

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

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Confraternity News

Issue 123 – February, 2023

In Nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti, Amen.

Grand Master's Message

Dear Confrères and Friends of the Confraternity,

Fraternal greetings one and all.

The month of February was an exciting period for the Confraternity. We had The Right Reverend Bishop Martin Mtumbuka of the diocese of Karonga in Malawi giving permission to Prior Chevalier Fr. Joseph Sikwese and Chevalier Fr. Joseph Mkinga to participate in activities and services of the Confraternity. This is a step forward for our Confraternity to be recognized by another Catholic diocese.



Also in February we had our first fundraising event in Melbourne that was very successful. We had with us Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic and Fr. Velimir Maglica from the Croatian Catholic Centre of Clifton Hill, who presented a Thank You Certificate to the Confraternity for our support towards the renovation of their church.

In Hungary our Grand Prior Prof. Heinz-Peter Platzer represented the Confraternity at a Gala Reception that was held at Szidonia Castle. He read a message to the guests that I was requested to write for the noble occasion.

In February I thought that it would be a nice to remember the Blessed Karl I, the last emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, King of Croatia, King of Bohemia, and the last of the monarchs belonging to the House of Habsburg-Lorraine to rule over Austria-Hungary.

This prompt me to invited Chevalier Subdeacon Dennis Mifsud of the Grand Chapter of Malta a delegate of the "Emperor Karl League of Prayers for Peace among Nations", Promoter of the Canonization Cause of Blessed Karl I of Austria to write an article about the last Emperor of Austria.

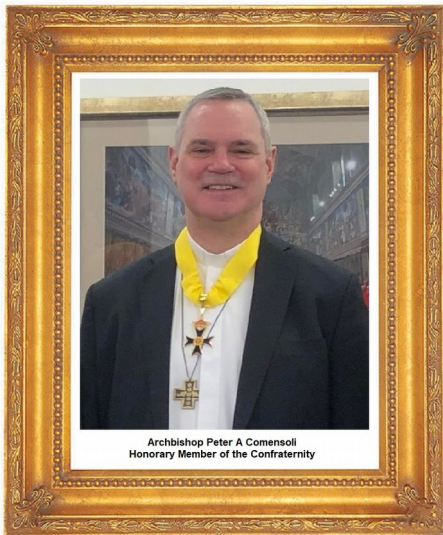
God bless.

Most Reverend Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Archdiocese of Melbourne

Honorary Member of the Confraternity

Lent



Adam and Eve were the first of us. Beyond and greater than anything science can teach of our human origins, Adam and Eve are the first of whom God said, you alone are like me, created in my image. Science reveals what we are; God reveals who we are. In Adam and Eve, the first of us made in God's image, who we are is very good.

Besides being the first of us, Adam and Eve were the best of us. They were created directly from the will of God, without procreation, shaped out of the dust of the earth. They were shaped for life in God and for one another. Good and evil were not a part of them, from the beginning. Our first parents were beautiful, as God is; noble, as God is; light, as God is.

But being the best of us would not last. Sin and death seeped into our first parents and was passed onto us. Yet, God did not abandon the best of his creation; he did not deny his own image, seen in the mirror of our faces. Humanity would be offered the path to re-

creation. Our original creation was God's first gift of grace; and what God gives, he does not withdraw. Our re-creation, then, would be God's abiding gift of grace renewed. God did this by giving us his Son, Jesus Christ - one of us, yet fully him - to restore what we had lost.

If, as St Paul wrote, it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of [Adam's] fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that [we] do not deserve, of being made righteous.

To do this, Jesus needed to enter fully into that which we had lost. A gift cannot be made new if it is not repaired at the original point where it is broken. The one who tempted Adam and Eve to fall needed to be confronted and contended with again. Therefore, God, in the Holy Spirit, sent his Son into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Jesus had to experience for himself all that was broken in us, and his 40 days of fasting and temptation would be the foretaste of that experience, to be fully confronted on the cross. Life needed to contend with death, if death was to be overcome by life.

All of this has happened for us. The trajectory of Adam was reversed by Jesus Christ. The gift has been restored, and the wound of sin and death has been healed. God did this for us. Now it is for us to live accordingly, to learn to live in Christ, who holds our transfigured selves in himself. But how might we do this?

