presence of the International Grand Commander, H.E. BGen Patrick Rea, GCTJ, GMTJ, as well as His Beatitude Theodosius, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of the United States and Canada for the Orthodox Church in America
- The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto and the Rev. Canon David Brinton, OGS, Vicar of St. James Cathedral, were made honorary members of the Priory of St. James in recognition of their support.
- H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III GOTJ and LCol. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III GOTJ were promoted to the rank of Grand Officier of the Order; Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ, Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ and Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ were promoted to the rank of Dame Commandeur
- Through the generosity of Chev. Steven Chepa, KTJ and others, the Priory was able to make a significant donation to aid children in Afghanistan who have been injured by acts of war (please see article on p. 9).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank their Excellencies: RADM Chev. James J. Carey, GCTJ, GMTJ, Grand Master; BGen Chev. Patrick Rea, GCTJ, GMTJ, Grand Commander and Cdr. The Ven. Chev. Ron Matthewman, GCTJ, GMTJ, Grand Prior of Canada, for their wonderful support.

Thanks also are due to the Priory's Chancellor, LCol Matthew Gaasenbeek, III GOTJ and to the clergy of the Cathedral Church of St. James in Toronto the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto and the Rev. Canon David Brinton, OGS, Vicar of the Cathedral, for their extraordinary support and many kindnesses to the Priory. Although no 'official' relationship exists between the Cathedral and the Priory, it has truly become our spiritual home.

In the words of our noble Order: *Non Nobis Domine Non Nobis Sed Tuo Da Gloriam*, 'Not to us, O God, but to You be Glory given'

Respectfully submitted,



H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III GOTJ Prior
Priory of St. James
OSMTH – Knights Templar International



'Class of 2006': (l-r) Capt. the Rev. Chev. Christopher Hill; Major Edward Denbeigh; Chev. Joseph Peters; Chev. Christopher Collins; Chev. Steven Chepa; Capt. Chev. Carlo Jeffery; Dame Diana Janeczko; Dame Deborah Tyler; Chev. Dale Townsend; Chev. Ralph Schoenig; Dame Racquel Peters

Membership

The number of paid up knights and dames for the year 2006 was 42.

Members (as at 31 December 2006):

Capt. Chev. Barry Bousfield, KTJ
 Chev. Frank Chen, KTJ
 Chev. Steven Chepa, KTJ
 Chev. Christopher Collins, KTJ
 Dame Nola Crewe, DTJ
 Major Chev. Edward Denbeigh, KTJ
 Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ
 (H) LCol Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III, GOTJ
 Chev. George Goldsmith, KTJ
 Capt. The Rev Chev.. Christopher Hill, KTJ
 Chev. Kim Hunter, KTJ
 Dame Diana Janeczko, DTJ
 Capt. Chev. Carlo, Jeffery, KTJ
 Capt. (N) Chris. Korwin-Kuczynski, KTJ
 Chev. David Kraisosky, KTJ
 W/Cdr. Chev. Benjamin Lee, KTJ
 Dame Julia MacDonald, DTJ
 Chev. Robert MacMullen, KTJ
 Chev. David Marsh, KTJ
 Dame Anne Matthewman, DTJ
 Chev. Alastair McIntyre, KTJ
 H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III GOTJ
 Chev. Harold Nelson, KTJ
 LCol Chev. Walter Perchal, KTJ
 Dame Jo Perrin, DCTJ
 Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ
 Chev. Joseph Peters, KTJ
 Dame Raquel Peters, DTJ
 LCol Chev. Edward Rayment, CD, KCTJ
 Maj. The Rev. Canon Chev. Eric Reynolds, KTJ
 Chev. Peter Russell, KCTJ
 Chev. Ralph Schoenig, KTJ
 Chev. Michael Skutezky, KTJ
 Chev. Lake Trevelyan, KCTJ

Dame Deborah Tyler, DTJ
 Capt. Chev. Robin Tyler, KTJ
 Dame Barbara Walsh, DTJ
 Chev. John Walsh, KTJ
 Dame Kelly Webb, DTJ
 LCdr. Chev. Alan Williams, KTJ
 Chev. Michael Willson, KCTJ
 Dame Christina Zawierucha-Zack, DTJ

The Priory of St. James has two associate (non-dues paying) members: Col. Maurice Janeczko, KTJ and Maj. Timothy Zack, KTJ of the Priory of St. Patrick