The questions asked of sponsors about catechumens who will soon receive the Easter Sacraments will point us in the right direction.

- Have we responded to God's word and are we walking in God's presence?
- Have we shared the company of our brothers and sisters and joined with them in prayer and fellowship?
- Have we advanced in a life of love and service of others?

These are the questions that define a disciple of Jesus Christ; they reveal someone who is open to being re-created in Christ.

If Lent is only about giving up some things we like, then Lent will be lost on us. Lent seeks to point us toward Christ on the cross, and Christ in his resurrection. It points us to Easter, and to our re-created life. In all our human weakness to sin and death, embrace this: knowing that Christ holds us to himself in his own life, given on the cross.

FIRST FUNDRAISING FOR THE YEAR

The Grand Chapter of Melbourne has it's first fundraising event for the year on Sunday 26 February at the Nancy Kirchner Neighbourhood Centre in Avondale Heights.

It was a very successful event, the food was great, the music was fantastic and the guests were just beautiful. Everyone had a great time.

Thank you to guests for making it such a successful event, thank you to the band, the sponsors, the helpers and the knights and dames for their support.

During the event, Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic from the Croatian Catholic Centre of Clifton Hill in the presence of Fr. Velimir Maglica presented a Thank You Certificate to the Confraternity for our support towards the renovations of their Church.

The Supreme Council is very honoured to have such an alliance and collaboration with the Croatian Catholic Church. Thanks to our energetic and compatriot Chevalier Alexander McPherson.

God bless the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul.



Group photo with Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic and Fr. Velimir Maglica of the Croatian Catholic Church



From left: Chev. Alexander McPherson, Dame Angela Greto, Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli, Monsignor Bosiljko Rajic, Fr. Velimir Maglica and Chev. Mario Sabatini

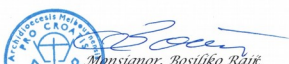


CROATIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
ST NIKOLA TAVELIC – CLIFTON HILL

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

On behalf of the Croatian Catholic Community at St. Nikola Tavelic in Clifton Hill we would like to thank the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul for always showing thier support towards our Croatian Catholic Community.

Through the intercession of St. Nikola Tavelic we pray that the Almighty God watch over the works of your mercy.


Monsignor. Bosiljko Rajic

U Melbourne-u 26. februaru 2023.

THE CONFRATERNITY IS NOW APPROVED BY THE DIOCESE OF KARONGA, MALAWI

This is another important acquisition for the Confraternity to be approved by the Diocese of Karonga, in Malawi.

If you can help with an approval from your parish or diocese, it will be greatly appreciated.

The Supreme Council



The Right Reverend Bishop Martin Anwel Mtumbuka of the diocese of Karonga.



THE DIOCESE OF KARONGA

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24th February 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul

This is to certify that Rev. Frs. Joseph Sikwese and Joseph Mkinga have our permission to participate in activities/services of the Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter and St. Paul.

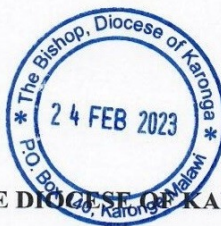
If there is any assistance that Rev. Frs. Joseph Sikwese and Joseph Mkinga need from you, we most kindly request you to assist them and we thank you in advance for the support.

Yours in Christ,

+ *M. Mtumbuka*

+ Right Rev. M.A. Mtumbuka

BY THE GRACE OF GOD BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KARONGA



H.E. Chevalier Peter M Neuen

Deputy Grand Master in Europe



I am very happy that I can also report something positive from Germany :-)

This weekend we were guests of our friendly Order of the Knights of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem-Priority of Germany.

Here Gabriele and I have a very interesting contact with the press officer for Germany of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Dr. Oliver Cerza. We talked very intensively during the evening and immediately hit it off very well.

I also informed Oliver that Gabriele and I are members of the Confraternity of St. Peter and Paul and I am the Deputy Grand Master in Europe and that we are also very close with the Holy Catholic Church.

We will now remain in permanent contact and he will now receive our newsletters from me regularly and we will also invite each other.

This was a truly incomparable and valuable opportunity for us to finally get in touch with one of the most important ecclesiastical orders.

He is very friendly and has an open mind and is a sympathetic person..



From left: Deputy Grand Master H.E. Chevalier Peter Michael Neuen with Dr. Oliver Cerza of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

*Artwork by Chevalier
Grand Prior Joseph
Louis Meilak*



Need more information about our meeting in Nadur. Write to us here:
grandmaster.knightsstpeterpaul@gmail.com

Fr. Mario Cassar a missionary priest in Kenya

By Francesca Attard
February 18, 2023

Grand Chapter of Malta

The Grand Chapter of Malta is receiving donation for the mission of Fr. Mario Cassar in Kenya. Donations can be dropped at the Nadur Local Council.

A missionary vocation turned out to be a late vocation for Gozitan priest from Nadur Fr Mario Cassar. He left for Kenya at the age of 65. Today, seven years later, he still loves his chosen vocation and looks ahead to more projects for the Kenyan people.

Fr Mario Cassar was a priest in Gozo, exercising his ministry and teaching philosophy in a number of Maltese and Gozitan institutions. At the age of 65, after the death of his mother, Fr Mario Cassar decided to go and spend the rest of his life doing missionary work in Kenya. He has now been there for seven years... A vocation, a call from God after 65 years, after 35 years of service, teaching... they told me I was mad. I replied So be it.



Fr Mario said the situation in Kenya is one of misery, and his ongoing work is to solve the problem of hunger that the inhabitants of this country suffer from. I tried to feed them by buying maize for bread. I grind it and hand it over to them. I managed to solve a number of problems, as people flocked to be fed.

Another problem he encountered is sickness – from serious illnesses to illnesses that can be cured with just some medicine. However, many people end up dying because they are not treated.

Everything is a chain. Many times, the basis of everything is lack of education, and because of this situation, thanks to donations particularly from the Maltese and Gozitans, I am helping them by providing an education.

Fr Mario also spoke about how these people live in their homes, without water and electricity. They have to walk for long distances to fetch water in big pitchers, and their day depends on the light from the sun.

Their homes are built of branches and clay. They cover the clay with branches, and it's just one room, smaller than this, where six persons sleep on a mat. And there is nothing else in the room. Nothing at all.

Yet, despite all this, Fr Mario says the people always appear to be happy.

They are happy with literally anything. You offer them something, they are happy, particularly the children. Children come near you, you offer them some sweets and they really appreciate it. Here you might buy a big gift and put it aside. Over there, every little thing is appreciated.

In order to continue to improve the situation in Kenya, Fr Mario says he has several projects in mind, including a health centre and a home for the elderly, adding that he believes these projects can come to fruition and will help many more people through the kind hearts of the Maltese.

Gozitan artist shaping Blessed Acutis bust

Chevalier Adonai Camilleri Cauchi CKSPP

Arelic of the saint will be incorporated in the statue



Chevalier Adonai Camilleri Cauchi working on the bust of Blessed Carlo Acutis at his studio in Nadur. Photo: Charles Spiteri

Gozitan artist Adonai Camilleri Cauchi is currently working on the bust of Blessed Carlo Acutis after he was commissioned to create this artwork by Father Guardian of the Franciscan community of Rabat (ta' Giezu) church, Malta,

Martin Coleiro. The relic of Acutis will be incorporated in the bust and be exposed permanently at Ta' Giezu church. It is intended the bust will be inaugurated on March 13 as part of the festivities in honour of St Joseph being celebrated at Ta' Giezu church on March 19.

After part of the ceiling over the main altar of Ta' Giezu church collapsed during the night in 2017, leaving a hole several metres wide, the ceiling was rebuilt and Camilleri Cauchi was commissioned to cover a false ceiling under it with new frescoes.

KARL I EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA



Charles I or Karl I was Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, King of Croatia, King of Bohemia, and the last of the monarchs belonging to the House of Habsburg-Lorraine to rule over Austria-Hungary.

Blessed Emperor Karl of Austria and his League of Prayers



By Chevalier Subdeacon Dennis Mifsud.

The “Emperor Karl League of Prayers for Peace among Nations” is the official actor of the canonization cause of Blessed Karl of the House of Austria. Karl was conscientiously given a Catholic education and supported from childhood by the prayers of a group of people, because the mystic and stigmatist, Sr. M. Vincentia Fauland, prophesied that he would suffer greatly and be attacked. After Karl's death this group developed into the “Emperor Karl League of Prayers for Peace among Nations”, which introduced his beatification cause in 1949, and has had ecclesiastic recognition since 1963 as a prayer society. Inspired by his spirituality, the “Emperor Karl League of Prayers” continues to pray today.