There is one member of the national Order of Merit: Capt. Arjeh van der Sluis, CMTJ



Priory of St. James 2006

Front row (l-r) Chev. Frank Chen; His Beatitude Theodosius; H.E. BGen Chev. Patrick Rea; H.E. Cdr. The Ven. Chev. Ronald Matthewman; Dame Deborah Tyler; Capt. Chev. Rob Tyler; Chev. Dale Townsend

Second row: Chev. Michael Skutezky; Dame Racquel Peters; Capt. the Rev. Dr. Christopher Hill; Dame Kelly Webb; Dame Nola Crewe; Dame Barbara Walsh; Dame Jo Perrin; Chev. Harold Nelson

Third row: LCdr. Chev. Alan Williams; Maj. Chev. Timothy Zack; Chev. Steven Chepa; Dame Diana Janeczko; Dame Joan Peters; Dame Anne Matthewman; Chev. Alastair McIntyre

Fourth row: Chev. Christopher Collins; Capt. Arjeh van der Sluis (Order of Merit); Chev. John Walsh; Col. Chev. Maurice Janeczko; LCol Chev. Edward Rayment; Dame Julia MacDonald

Fifth row: Chev. Joseph Peters; S/Lt Chev. Terry Reid; Chev. Ralph Schoenig; Chev. David Marsh; Capt. Chev. Carlo Jeffery; Chev. Rob MacMullen; Chev. Lake Trevelyan; Maj. Chev. Edward Denbeigh

Awards and Promotions

Promoted Grand Officier:

LCol Matthew Gaasenbeek, III, GOTJ
H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III GOTJ

Promoted Dame Commandeur:

Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ
Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ
Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ

Charitable Activities

Total amount contributed to Oblations: \$3,200

Total Funds spent on Humanitarian Projects (Charitable donations): \$1,815.00.

The Priory's main charitable activities for the year 2006 included:

Shoe Program for Homeless Persons

In 2006, members of the Priory of St. James collected and delivered over 500 pairs of shoes to the Foot Clinic for Homeless Persons at the Cathedral Church of St. James in Toronto. As the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto, noted, "Homeless people spend all day on their feet and it is imperative that they have good shoes."

Under the supervision of Charitable Activities Committee Chair Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ, Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ played a pivotal role in coordinating the collection of gently-used shoes from various Toronto athletic clubs. Chev. John Walsh, KTJ and Dame Barbara Walsh, DTJ accounted for over 200 pairs of shoes through the diligent efforts of one of their employees.

Gloria Wiebe, RN, director of the foot clinic expressed her personal thanks to Dame Joan for the contributions.

Humewood House

Dame Anne Matthewman, DTJ organized a group of Templars to attend the Christmas party for clients of Humewood House (a facility for pregnant and parenting mothers aged 13-19 years old) on December 21, 2006. Chev. Frank K. C. Chen, KTJ; Dame Nola Crewe, DCTJ; Dame Dai Gaasenbeek, DCTJ; LCol Chev. Matthew Gaasenbeek, III GOTJ; Capt. Carlo Jeffery, KTJ; Dame Julia MacDonald, DTJ; H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III GOTJ; Dame Joan Peters, DCTJ; Chev. Lake Trevelyan, KCTJ; Dame Barbara Walsh, DTJ; Dame Kelly Webb, DTJ; LCdr Chev. Alan Williams, KTJ, OStJ, CD and Chev. Michael D. Willson, KCTJ brought gifts for mothers and babies, served Christmas dinner and sang carols (to the piano accompaniment of Chev. Michael Willson).



Photo caption: (l-r) Grand Prior H.E. Cdr. the Ven. Chev. Ronald Matthewman checks his notes as Prior McNeillie presents scrolls to the Rev. Canon David Brinton, OGS, Vicar of St. James Cathedral and the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto, making them honorary members of the Priory of St. James.

Afghanistan Project

The St James Priory was very fortunate to be able to learn of an unusual need in Afghanistan through LCol Chev. Ed Rayment and his contacts with Canadian Forces members who were serving there under the UN Mandate. Lt Cmdr Albert Wong, who was assigned to Kabul with the United Nations Mission as a Public Relations Officer, was able to directly assist an orphanage and a school for disabled children in Kabul during his year-long tour in Afghanistan.