Karl of the House of Austria was born on August 17, 1887, at Schloss Persenbeug in Lower Austria. His parents were Archduke Otto and Princess Maria Josepha of Saxony, daughter of the last king of Saxony. Emperor Franz Joseph I was Karl's great uncle. From an early age, Karl fostered a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He used prayer to guide him in making all important decisions.

On October 21, 1911, he married Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma. During the ten good years of their happy and exemplary marriage, the pair were given eight children. While on his deathbed, Karl said to Zita: "I love you unceasingly!" On June 28, 1914, because of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Karl became the heir apparent of the throne of Austria-Hungary. In the middle of the First World War, the death of Emperor Franz Joseph on November 21, 1916, made Karl the Emperor of Austria. On December 20, 1916, he was crowned and anointed Apostolic King of Hungary.

Karl also saw his duty to follow Christ: by loving his people and being concerned and devoted to improving their lives. The most sacred obligation of a king - to provide peace - became the primary focus of Karl's efforts during this horrific war. The only world leader to do so, he supports the peace proposals of Pope Benedict XV. During a most difficult time domestically, he offered extensive assistance to his people and gave example to them by passing social legislation in conformity with Catholic social teachings.

His stance prevented civil war from occurring during the post-war transition of government. Yet still he was banished from his homeland. At the request of the pope, who feared that communism would overtake Central Europe, Karl attempted to restore his government and return to the throne of Hungary. Two attempts failed because he wanted to avoid civil war at all costs. Karl was then sent into exile on Madeira. On his way to Madeira, the ship stopped for some hours in Malta. Rumours spread that he would be exiled in Malta. But this was not to be! He saw his abandonment there as a commission from God, a duty he could not put aside. He lived with his family in poverty, in a damp house. There, Karl contracted a fatal illness, which he accepted as a sacrifice to make for the peace and unity of his people. Karl endured his suffering without complaint, forgave everyone who had treated him unjustly, and died on April 1, 1922, with an almost holy countenance. The motto of his life, which he even said on his deathbed, was: "My entire endeavour has always been to clearly recognize the Will of God in all things and to follow it as completely as possible."

On October 3, 2004, Pope Saint John Paul II beatified Emperor and King Karl. We continue to pray for a miracle attributed to his intercession so that he could be canonized. Today, his "League of Prayers" is present in many countries. Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Italy, Malta, to name just a few.

Join the League of Prayer

Members of the League of Prayer strive to follow the example of Blessed Emperor Karl by

- seeking and following the Will of God in their daily life,
- by working for peace and justice in all segments of life, from the family to the global community,
- begging forgiveness and vicariously offering expiation to God for all injustice throughout history, i.e., not leaving Christ alone on the Mount of Olives and at Golgotha, but rather together with Him carrying the burden of others through prayer, service to one's neighbour and sacrifice.

They commit themselves to:

- praying the League prayer(s) daily
- offering, at least once a month, their Holy Mass intention in accordance with their station in life
- participating, whenever possible, in the annual peace pilgrimage, Masses, spiritual exercises, lectures and other events of the League of Prayers, and
- promoting the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Emperor Karl.

The League of Prayers does not charge membership dues but asks for generous freewill donations to help cover the costs of literature, prayer cards and the annual report, which is sent to members and represents the most important means of communication between members and the League of Prayers. The League of Prayers organizes an annual peace pilgrimage, and all interested members are invited to participate.

To join the League or in order to send a donation for the Canonization Cause or to report a grace granted through the intercession of Blessed Karl of Austria, please contact:

Subdeacon Dennis Mifsud

Delegate of the “Emperor Karl League of Prayers for Peace among Nations” for Malta and Promoter of the Canonization Cause of Blessed Karl I of Austria

Casa Austria,

December 13 Street,

In-Nadur NDR 1112 Gozo, Malta

This is all we have for you for this month.

I hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter.

God bless you in St. Peter and St. Paul

H.E. Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli

Grand Master

CKSPP