Albert is a full time member of the Canadian Armed Forces and is very proud of being able to assist in the creation of a school for disabled homeless children found in the streets of Kabul. This incredible project was started by a lady of Afghan-American background, Mrs. Shirzai, on her own initiative without any funding or support from either government or private sources. The school now provides basic literacy and skills training to 23 children.

The children themselves are handicapped street people who, without the school, would barely be able to cope with life's challenges. For six days a week they receive training to assist them with their disability, along with proper schooling in reading and writing. In order to enhance the training abilities of her school, Mrs. Shirzai had dreamed of receiving specialized training herself to be able to better meet the needs of her adopted children. Through his various international contacts Albert was able to find a similar program which existed in Iran.

To make this dream a reality, either Mrs. Shirzai had to go to Iran or a teacher from Iran would have to travel to Kabul. As Mrs. Shirzai, by the very nature of her program, was very short staffed, a decision was made to somehow arrange travel to Kabul for an Iranian teacher. Not having any viable means of funding this expense through either government or UN programs, Albert appealed to the Templars to fund the endeavour -- which amounted to \$1,500.00 US.

This amount covered not only airfare but also "leave behind" literature in Arabic and program models to assist Mrs. Shirzai. Considering that the teacher from Iran would stay for one week as well as provide program models in Arabic, such a small sum would reap considerable rewards. The St. James Priory members met and quickly decided to wire the money to Albert, who ensured that the program was carried out as efficiently as possible.

In order to prevent any hindrance from Moslem factions, the donation was executed under the "Silent Knight" program. Albert has now returned to Canada and is in the process of establishing a registered charity under the terms of the Canada Revenue Act. We expect there will be many more opportunities to assist Mrs Shirzai. In fact, based on her model as refined by the training she received, the school has been asked by the Afghan Ministry of Education to consider setting up a centre of excellence for disabled learning and to start up more schools in Afghanistan. We can now look



forward to assisting, in an even greater way, this exciting and meaningful project.



Captions: LCdr Albert Wong (above) with village children in Afghanistan.

LCdr Wong (left) with Mrs. Shirzai (middle) and an unidentified Afghan official.

Meetings

With some minor exceptions, regular business meetings were held on the second Tuesday in each month at 1930 hours at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. Meetings are followed by the distribution of minutes to all members within two weeks (thanks to the dedication and hard work of Chev. Lake Trevelyan KCTJ). Past minutes are also kept in a minute book and are available for review by all members at meetings.



Photo caption: H.E. Capt. Chev. George G. McNeillie, III (third from left) receives a handsome trophy as Founding Prior. Pictured with him are (l-r): LCdr Chev. Alan Williams; LCol Chev. Ed

Rayment; Prior McNeillie; His Beatitude Theodosius; H.E. BGen Chev. Patrick Rea, Grand Commander of OSMTH

Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee reviewed and approved the financial statements and produced the Annual Report. Financial statements may be viewed upon request.

Knights Templar Facts

- The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem is an international order of Chivalry with members in over 40 countries worldwide. There are approximately 5,000 members of the Order.
- Knights Templar support a number of domestic and overseas charities.
- Membership is open to Christian men and women of all denominations who have demonstrated a commitment to public service.
- Among the more prominent members of the Knights Templar are members of the European High Aristocracy, Chiefs of Scottish clans, Bishops of the Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox Churches, diplomats and officials of several countries, of the United Nations or of intergovernmental organizations.
- The organization has no connection to the Freemasons.
- The Order does not engage in politics.
- The Order is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and has been designated in Special Consultative Status to the United Nations.
- The Order has a NATO Priory comprised entirely of senior serving military officers.
- One of the cultural aims of the Order is to represent and defend the values of Christianity. Accordingly, full membership is open to Christians. We recognize that there are many other worthy traditions, and we appreciate and cherish the participation of non-Christian friends and supporters. Associate membership is open to non-Christians through the Order of Merit.

Member Grand Priors - Austria, Canada, England and Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mexico, NATO, Serbia and U.S.A.

Autonomous Priors – Association of Scottish Knights Templar and Japan

OSMTH Administered Priors – Belgium and Norway.

Expansion Efforts – Expansion is currently underway in the following countries: Argentina, Cyprus, Romania, Bulgaria, South Africa and Korea



Ordo Supremus Militi Templi Hierosolymitani – Knights Templar
International
Grand Priory of Canada

H.E. Capt Chev. George G. McNeillie, III, GOTJ
Prior
Priory of St. James, Toronto
ggm3rd@sympatico.ca
www.osmth.org